

**NOVEMBER 2020** 



# NEWSLETTER

#### RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS



Doughboy's Donuts has teamed up with WCHSA and is putting the flier above on every donut box.

For the month of November for every family that you refer to the agency we will provide your family a dozen donuts!!

# **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 9:30am on Zoom!** We would love for you to attend. Please reach out to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison for the Zoom link. kspring@washoecounty.us



# Resource Family Drive-In Movie Appreciation Night!

Hosted by WCHSA in partnership with UNR Wolf Pack



In honor of our Resource Families, join us for a showing of "The Secret Life of Pets!"

Arrive early for a special guest appearance from the UNR Cheer Team & Mascot!

Movie tickets, popcorn, and drinks included.

DATE: Friday, November 20, 2020 WHERE: 555 El Rancho Dr, Sparks

GUEST APPEARANCE: 5:30pm SHOWTIME: 6:00pm

RSVP: Please RSVP to Kylee Spring by Wednesday, November 11, 2020 to receive your admission ticket. (kspring@washoecounty.us)

Drive-In COVID-19 Policies: Guests must remain in their vehicles at all times, except when visiting concessions or restrooms. Masks are required anytime that you leave your vehicle's parking space. Sanitizing station is available at concessions.



**Dates of training:** 

Saturday, November 21st, 2020

10:00am-12

This is a mandatory training requirement for your license renewal.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

MPolley@washoecounty.us

#### NEWSLETTER

#### RESOURCE PARENT, RELATIVE, FICTIVE KIN & ADOPTIVE

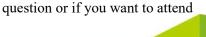
#### Support Groups

#### 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 November 11, 2020 at noon. Please contact kspring@washoeounty.us to RSVP
- **Zoom Training** Kylee will be conducting a how to Zoom training on November 24th at 11:30am. Please contact kspring@washoeounty.us to RSVP
  - **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** For pre- & Post-Adoptive Families. Wednesday 5-6 vis Zoom. Please contact <u>jcasarez@washoecounty.us</u> or danderson@washoecounty.us for any



We are working on getting an updated list and would love to get the word out to others. Please reach out



#### **KEYWORD**

#### Safe Sleep

According to the National Institutes of Health2, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death in infants between the ages of 1 month and 1 year. Most SIDS deaths occur when babies are between the ages of 1 month and 4 months of age. Each year, about 4,000 infants die during sleep time, from SIDS, accidental suffocation or unknown causes.

- 1. The safest way for a child 0-1 years of age should sleep on their back for naps and at night.
- Any child 0-1 years of age should always sleep in a crib or Pack N Play, on a firm mattress that has a right-fitted
  - Alone- Keep baby's sleep area close but separate form where others sleep. Babies should not sleep with others in a bed, on a couch or in a chair
  - Back- All babies should be placed to sleep on their back in a safety-approved crib on a firm mattress every time including during naps and at
  - Crib- Removed all loose bedding, comforters, quilts sheepskins, stuffed animals bumpers, wedges and pillow from your baby's crib.
  - NO items should ever be in the crib with the child

Foster parents shall ensure all children, ages birth to 12 months old, are provided a safe sleeping environment and will use safe sleep practices at bedtime and naptime.



# with any other support groups that I have missed.

#### New Training updates:

#### **QPI WEBSITE:** HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/

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

#TalkWithTeens This training goes over communication as it relates to the parent-to-youth dynamic and how the youth culture uses communication. In this training you will learn (1) Different forms of communication & how youth use them, (2) Learn about managing emotions and how they play a role, (3) Learn about trauma and how it affects the brain for youth, and (4) Strategies for conflict management. This training is presented from a former foster youth who pulled in lived experience and training materials/data in order to create this presentation. 1.0 Hours

#### Advocating to End Human Trafficking: Justice, Equality, and Economic Security for All Human

trafficking does not happen in a vacuum - it is a reality keenly felt by those who are most vulnerable on account of inequality, age, discrimination, violence, and economic insecurity, and who often lack access to healthcare, education, good jobs, and other social supports. Children are particularly vulnerable and at-risk. Connecting the dots between societal inequality and human trafficking victimization is easy: creating change in a world rife with inequity is not. This program will explore ways all of us can make a difference to support the vulnerable and help build a better and more just world for those at-risk for being trafficked. We will also highlight actions we can all take and to help prevent trafficking and support child and adult survivors to heal and thrive during this time of COVID-19 and beyond.

#### **Exploring the Intersections of Historical** Trauma and Race in Child Welfare, Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Systems This

virtual training provides a critical assessment of how race, racism and historical trauma have impacted Black Americans and Black families within various systems in the United States. Through this training, we focus on developing a better understanding of these intersections with a goal of enhancing our cultural awareness, reducing disparities and enhancing your work in the child welfare setting. 1.5 hours

#### <u>At Home Behavior Support for Online</u>

Learning With learning take place significantly more at home, it can be a struggle to keep children engaged and on task. This presentation goes over behavior strategies and supports for online learning for caregivers and families based on best practices. 1.0 hour

#### Help with IEPs and 504s for Online/ Hybrid

**Learning** IEP and 504 Plans are critical to a child's success in school, especially during online learning. It is important to understand what the current circumstances and effects will have on a child's plan and what rights caregivers/children still have for continued educational success. This presentation will answer critical questions such as what caregivers and children are legally entitled to during emergency times/virtual learning, how to write/update plans with important information and supports for online/hybrid learning, and how to work with schools to support children at this time. 1.0 hour

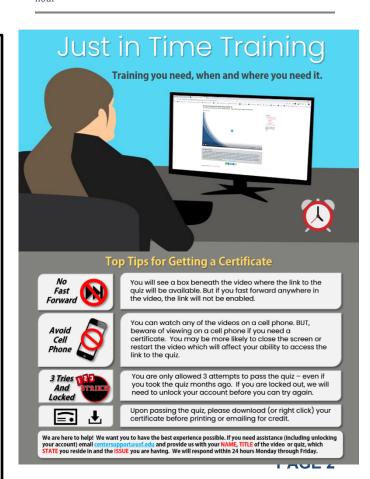
Engaging Dads This training highlights the importance of actively involved fathers and discusses a generational breakdown of self-realization by men that being a dad is critical to their legacy and the success of their family. All Pro Dad's Lesley Bateman and Keith Vickery identify ways that Child Welfare Professionals can utilize the All Pro Dad's school program, even from a virtual standpoint to assist with carrying out the vision of engaging ALL fathers including biological, step fathers, grandfathers, foster fathers and mentors.  $\!1.0$ 



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 shinning 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 (<a href="http://www.qpinevada.org/">http://www.qpinevada.org/</a>). After you fill it out send it to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison (kspring@washeocounty.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!





#### Interested in Adoption?

#### **Jode**

10 years old

#### **LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME**

Jode is a shy, very smart, sweet and kind young boy. Jode loves planets and wants to be an astronomer when he grows up. He is very interested in S.T.E.M. Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Jode loves nature and animals, along with playing video games (Roblocks) and watching You Tube videos about nature. Jode is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and really enjoys school. Jode does very well academically and behaviorally; receiving citizenship awards, Jode has friends at school and is a student leader. Jode's favorite food is pizza and likes soccer which he recently started to play for the first time.

Jode is in need of a patient, committed and loving family willing to put the time into helping him continue to grow. If you are interested in learning more about Jode, please contact **Brenda** at <a href="mailto:Bsilis@washoecounty.us">Bsilis@washoecounty.us</a>





#### **Donivan & Dawson**

Donivan 12, Dawson 11

#### LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME

Donivan is a handsome young boy. Donivan takes a bit to warm up, but once he feels comfortable, he is active, sweet and outgoing. Donivan loves to play soccer and playing with Nerf guns. Donivan enjoys cooking and loves to eat. Donivan interacts well with other kiddos, especially males his age.

Dawson is a charming, active and affectionate young man. Dawson enjoys playing basketball, video games and likes playing cards. Dawson likes animals and really likes horses. Dawson interacts well with other kiddos, but specially enjoys playing with and teaching younger kiddos. Dawson enjoys all types of foods.

These siblings are in need of a patient, committed and loving family willing to put the time into helping them continue to grow and are eager to be a part of their forever family. If you are interested in learning more about them, please contact Brenda at Bsilis@washoecounty.us

#### Manson a.k.a. Robbie M

14 years old

#### **100% FREE FOR ADOPTION**

Manson is a bright and sincere young man with a great sense of humor. Manson gets along well with peers and adults alike. Manson is friendly and outgoing with new people. His genuineness and care for others is abundant. He will do best in a home where he is the only child or youngest in the home. Manson loves music. His tastes vary from Metallica & Green Day to Eminem & Snoop. Manson has played drums in the past and would like to resume this pastime. Presently, Manson aspires to a career associated with music. In addition to music, Manson enjoys Naruto, Dragonball Z and The Mandalorian. Previously, Manson played baseball and excelled at third base. Manson is earning good grades in high school which he attends virtually. He enjoys science and computers; however, he does not care for math. Manson takes his food serious and loves spending time in the kitchen. His favorite pet would be a python, bird and/or dog. Manson would like to visit England, Ireland and Scotland. Manson is skilled at doing impressions and different voices. Manson is a lovable young man who has limitless potential...and needs an adoptive home.

If you are interested in forever changing the world one life at a time, please contact Mitch Matthews, LSW at mmatthews@washoecounty.us





#### Interested in Adoption?

#### Randall D

13 years old

**100% FREE FOR ADOPTION** 

Randall is a guarded young man whose trust must be earned. Randall values loyalty and honesty and aspires to emulate these characteristics. After getting to know someone, Randall is outgoing and funny. His humor is wry and sophisticated beyond his chronological age. Randall states he gets along better with adults than with other young people. Randall's favorite pastimes are playing basketball and videogames (COD and Fortnite). Randall would like to explore mixed martial arts (UFC). Music is important to Randall. His favorite artists include Lil Wayne and Roddy Rich. Presently, Randal does not care for school. An ideal family will be willing to support and encourage Randall to increase his participation. This healthy young man is not a picky eater and would love to have a dog. Randall wants a prospective family to know he wishes to maintain relationships with his friends thru any transition.

If you interested in learning more about Randall you may contact Mitch Matthews, LSW, Children's Division - Washoe County Human Services Agency mmatthews@washoecounty.us



## Washoe County School District Update

#### **Distance Learning Tips**

- Please don't hesitate to advocate for your youth and reach out to your worker if you need additional support.
- Stay in close contact with your student's school.
- Confirm that the school has the correct contact information and communication preferences.
- Confirm that you have access to Infinite campus and/or Edgenuity.
  - o Any issues with access need to be addressed directly with the school.
- Monitor youth's attendance and grades via your parent portal.
- Youth using Edgenuity
  - o Please be sure to monitor youth's progress via student and/or parent login.
  - o Many schools have an additional (separate) check-in system, so please make sure you are aware of all check in systems, so your youth's attendance is not affected.
  - o Grades and progress available on Edgenuity.
  - o Grades post to Infinite Campus from Edgenuity only twice per semester. Once at the 9 week (qtr) point and one at the end of the semester.
- Technology
  - Again, please reach out if there are any issues with either the school issued laptop or WCHSA laptop issued through iFoster.
  - o For iFoster laptops, PLEASE set up a separate student login with parental controls to decrease the risk of our kids' accessing inappropriate sites, etc. Info was emailed out by Keri Pruitt, but if you need it again please reach out.
- Distance Learning and/or student exclusions due to COVID
  - o Info will be shared by each school with the designated contact person(s) on the IC panel via the method of communication you have chosen. Any changes need to be made directly with the school.
  - o Be sure to confirm with the school if you have any questions
  - o Page on WCSD site with current information https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/15625



#### **COVID** Update:

An updated COVID-19 Guidance for Staff and Foster Parents Informational Memorandum was emailed to all resource parents. This updated guidance empowers Foster and Relative Caregivers to make decisions around in-person contacts for foster children based on the Governor's Directives, CDC Guidelines and Health District recommendations without approval of the COVID-19 Staffing Team. Please review this email and if you have questions or need assistance in making plans, please reach out to your caseworker or licensing worker.

To the right is the first of six pages of the document that was sent. Please review all six pages



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!



#### WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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

November 2, 2020

To: Children's Services

From: Foster and Relative Caregivers
From: Amber Howell, WCHSA Director
Subject: Revised COVID-19 Guidance

- A. Legal Authority: <a href="CDC Guidance">CDC Guidance</a>, <a href="Governor Sisolak Directives and Declarations">Governor Sisolak Directives and Declarations</a>, and the Washoe County Health District guidance.
- B. Purpose: This informational memorandum seeks to provide revised guidance to staff, foster parents and relative caregivers concerning visitation practices for children in the custody of Washoe County Human Services Agency ("WCHSA") and their parents and siblings, visitations at the Family Engagement Center and guidance for in person contacts for children in foster care. This information memorandum supersedes the guidance distributed by WCHSA on August 21, 2020 on these topics

WCHSA seeks to empower birth parents, foster parents and guardians to make safe, well thought out personal and family decisions regarding daily activities for work, school and socializing. When making these decisions families should follow the current CDC guidance, Governor Sisolak's Directive and Declarations and Washoe County Health District Guidance to minimize the spread of COVID-19. To the maximum extent practical, families should practice social distancing, wear a face covering while outside of your own household and adhere to strict standards for sanitation and personal hygiene to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

WCHSA also deeply values normalcy and fostering strong connections between parents and children and seeks to support visitation between children and their siblings and birth parents in a fashion that allows for those connections to grow and flourish. In an effort to balance the current public health threats posed by COVID-19 with the need for normalcy, fostering family connections and providing needed services to children and families, revised guidance is being provided allowing for visitation and in-home and out-of-home services to occur without prior approval by the WCHSA COVID staffing team, with the exception of certain specific circumstances detailed below.

C. Timeframes: This informational memorandum is intended to align WCHSA guidance with the most current CDC guidance, Directives and Declarations from the Governor of Nevada and Washoe County Health District guidance. Future informational memorandums may be issued as needed if current guidance changes or if the danger posed by COVID-19 is no longer a current threat.





#### May Museum to Kick off Holiday Drive

Every child should go through life knowing they have a caring adult by their side. Unfortunately, there are more than 440,000 children in the foster care system right now. Every year, 21% of children age out of the foster system without a family. This holiday season, the Wilbur May Museum is teaming up with Raise the Future for a collection drive to raise awareness for adoptable children in Nevada.

Through November and December, the museum will collect items intended to bring comfort to children. Raise the Future is requesting soft blankets, towels, robes, slippers, or stuffed animals. Items can be dropped off at the May Museum during normal business hours. Raise the Future will distribute all items to children in need throughout Nevada.

The Museum will also host the Nevada Heart Gallery, a compelling exhibit that introduces the children who are awaiting to be adopted in Nevada. Visitors can see their photos, read their stories, and pick up information to learn more about the adoption process.

What: Comfort a Kid Collection Drive
When: November 1 – December 31, 2020
Where: Wilbur D. May Museum, Rancho San Rafael

Regional Park

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno

Contact: (775) 785-5961 or <u>www.maycenter.com</u>

#### About the Wilbur D. May Museum

Located within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, the Wilbur D. May Center is managed by the Washoe County Community Services Department and continues to receive generous support from the Wilbur May Foundation. Our mission is to preserve the life and legacy of Wilbur D. May through exhibitions and programs that stimulate curiosity in visitors of all ages.

#### About Raise the Future

Raise the Future was founded in 1983 to reduce the amount of time youth in foster care live without a permanent family. Their mission is to connect youth waiting in foster care with the adults who will become stable forces in their lives and to support those relationships so that they last a lifetime. For more information visit <a href="https://www.raisethefuture.org">www.raisethefuture.org</a>.



# Christmas is coming!

Most of you are already aware of the generous 2020 Specialty Grant that is being provided by the Pennington Foundation to serve all Washoe County foster children with clothing, supplies, and Christmas gifts. At the heart of this gift is doing what is possible to ensure normalcy for our children – providing the same care, love, nurturance, and expectations as children not in foster care, and we aim to succeed with this mission. Most of our kiddos have already utilized the monies allocated (\$200 for clothing and \$50 for supplies) from this grant and we are now in the throws of the final part of it... \$200 for each child for Christmas gifts.

When thinking of gifts for children in care, please remember - every child has a different story, varying expectations of what Christmas is, and an unknown idea of what to expect this time of year from their loved ones. Some children have never received a gift at Christmas, some don't know how to celebrate it, some have been overloaded with gifts, and many just want their family to be happy. With that being said, we are leaving the choice to you on how to give them their 'gifts'. They can be from 'you', their 'birth parents', 'Santa', or from 'An anonymous donor'. You be the judge on what will impact that child the most and what will inspire them to believe in the magic this time of year can bring to them.

The process is laid out below. You have some choices, but we have a lot to do support this endeavor, so I am hopeful that everyone understands the complexities of how to do the impossible in under 50 days:

#### For families/children residing within 30 miles of Sparks:

- For all care providers that live close, we will be holding several 'shopping' days at the Sparks TARGET store at Legends/Marina. The dates and times are as follows. You (the care provider) are required to email Ashley Quintero (AQuintero@washoecounty.us) at the FEC to RSVP for one of the dates/times below (send your top 3 choices AND the first/last names of all foster children residing in your home). The time assigned is the time that you should be at the marked Cash Register for us to purchase your gifts (so get there early to pick out your gifts). We can accommodate several shoppers per time slot.

Wednesday, Nov. 4:	12:00 pm	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm
Thursday, Nov. 5:	12:00 pm	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 18:	12:00 pm	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm
Thursday, Nov. 19:	12:00 pm	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 1:	12:00 pm	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 2:	12:00 pm	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm

- You will receive a confirmation email from Ashley on what day/time you are signed up for.
- Please do not bring children with you these Christmas gifts should be a surprise!
- When you arrive to start shopping, you MUST first check in at the table with a WCHSA staff you will be given a 'pass' to present at the register when you are done.

#### Children residing over 30 miles of Sparks, Nevada:

- We know it can be difficult to travel without kiddos to go shopping. For those that live outside of 30 + miles from the Sparks Target store, you may either come to one of the events listed above (just RSVP as indicated above) or:
- You may email Rhonda Walker (<u>RWalker@washoecounty.us</u>) for next steps on creating a wish list online for WCHSA to purchase. Due to the time and effort for online ordering and getting expenditures consolidated/reconciled, this option is not available for folks who live close enough to come in and do the shopping in person. Your gifts will then be mailed directly to your home.
- The HARD DEADLINE for this option is Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at noon. It will be near impossible to complete online orders and shipping of gifts after that date and expect for them to arrive by Christmas.

Please if you have any questions or concerns about this process, email myself, Ashley, or Rhonda; or call the Family Engagement Center at (775) 352-3230. We have been assured that Target stores will be stocked regularly with their Christmas/Black Friday sales starting the beginning of November to avoid/prevent the rush of shoppers before/after Thanksgiving. As mentioned previously, if you would like to submit thank you letters/pictures/cards to the donor, please get them to the FEC and we will send them all in at once at the end of the year.

# RTC "Stuff A Bus

The second annual RTC "Stuff A Bus" event is scheduled for Friday, November 13 from 3-7 pm at the Sparks TARGET store. This an amazing even that RTC put on for WCHSA. Stuff A Bus provides our agency with new warm winter clothing for our children and families that we work with.



#### **NEWSLETTER**

#### SPOT TO SHARE

#### THANK YOU SO MUCH WILLIE!

William "Willie" Way, one of our resource parents has been holding onto these since pre-COVID. On November 5, 2020, WCHSA got permission to accept the luggage and met him at our storage unit. This is all brand-new luggage and he has more when WCHSA is in need! This new luggage goes to our foster children when they are moving from home to home to ensure their belongings are handled with care. The foster child gets to keep the new luggage as well.

In the past children use to use bags to keep their belongings when moving from one home to another.







### 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 several webinar options on their website for families regarding adoption and foster care topics. View their main <u>Classes and Training</u> page as well as their <u>Upcoming Classes</u>. 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 <a href="mjack@csareno.org">mjack@csareno.org</a>.

#### 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 <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.