

# WASHOE COUNTY FOSTER, ADOPTIVE, & KINSHIP CAREGIVER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY 2020



Some exciting changes happened with staff in January...

Cindy Adams headed off to retirement life and will be greatly missed! Taking over her spot we welcomed Mitch Matthews to the Recruitment & Training team!

Carmen Cognian headed off to help families grow through adoption. We wish her the best of luck and said hello to Alexis Auckenthaler who joined the Recruitment & Training team!

Katie Nichols moved from the foster care team over to the Child Care Licensing unit! Jessica Shepherd is excited to move from permanency to foster care licensing as she took over Katie's caseload!

Lindsey Klaes is bringing her assessment experience to a Specialized Foster Care home near you, as she takes over the SFC caseload on February 3rd!

Foster care licensing supervisor Tara Goodsell said goodbye to foster care and is putting her knowledge to use with the Continuous Quality Improvement team.

As of January 20th, Laura Caprioli is now the supervisor over Foster Care Licensing!

We wish everyone the best of luck in their new positions!

Let's take a minute to learn a little bit more about the new people on our team...

Jessica Shepherd is taking over the

position of a foster care licensing worker.

Although born in Alaska and having also lived in Arizona and California, she considers Reno her home. She graduated from UNR with a degree in Criminal Justice and happened upon working as an permanency worker for WCHSA. She is excited to join the foster care team and will make a great addition as she emphasizes that "figuring out how to support foster parents and build relationships" is one of her main goals of the job. As she says relationships are the foundation of everything" and she loves building relationships!





Outside of work, Jessica loves to sleep, play with her son (who she considers to be her greatest accomplishment), and spend time with her closest friends and family. She has been skydiving three times and hopes to someday go to Bora Bora and Tahiti, since she loves beach vacations. Jessica said she is "very, very grateful that we have such an amazing group of foster parents who love these kids as their own" and she appreciates their compassion and commitment to helping them.

**Kylee Spring** is taking on a brand new position called QPI Liaison. She graduated from UNR with a degree in general studies with an emphasis in social work and a minor in substance abuse treatment. Her passion for social work started while working at a school district in which she saw many children who had severe behaviors, yet felt that her ability to help them in a school setting was limited. Kylee believes that in order to help the children you have to help the family, which is why she felt that social work was a good fit for her. She has an abundance of previous work experience including spending three years as an assessment worker at the Child Advocacy Center. Kylee identifies some of her strengths as being an honest person who tends to be happy most of the time and is open to other peoples ideas. She is also a go-getter who likes to do things quickly.



Kylee herself was a foster parent who ended up adopting her son with support from her fiancé. Outside of work she loves to go camping, ride dirt bikes, attend her son's sporting events, and spend time with her family! Having been to Europe, Mexico, the Bahamas, and around the U.S., she loves to travel and hopes to someday make it to Africa. Also on her bucket list is to go swimming with sharks! Kylee wants everyone to know that she is a very open individual who wants to help as best she can. She stresses that "anyone can come to me for anything, and I will do my very best to help them".

**Laura Caprioli** is taking over as the supervisor of the foster care licensing unit! As a supervisor, Laura is excited to collaborate with foster parents, learn from them, and use their strengths to improve outcomes for all of our kiddos. Although new to the position, she already has a number of goals for improving our licensing unit, including streamlining the initial licensing process, initiating tours of agency buildings, revamping the front lobby so it



is a friendly resource area for foster parents, and educating foster parents and staff about the Family First Prevention Services Act. Laura considers herself to be an open-minded, friendly, hardworking, and creative person who is solution-focused.

Laura was born and raised in Reno and is proud to be a lifelong Nevadan. She has been married for ten years and is mom of two kiddos, whom she considers to be her proudest accomplishments in life. She enjoys taking her family to community events, is an avid tennis player, and loves to do interior design. Someday she wants to ride in a hot air balloon! Laura is looking forward to continuing to build relationships with foster parents as well as the community and would like everyone to know that her door is always open.

# Hello Foster Parents, Resource Parents, and Relatives,

I have met many of you, but I wanted to introduce myself to the few I haven't. I started my career with WCHSA as an intern in the assessment unit. I was hired after I graduated UNR with a BSW and worked as assessment worker for five years. Last December, I transferred to the Foster Care Licensing unit as the licensing worker for treatment level and enhanced foster homes. I have learned so much from foster parents and my colleagues about foster care. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know "this side of the house" and am excited to announce that I have recently accepted a position as Supervisor for the Foster Care Licensing unit. My mission is to collaborate and improve foster care for our foster children and resource parents by collaborating and learning from one another. I am thrilled to continue to work with you all in this new role and want to

Sincerely,

extend the invitation to call, email, or meet with me anytime!

Laura Caprioli



# WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

350 S CENTER STREET RENO, NEVADA 89501-2103 PHONE: (775) 786-8600 FAX: (775) 785-8648

Greetings HSA Community,

Human Services Agency is excited to announce our upcoming launch of PRIME. PRIME is a child centered, web-based program and uses innovative technology aimed at elevating the quality of life for youth in the foster care system. It also increases caregiver engagement through streamlined communication with the youth's team.

PRIME was born out of a desire to decrease placement disruptions by finding the *best home*, not just the first home that can be matched for youth. PRIME considers hundreds of data points when matching a youth with a home.

The use of PRIME will only be as useful as the information that is entered into the system. This is why WCHSA will depend on WCHSA staff and resource parents to utilize the program to it's full capability for timely communication, such as real time updates or access to a youth's medical history and upcoming appointments, a messaging platform for team members, and a simplified application and renewal process for resource parents.

PRIME will go live starting in February 2020. A targeted training plan, including in-person and online trainings, will be implemented. You will be notified when you are selected to participate in training and start using the program. As you can imagine the training process will take some time to roll out to all users.

We are very inspired by PRIME and how it will revolutionize case practice, team communication, and outcomes for our families.

Sincerely,

Your Washoe County Team



# Licensing has now transitioned to issuing

### biennial licenses!

What does this mean for you?



It means that your license is valid for 2 years - although you'll still see our smiling faces yearly.

Each year you will still have to meet annual requirements, such as, but not limited to the inspection, Child Abuse and Neglect check, background checks as needed, complete your required trainings, service your fire extinguisher, complete your fire drill log, and review/complete your emergency disaster plan.

On your non-renewal year, you will not need to complete any of the paperwork (the relicensing letter, children in the home form, relicensing survey, and questionnaire) and you will not be issued a new license.

Reach out to your licensing worker if you have any questions!

# A couple of reminders...

Workers need to attend specialist appointments and surgeries of our kiddos.

Please make sure to give ample notice as soon as any of these appointments are scheduled so they can arrange their schedule to attend!





Our office will be closed Monday, February 17th for President's Day. If you have a visit scheduled, please touch base with your worker to get it rescheduled or to figure out alternative arrangements!



Families that have WIC, MED or NVCheckUp qualify for a brand new car seat and installation for a \$10 fee through Renown Health.

Families that don't qualify bring in their own car seat & pay a \$25 fee & any additional installation or inspection is \$10.

Foster Families fall in the \$10 service fee per car seat. Just take a copy of your placement letter which includes the child's Medicaid number.

The car seat should follow the child that received it. If the foster family gets another child they can come and get another one for that other child.

They will also check to make sure that the car seats that are being used / borrowed are not expired.



# Renown Car Seat Safety Station

Helping to keep your child safe when riding in a vehicle.

We know that finding the right car seat and installing it correctly is no easy task. Then there's the question of when to transition your child to another type of car seat.

Car seats and boosters protect infants and children in a crash, yet car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13. Select a car seat based on your child's age, size, a car seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.

To schedule an appointment for an inspection or installation call 775-982-2620 or visit **renown.org**.





# Estación de seguridad de la silla de automóvil Renown

Ayudar a mantener a su hijo a salvo al viajar en automóvil.

Sabemos que encontrar la silla de automóvil adecuada e instalarla correctamente no es una tarea fácil. Luego está la cuestión de cuándo hacer la transición de su hijo a otro tipo de silla de automóvil.

Las sillas de automóvil y los boosters protegen a los bebés y niños en un accidente automovilístico. A pesar de esto, estos accidentes son una de las principales causas de muerte en niños de 1 a 13 años. Elija una silla de automóvil basado en la edad y el tamaño de su hijo, una silla de automóvil que se ajuste a su vehículo y úsela cada vez.

Para programar una cita para una inspección o una instalación, llame al 775-982-2620 o visite **renown.org**.

Renovn®
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Don't forget to update your insurance to reflect our new mailing address as we no longer have our PO box! Make sure your insurance has us

Washoe County Human Services 350 S. Center St. Reno NV 89501

listed as:



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

Our Recruitment and Training team will come to you!

Bring together your village to help spread the word about foster care!

You pick a venue, whether a restaurant, a church, or the comfort of your home, and invite your friends. Our team will be there to share information on how everyone can support the children and families in our community.

To schedule or to learn more about this idea, call the Recruitment and Training team at 337-4470!

# BRIDGES out of POVERTY



We are excited to announce this very special day training of Bridges out of Poverty!

Please plan to attend this work shop for foster parents as we look to counter poverty and its impact on people and businesses in our community. Bridges Out of Poverty solutions give us the structures, ideas and concrete tools a community needs to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty. Bridges Out of Poverty is an approach that helps employers, community organizations, social-service agencies and individuals address poverty in a comprehensive way. People from all economic classes come together to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes and support those who are moving out of poverty.

You will receive 4 training hours for your attendance.
WCHSA will provide additional respite pay for you to attend. Please refer to the respite list or call Victoria Bowers at 775-337-4484 for more information on respite.

Trainings are being offered on the following days.
Please RSVP to Matt Polley.

Thursday February 13th 5:30pm-9:30pm
Tuesday February 18th 5:30pm-9:30pm
Monday February 23rd 9am-1pm
Saturday February 28th 9am-1pm

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



# **WASHOE COUNTY**

"Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service"

350 SOUTH CENTER STREET RENO, NEVADA 89520-0027 PHONE: (775) 337-4470

FAX: (775) 337-4495

December 20, 2019

Re: Publication of Calendar Year 2020 Check Issuance Dates

Dear Foster and/or Adoptive Parent(s):

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with each of you the 2020 schedule for foster care and adoption payments. The schedule was designed around the County's payment processing deadlines and every effort was made to issue payments as early in the month as possible. The current payment dates are as follows:

 January 08, 2020
 May 13, 2020
 September 09, 2020

 February 12, 2020
 June 10, 2020
 October 14, 2020

 March 11, 2020
 July 8, 2020
 November 11, 2020

 April 08, 2020
 August 12, 2020
 December 09, 2020

Checks are generated during the day listed above and mailed out late in the evening. Funds that are direct deposited are generally posted to your account late in the evening or early the following morning.

Washoe County is able to process payments via direct deposit for those who are interested. Please fill out the enclosed form and send to the following address:

# \*If you have already filled out a direct deposit form, <u>you do not need to fill out a new one</u>.

Human Services Agency Attn: Bookkeeping Dept 350 South Center St Reno, NV 89520 FAX (775) 337-4495

Email SSBookkeeping@washoecounty.us

If you have any questions related to payments, please call the Department at 775-785-5641 and ask to speak to a member of the Bookkeeping Unit.

Sincerely.

Amy Sandvik

Children's Services Coordinator

ndi

# Safe Babies Court (SBCT) CASES

# What it is:

Safe Babies Court cases are much like other cases. There is an assigned case worker, Deputy District Attorney, parent's legal counsel and children's legal counsel. The team works to identify and provide services for families with infants and toddlers. For a case to be in SBCT, there just has to be one child in the family who is age 3 or under.

# **Community Coordinator:**

Each SBCT case also has a Community Coordinator. That person works to keep the case moving forward with multiple team meetings, locating services for families and helping support the case plan. The Community Coordinator does not make case decisions such as changes to visits, when children go home and the permanency plan of the case.

# **SBCT Goals:**

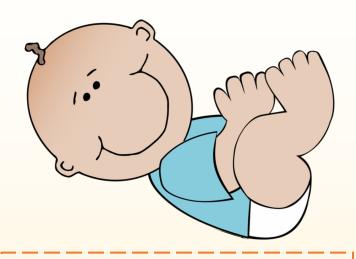
- Establish frequent and quality family contact
  - Contact occurs in the home or family friendly locations
- Substitute care families will co-parent with the biological parents
- Parent participation in a reading program called 2 for 2
  - Biological parent will call the child and substitute care family to read a book over the phone (books will be provided and geared towards the child's developmental level)
- The more frequent the contact the better!
  - Not just scheduled family time, but also Facetime, Skype, phone calls and routine things like medical/dental appointments



# Safe Babies Court (SBCT) CASES Cont.

# How it works:

- SBCT families have court hearings every 2 months (instead of about every 3-4 months) to review their progress.
- SBCT families have Family Team Meetings every other month to help keep everyone on track.
  - These FTM's are held during months when no court hearing is scheduled.
- SBCT families are typically assessed for participation in special family therapy sessions (CPP), once a week.
  - The goal of this therapy is to work on attachment and trauma issues.
     This is a key component of SBCT.
- Most of these cases also have children's service providers who attend Court and/or team meetings
  - Such as NEIS, Early Head Start or other specialized services.



# **Staff assigned to SBCT:**

- All cases are held in front of Judge Cynthia Lu, Department 5
- Deputy District Attorney, Charles Aglubat
- Deputy Public Defender, Veronica Chavez
- Deputy Alternate Public Defender, Irene Hart
- Washoe Legal Services, children's counsel, Jennifer Christie
- Community Coordinator, Kelly Dieckman
- SBCT caseworkers either Stacia
   Harty, Jillian Iacovelli, or Anne Leek

If you have questions about Safe Babies Court please reach out to the Community Coordinator Kelly Dieckman at 337-4424.



# Spotlight

In the spirit of changes...

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!

Quality Parenting Washoe is now doing a Spotlight and we want to hear from everyone!

Our mission is to give recognition to every person who is helping children and families. Check your emails for the Quality Parenting Washoe Nomination form that you can fill out and submit. This form is also available on the QPI Website. 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.

# **Quality Parenting Washoe**

# **Spotlight Nomination**

Date:	
Name of employee to be recognized:	
Name of submitting employee:	
Role:	
Assessment Permanency Adoption	Licensing Runner Eligibility FEC Staff
Resource Parent Parents DA	Child Attorney Public Defender Other
Reason for recognition:	

# Please complete and turn into Kylee Spring (1st floor) or email kspring@washoecounty.us

### Examples:

- Modeling honesty, transparency and respect
- Including birth parents, children and resources parent in permanency planning
- Supporting connections and relationships
- Following up with families
- Being responsive and flexible
- Greeting people with warmth
- Help people find meetings or who they are looking for
- Conducting comfort calls with biological parents/family members
- Providing support to biological families and resources families

Quality Parenting Washoe nurtures safe and healthy families and a culture of well-being through respect, empathy and understanding, communication, and good working relationships.

# **Independent Living News**

The **Washoe Youth Advisory Board** will be meeting the second Thursday of every month from 530-730 p.m. at Nevada Youth Empowerment Project. The address is 1369 Faland Way Reno 89503.

To RSVP or for transportation assistance please contact Monica Dupea at <a href="monica.nyep@gmail.com">monica.nyep@gmail.com</a> or Nina Shapey at <a href="monica.nyep@gmail.com">nina.nyep@gmail.com</a>.

Youth ages 14 and older are invited to attend. Dinner is provided.



If you have teens in your home over the age of 14 you are required to complete the Independent Living Modules. Need a reminder of what to do? "Introduction to Independent Living Modules" are the instructions for the monthly "Independent

Living Modules" . The youth's worker will also be following up during their monthly visits!

Check out the resources on the QPI Documents page in the Independent Living Section. There are power points/slideshows for additional training and useful information for our youth looking to or who have aged out. (Some of this information can also be used to meet the requirements in some of those modules!)



HSA is happy to announce that we will be using ZOOM for *some*\* facilitated team meetings so that you, our busy foster parents, can join meetings from anywhere using a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or computer. It's the next best thing to you being here in person! Using Zoom is simple:

- 1. Download the Zoom app if you plan to use a phone or tablet/ipad for zoom meetings.
- 2. An invitation that details the date, time, and meeting ID link to join will be sent to you by the meeting organizer. \*Ask the meeting organizer if zoom attendance is available for your meeting if it isn't discussed at the time of scheduling.
- 3. Join the meeting: A minute or two before the start of the meeting, open the invitation and click on the meeting ID to join the meeting. If you are using a laptop or computer, you can do the same or go to <a href="https://zoom.us/">https://zoom.us/</a> then click join a meeting and enter the meeting ID. If your computer does not have a microphone you will also need to call in to join the audio.



# Tips:



- ★ Video is key! Be sure to enable video so the team can **SEE** you!
- ★ Noise: if you aren't alone in a quiet room, please mute yourself using the microphone icon and unmute to talk



# Help:

- ★ Online tutorials available at <a href="https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us">https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us</a> (they even have the option to join a test meeting)
- ★ View the attached Quick Guide, then Reach out to your meeting organizer or licensing worker for additional questions

# Co-ParentingPalooza!







### Parents:

Engagement, relationship building, and co-parenting is vital to your success.

And as you all know, kids do much better when their parents and caregivers get along.

As part of our efforts to improve relationships between birth and foster parents,

we (WCHSA & The FEC) are excited to announce some **BIG** news!

On February 12 from 2-7 pm,
we invite you to Wild Island for a family fun day.
Kids 5 and up, along with their birth AND foster parents,
will be provided an ALL-ACCESS pass for unlimited use of
bowling, black light mini-golf, laser tag, go-karts, high Ballocity,
XD adventure theater, along with 20 arcade credits and a meal.
Kids under 5, along with their birth AND foster parents,
will get a pass for the high Ballocity area and a meal.
Please note: XD theater, laser tag & go-karts will not be open until 4pm.

Again, this is an activity that must be attended by the child, a foster parent, and the birth parent together.

Spots are limited and you must be signed up to attend!

Please call/email Jesse Brown at the FEC for more information and to sign up.

(775) 352-3230; jbrown@washoecounty.us

# Co-Parenting:

It's not a competition between parents.
It's a collaboration of parents
doing what is best for their kids.





# Do you have a loved one who is struggling with addiction?

Join us for our new Families Recovering
Hope Support Group

Using a CRAFT Family Model to provide support for families and friends of loved ones who are not yet in recovery. CRAFT teaches families/friends behavioral and motivational strategies for interacting with their loved one.

The weekly group will last for 12 weeks and is open to the public

# Families Recovering Hope

Join HOPES for a new support group for friends and families of individuals not yet in recovery

Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00pm (Starting January 28th)

Northern Nevada HOPES 3rd Floor BH Group Room 580 W. 5th St. Reno, NV 89503



# **Support Groups**

# "Instant Family" – A support group for foster/adoptive/relative & kinship caregivers

Support is available and training is offered! Contact us today!

Contact: Brittney Augustenborg \*775-846-6745 or Arlene Carter \*775-737-1603

Cindy Johnson \* 775-250-4765 or cindyinsparks@gmail.com or Patty Steen

\*j- psteen@sbcglobal.net or 775-544-3388

# Foster/Adoptive Parent's Night Out

Third Thursday of each month @ 6pm

Reach out to Jerri Ann to find out which restaurant they're going to this month!

RSVP to Jerri Ann Fredeen \* 224-1380

# **Relative Foster Parent Support Group**

Third Saturday of each month @ 11am

Round Table Pizza \*1075 N. Hills Blvd. #110 \* Reno (Golden Valley)

Please RSVP to Regina Hayes \* (530) 386-7221 or regina.haynes522@gmail.com

# 3 Angels Support Group

Third Thursday of each month @ 6pm

Food, child care & training offered

1095 East Taylor St. \* Reno

Provided by Fatai & Raymond Langi with 3 Angels Care LLC

\* RSVP to koula@3angelscare.org

# Faith Based Relative Foster Parent Support Group \*TBD\*

Faith Ministries located \* 2301 Kings Row \*Reno Please RSVP to Gloria Torma at <a href="mailto:tfi.nevada@gmail.com">tfi.nevada@gmail.com</a>

\*\*Please share any information of any discontinued or added support groups so this list can provide the most up to date information by emailing Katie Nichols at knichols@washoecounty.us.





# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

## THE QPI WEBSITE

New trainings are being added to the QPI website all the time... including trainings in Spanish. Go check them out!

<u>CHILDREN'S CABINET</u> - offers a wide variety of training opportunities. Check out the calendar for upcoming classes!

## WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT UNIVERSITY

Parent University offers learning sessions to help families build upon skills, knowledge and support systems to advocate for student success.

## **NEVADA PEP**

Nevada PEP provides information, services, and training to families of children with disabilities. They empower families to be life-long advocates for their children by educating and supporting them to learn about disabilities, intervention needs, and how to develop a support system.

# **CPR/FIRST AID**

**Fatai Langi** with 3 Angels Care LTD. offers CPR classes to new and licensed foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers homes. For more information and to RSVP for a class please contact them at their NEW contact at koula@3angelscare.org.

**Sheri Blackwell-Ralphe** also teaches CPR and can be reached at (775) 691-9952 or certifiedcpr@sbcglobal.net.



# Spotlight

"Rick and Donna Bawcom recently received the game ball at the Wolf Pack basketball game on January 4th for Have A Heart. The game focused on the community's need to help families and children in Washoe County through mentoring, donating, fostering, or adopting. The Bawcom's have been fostered nearly 30 children over the last 8 years. They currently are helping as Peer Support Parents through the Engagement Center and are a great example of how to coparent with parents." - Mikie Franklin, Recruitment & Training Supervisor

"Larry and Joy Moorehead have been fostering for 25 years – that's amazing! They've fostered and adopted many children over the time they've been licensed, and are committed to keeping connected with the families they work with. They often host barbeques in the summer with over 100 people (families and children they have cared for)! Larry and Joy specialize in caring for youth with diabetes as well as truly understand trauma in foster children. They are exemplary foster parents, who truly care about the children in their home, and provide an ongoing, supportive environment for the families they interact with. They are amazing, and we are lucky to have them on our team!" - Heather Wenker, Placement Specialist

"Barbara Munn has a child whose mom is incarcerated and Barbara does twice weekly iWeb visits. During these visits, the bio mom sings to Garrett and Barbara went to Build a Bear and put in a recording of his mom singing in a stuffed bear for him." - Alexandra Clark, Case Manager

"Mary and Larry Sondgroth are QPI champions. One of the children presently residing in their home has significant health issues and requires frequent emergency room visits and hospital admissions as well as a recent trip to Stanford University. Mary and Larry have gone above and beyond and demonstrated joyful servants hearts while meeting the extraordinary needs of this very fragile child. They consistently remain upbeat and celebrate every victory. The emotional freight attached to caring for a child with a grim prognosis is significant. Mary and Larry maintain a positive upbeat attitude and outlook no matter how grim the news may be on any given day. They always interact warmly and sincerely." - Mitch Matthews, Case Manager

# **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.

### **SOCCER 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.

### THE ADOPTION EXCHANGE

Offers a number of 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.

### **FREE TUTORING!**

If your youth needs tutoring, please reach out to <u>Joseph</u> 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.

### **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 child birth to yoga. They also offer free weekly circles of support, toddler playgroups and breast feeding circle to mention just a few.

### **LUGGAGE FOR LITTLES & TOTES FOR TEENS**

Did you know we have a luggage closet here at Washoe County? If you find yourself in need of luggage for your littles or totes for your teens please, never move a child's things in trash bags. Instead, email <u>Tawnya Robertson</u> or call 785-8659.

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

# INTERESTED IN ADOPTING?



# Noah, age 9 & Gabriel, age 10

Noah is kind, caring, empathetic, helpful, and smart. He likes nature, superhero's, being outside, and learning. He is very into electronics.

Gabriel is friendly, funny, and well mannered. He likes arts, books, and playing outdoors.

They need a flexible foster family.

If you'd like more information, please contact <u>Alexis Auckenthaler</u>.

# Alex, age 15

Alex is a self-proclaimed "clean freak". He would also fall under the artsy category if you asked him. He loves to sing and write poetry and is currently teaching himself to play guitar. Alex finds joy in swimming and building things such as bicycles. He is taking a cooking class in school right now and is starting to show a real knack for it. His love for food varies between uber healthy to fried chicken. One thing is for sure, you will not likely find him cutting into a juicy steak or chomping down on a messy burger. Alex likes dogs and enjoys all genres of positive, "motivational" music. He is an excellent advocate for himself. So much so that he recently asked for a tutor or some other kind of positive support to help ensure his academic success. Alex is looking for a flexible foster family with a mom and a dad who won't be afraid

to hold him accountable. He would love to be an only child but is open to becoming a big brother.

If you're interested in learning more about his fun, quirky kid contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 785-8659 or <a href="mailto:Trobertson@washoecounty.us">Trobertson@washoecounty.us</a>.

