

NEWSLETTER

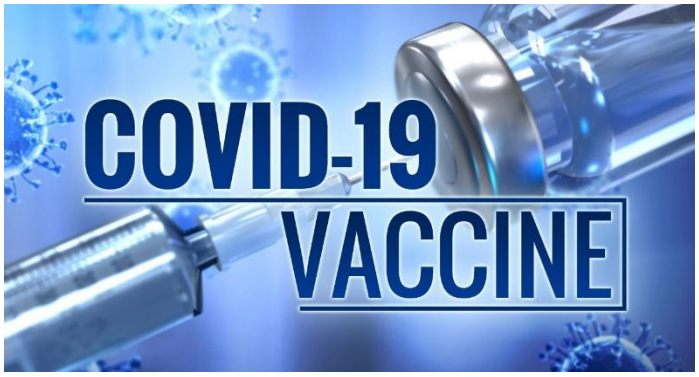
RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

COVID-19 CORNER

NEW SUPPORT GROUP!

If **ANY** household members exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, **OR** if they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, **OR** if anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19, that they must:

1. Contact the health department or their medical provider for guidance on testing
2. Immediately self-isolate the household until medically cleared. This includes any in-person contact including visitation, meetings, appointments etc.
3. Notify the child(ren)'s caseworker(s) and the licensing worker within the same business day



WCHSA continues to fiercely advocate to the Health District for resource parents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as essential workers. Please know that the Health District makes the determination of who is vaccinated and in what order, and it is not a lack of advocacy by HSA. As soon as we have any updates, we will provide them.

Real Talk

Group for Relative Caregivers ONLY

Feeling Confused? Feeling Isolated? Have Questions?

Nobody to talk to, that really understands.

Need someone to just listen? Have Concerns?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

When people say "I understand" they are trying to be nice. Wouldn't it be a nice change to talk to someone that has actually been in your situation?

Hi! We are the Cooks. Tony and Kathy Cook. Our journey into fostering children came about because our oldest daughter gave birth to our grandson and was not able to take care of him. We met him at the hospital where we were told that he would likely not be going home with our daughter and asked if we would like to take him home. Well it was a shock but 14 days later we brought our little guy home. We thought we would have preferred for things to go a different way. We have come to be thankful in the direction our journey has gone. We adopted our grandson in March of 2020, and we feel so blessed. We have since made the decision to become a licensed foster family. Our journey was not always easy in fact I would not describe it as easy at all! We have however come to a whole new understanding and appreciation for the agency and the people who care about our community as much as we do.

Right now, you may have a lot of questions that you might not be getting answered the way you would like them to be answered. We understand, truly we do. Navigating the system isn't easy but it's not impossible either.

REAL TALK Group meets every Thursday @ 7pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73578283111?pwd=Y2R2eEVkV0RzU0ISVJRiZWNmhuUQT09>

Meeting ID: 735 7828 3111

Passcode: qp4zU6j

To ask questions anytime, or get a Zoom invite Call or Text

Tony 775-409-8262 Kathy 775-247-4426

Reno Rodeo Foundation Scholarship Application Closes at 5 pm on February 10, 2021

[Online Scholarship Application Here](#)

If you are a Northern Nevada high school graduate planning on attending an accredited Nevada university, or a career college or a vocational school licensed by the State of Nevada Commission of Postsecondary Education, the Reno Rodeo Foundation encourages you to apply.

Additional consideration will be given to applicants who are part of 4H, FFA, Grange, Rodeo, or have been in Foster Care.

\$133,500 has been allocated to distribute in 2021 Scholarships.

Plus, show off your creative skills and you could receive an additional \$2,500 with the Western Arts & Culture scholarship. Check out the 2020 Western Arts & Culture Scholarship winner's video [Here](#).

2021 RENO RODEO FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Applications Due by 2/10/21

RENORODEOFOUNDATION.ORG

Resource Parent, relative, Fictive Kin & adoptive Support Groups

WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

- **3 Angels Care** offers support group on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of every month from **8:30-9:30pm**. Please contact Koula@3angelscare.org to RSVP.
- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the **4th Tuesday of every month** at **11:00am-12:30**. Please contact kspring@washoecounty.us to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** For pre- & Post-Adoptive Families. **Wednesday 5-6** vis Zoom. Please contact jcasarez@washoecounty.us or danderson@washoecounty.us for any question or if you want to attend
- **Relative Support Group:** Every **Thursday at 7pm**. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73578283111?pwd=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU0l5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09>
Meeting ID: 735 7828 3111
Passcode: qp4zU6



We are working on getting an updated list and would love to get the word out to others. Please reach out with any other support groups that I have missed.

Quality Parenting Washoe

QPI STEERING COMMITTEE

The QPI Steering Committee is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. The QPI Steering Committee is **the third Thursday of every month at noon on TEAM!** We would love for you to attend. Please reach out to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison for the link. kspring@washoecounty.us

QPI KEYWORD

Partnership Agreement

Upon placement of a child into the foster home the child's case worker will complete the Washoe County Partnership Plan. The agreement highlights the fundamental beliefs about the children in foster care, the inclusion of the resource parent as a professional member of the child/family's team, sharing of information and our commitment to always act in the child's best interest.

Washoe Quality Parenting Spotlight Award!

We want to celebrate all team members that touch the lives of children and family in our community and need your help to do so! As you have seen there has been videos going out to resource families and WCHSA staff shining a spotlight on people who are nominated. These nominations can be resource parents, WCHSA staff or any community member we want to hear and shine the spotlight on everyone!

Our mission is to give recognition to every person who is helping children and families. All that has to be done to nominate is to fill out the Quality Parenting Washoe Spotlight Nomination form that can be found on the QPI website (<http://www.qpinevada.org/>). After you fill it out send it to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison (kspring@washoecounty.us) and she will do the rest of the work. Remember you can nominate resource parents, caregivers, birth parents, WCHSA staff, or community providers.

Let's celebrate together and showcase our amazing community and all the people involved!

New Training updates:

QPI WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/](http://www.qpinevada.org/)

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website that you can get renewal training hours!

Keeping Up with the Judges: What You Need to Know About Child Development to Support Best Decisions

National best practice has called for dependency judges to reach beyond the law and to become more knowledgeable about psychosocial and child development principles, and how an increased understanding of those principles supports better decision-making for children and families. As the demands for judicial awareness increase, judicial perspective and expectations will surely follow. Keep up with the judges and join with us as we highlight evidence-based psychosocial and child development principles, which are critical in making decisions to best support children and families. Explore how decisions are interrelated and often impact multiple people and factors in the lives of children and families. Learn how to more effectively use evidence-based principles to guide day-to-day decision-making processes in a manner that supports and does not harm children and receive practical tips on how to better meet judicial expectations and enhance overall outcomes for children and families. *1.5 hours*

Children and Trauma: Effective Strategies for Healing and Resiliency

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network has found that one out of four children attending school have been exposed to a traumatic event. A child impacted by trauma may experience physical ailments, intrusive thoughts and fears, and decreased attention and concentration. This session will discuss the definition of trauma, how trauma affects children, the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study, trauma interventions, and how to create a safe environment for children. An essential protective factor for childhood trauma is the presence of a positive, caring adult who can help shield children against adverse experiences. Specific hands-on tools, strategies, and resources will be discussed to help staff engage children, increase children's resiliency, and support emotional self-regulation. *1.0 hours*

Gun Violence Prevention

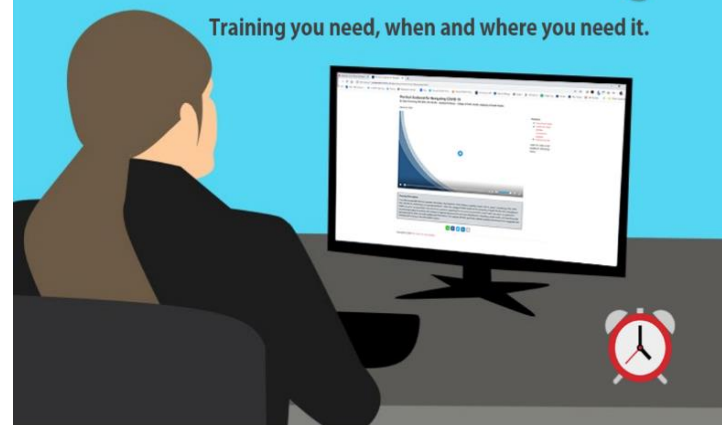
Be SMART is a program developed by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America to bring together parents and all adults concerned about kids, guns and safety. *1.0 hour*

Prevenccion De La Violencia Armada

BeSMART es un programa desarrollado por Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America para unir a padres y a todos los adultos preocupados por los niños, las armas y la seguridad. *1.0 hour*

Just in Time Training

Training you need, when and where you need it.



Top Tips for Getting a Certificate

- No Fast Forward** You will see a box beneath the video where the link to the quiz will be available. But if you fast forward anywhere in the video, the link will not be enabled.
- Avoid Cell Phone** You can watch any of the videos on a cell phone. BUT, beware of viewing on a cell phone if you need a certificate. You may be more likely to close the screen or restart the video which will affect your ability to access the link to the quiz.
- 3 Tries And Locked** You are only allowed 3 attempts to pass the quiz – even if you took the quiz months ago. If you are locked out, we will need to unlock your account before you can try again.
- Download** Upon passing the quiz, please download (or right click) your certificate before printing or emailing for credit.

We are here to help! We want you to have the best experience possible. If you need assistance (including unlocking your account) email center-support@qpi.net and provide us with your NAME, TITLE of the video or quiz, which STATE you reside in and the ISSUE you are having. We will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

Interested in Adoption?

Radarie

September 11, 2008

LEGAL RISK

Radarie loves basketball and football. He is very active and needs a family willing to involve him in engaging hobbies. Radarie is described as charming, generous, and very helpful. He is supportive of others and eager to please. When Radarie has free time, you can find him outside, playing sports, or doing what he loves, making people happy.

Radarie is in need of a supportive and consistent family willing to provide him with the permanency and stability that he deserves.

If you are interested in learning more about Radarie, contact **Brenda Silis** at BSilis@washoecounty.us



Leann

December 28, 2006

100% FREE FOR ADOPTION

Leann is described as friendly and energetic. She smiles a lot.

Leann loves animals and would like to have her own pet someday.

Leann would like to find a family that is active, likes sports and likes to go out in the community.

Leann wants a caring and loving family that, are committed to be her forever family. She needs a consistent and stable home environment where she can feel secure and loved.

If you would like more information please contact Brenda Silis at BSilis@washoecounty.us

Juliana

August 7, 2003

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Juliana is hoping to find a kind, patient family who does not want to see her age out of the foster care system. She has a sweet, shy demeanor and can be slow to warm up. Still, once Juliana does warm up, she likes to joke around and is very funny. I mean, look at that little smirk. Can you see that fun, mischievous look in her eye? Who wouldn't want to hang out with her?

She likes basketball, volleyball, swimming, writing poetry and going to the movies. Juliana enjoys listening to rap as well as other kinds of music. Her favorite band is SOB and if you know who they are you might just be the family for her! She is also interested in photography and would love some guidance in this area. Juliana has goals of going to college so she can work with kids, perhaps as a child advocacy attorney or a social worker. She loves "giving back" and is learning about volunteering.

If you'd like to learn more about this fun, silly teen please contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 338-7557 or Trobertson@washoecounty.us



Washoe County School District Update

UPDATED Distance Learning Facilities:

NEWLY ADDED KINGS ROW COMMUNITY LIFE CTR.

- Grades K-8 and Before/After school care **A lot of current availability!**
- Located at 3697 Kings Row, Suite C, Reno, NV 89503 775-235-8430 kingsrow.org
- Some transportation provided to nearby schools!
- Fees apply but no foster youth will be turned away!!
- Can provide DL support for full-time or hybrid students
 - A great option for a “change of environment” and/or some respite for both parents and students!
- Retired teachers on staff to provide private tutoring



Additional Resources

RESOURCE LEARNING HUB

Resource Parents

HELPING Resource Parents!

Are you able and willing to offer distance learning support to other foster youth?

We are working to build our Resource Parent Community and Connections!

There are some resource parents who could use support from fellow families. If you feel like you've mastered distance learning and have room to offer support for another youth, please email Kylee Spring (kspring@washoecounty.us) to learn more.

For every three days you commit to do education respite you will receive one full respite day to use at another time

Renown is teaming up with WCHSA to offer an in-depth, hands-on car seat installation training course. This course is being offered to staff and any interested resource parents or bio parents.



It is free!

The training will be approximately 4 hours long, so it is a time commitment, but you will learn a great deal! 😊
Please clear with your supervisor to ensure coverage.

We currently have the following four dates and times scheduled:

- *Wednesday, February 3 from 12pm-4pm*
- *Wednesday, February 17 from 8am-12pm*
- *Wednesday, March 10 from 8am-12pm*
- *Wednesday, March 24 from 8am-12pm*

Please note that this is *not* a certification course but will provide extensive car seat installation and safety knowledge.
The training will occur at 1095 E. 2nd St, Reno NV 89502.

If you are interested, please contact Paige with your preferred date and time.

There is a minimum and maximum class size, so depending on interest we will be adding more dates.



Paige Haubold, MBA
Program Assistant | Human Services Agency
phaubold@washoecounty.us | Office: 775.785.8667 | Cell: 775.432.3893
350 S Center Street, Reno, NV 89501



This is a **mandatory training requirement for your license renewal.**

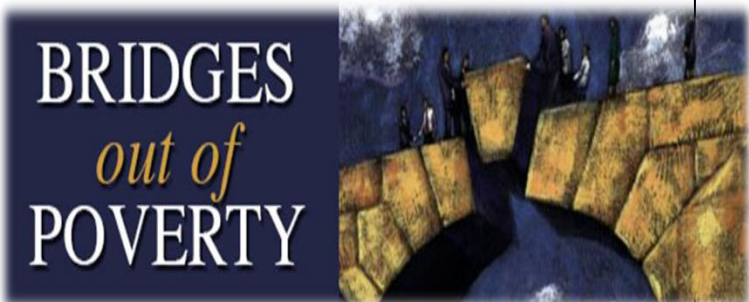
Dates of training:

Saturday, February 20, 2020

10:00am-12

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

MPolley@washoecounty.us



Who do you know?



Do you know someone who might not be ready to foster but may be willing to provide an occasional, short-term Safe Place bed for a youth in crisis? If interested in learning more, please email Kylee Spring. kspring@washoecounty.us



Nurture *the* Village

Do you have friends and family ask you about foster care or adoption?

Our Recruitment and Team is a wealth of knowledge and would come to your village (virtually) to help spread the word about foster and adoption. Even in times of COVID our Recruitment and Training are meeting and training resource parents through Zoom. They are able to answer any questions your friends and family may have. Lets work together so every child has a home.

To Schedule or learn more about this call the Recruitment and Training team at 337-4470!



Have a Heart Washoe is a website that has tons of information. There is information about the agency, programs, and children still looking for their forever home. Please check it out and refer your friends and family to jump over to the site to learn about how you can help our kids through mentoring, fostering, and adoption.

Haveaheartwashoe.com

SPOT TO SHARE

CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR WCHSA RESOURCE FAMILY

KTVN 2 News covered a Heartwarming story regarding one of our resource parents and their adoption story. Click the link below to watch!

<https://www.ktvn.com/.../15180516/adoptions-in-washoe-county#adoptionawareness>

REMINDER: If you have a story to share for the next news letter please contact Kylee Spring (kspring@washoecounty.us)



Resources

RENO VOLLEYBALL CLUB

The Reno Volleyball Club is willing to offer discounts to children and youth in WCHSA foster care who would like to play volleyball. For more information, visit their website or contact Cindy Lawrence at 775-313-4124 or RenoVBC@aol.com.

SOCCKER SPROUTS

The Reno Sportsdome is offering discounts to foster youth who have an interest in soccer! For more information contact Shannon at sprouts@renodome.com.

RAISE THE FUTURE

Offers several webinar options on their website for families regarding adoption and foster care topics. View their main [Classes and Training](#) page as well as their [Upcoming Classes](#). In addition, they also have a free lending library. They offer a wide variety of books with topics ranging from; exposure, grief & trauma healing, mental illness, sexual abuse, special needs adoption, books for children and more. Visit their website above or call 1-800-451-5246 to learn how easy it is to borrow and return.

NEVADA EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY (NEATS)

If you're interested in learning more about NEATS and how their services can help you or a youth in your home visit their website or call Laurie at 750-9823.

HEAD START

Has openings! The Community Services Agency (Head Start, State Pre-K and Early Head Start) would love to talk to you if you're interested in early education for your 0-3 or 3-5-year-old. Contact Megan Jack at (775) 786-6023 ext. 207 or mjack@csareno.org.

BIGGEST LITTLE BABY

Previously the Nurturing Nest, Biggest Little Baby is a birth and parenting community that offers a variety of free classes from pregnancy and childbirth to yoga. They also offer free weekly circles of support, toddler playgroups and breast-feeding circle to mention just a few.

A CHILD'S WORLD

Offers a community support group for parents of children with attachment or trauma issues. Receive one hour of training credit per group attended. Groups are the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30p.m. (excluding December). **Please RSVP** to Sharon Willams at least 1 day in advance at 322-4650 or Sharonacwoffice@att.net.

WANDA'S BABY CLOSET

Have you ever heard of Casa de Vida? They're a great resource for our teen moms. What you may not be aware of is Wanda's Baby Closet who works in collaboration with Casa de Vida providing free baby clothes and supplies to our bio and foster parents. For information on how to access this amazing resource or to help your bio parent call (775) 329-3211.

KIWANIS CLUB

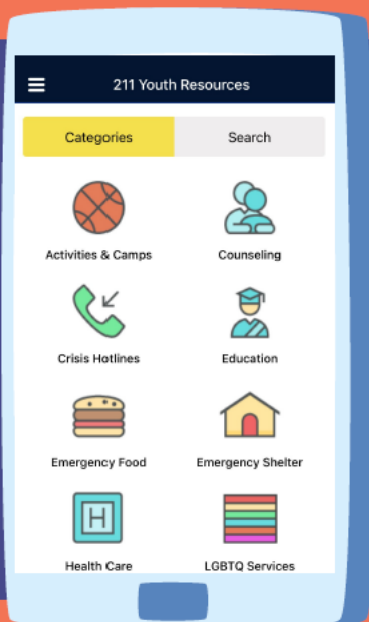
Has great bikes and accessories available at discounted prices! Contact them at (775) 337-1717 or check out their website above.

FREE TUTORING!

If your youth needs tutoring, please reach out to [Joseph](#) at Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF). As a reminder, SAFF can tutor students of all ages who are foster, adopted and/or have reunified.

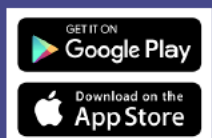
Nevada 211 YOUTH APP

Ages 12 to 19
Easy
Fast
Confidential



SEARCH FOR LOCAL RESOURCES
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS 24/7

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY



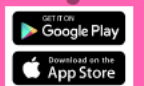
Find help 24/7 by dialing 2-1-1
texting 898-211 or
visiting www.nevada211.org

NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

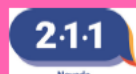
BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES

A TUS DEDOS 24/7

¡descargue su aplicación para jóvenes Nevada 211 hoy!



- Actividades y campamentos
- Asesoramiento
- Líneas directas de crisis
- Recursos de equidad
- Alimentos de emergencia
- Refugio de emergencia
- Cuidado de la salud
- Servicios LGBTQ
- SafeVoice
- Grupos de apoyo
- Empleo juvenil



¡Y mucho más!