

NEWSLETTER

RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

COVID-19 CORNER

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.



Do you have experience in working with children with special needs, or the desire to learn more?

We have a huge need for families to care for children on the autism spectrum, with diabetes or other medical diagnoses, and some medical equipment. There are trainings, supportive services, and mentors to help.

Please reach out to your licensing worker or Heather Wenker (hwenker@washoecounty.us) to learn more. Thank you!



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.

WCHSA is challenging you to talk to three people in your network about becoming a foster parent! Those who refer the most people who attend an orientation will be in the running for a prize...

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

BRIDGES
out of
POVERTY



Bridges is a mandatory training for all resource parents and is offered throughout the year to ensure all resource parents have the opportunity to take it. Please sign up at your earliest convenience

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.
MPolley@washoecounty.us

Resource Parent, relative, Fictive Kin & adoptive Support Groups

WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the 4th Tuesday of every month at 11:00am-12:30. Please contact kspring@washoeounty.us to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** For pre- & Post-Adoptive Families. Wednesday 5-6 vis Zoom. Please contact jcasarez@washoeounty.us or danderson@washoeounty.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=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU0I5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09>
Meeting ID: 735 7828 3111
Passcode: qp4zU6
- **Be in the Loop Group:** Be in the loop group is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. This meeting is held the Third Thursday of every month at noon on TEAMS. We would love for you to join. Please email Kylee Spring kspring@washoeounty.us to be added to the invite

REMINDER

We are trying to get more support groups together especially in Spanish! Please email Kylee Spring if you would like to start a support group. Kylee can help make that happen!

kspring@washoeounty.us



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 were missed.

Just in Time Training
Training you need, when and where you need it.

Top Tips for Getting a Certificate

- No Fast Forward** (No Fast Forward icon): 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** (Cell Phone icon): 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** (3 Strikes icon): 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 Certificate** (Download icon): 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@supportus.org 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.

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!

Connection as Intervention: Supporting Development & Healing Trauma (CC)

QPI is grounded in the knowledge that the most effective intervention we can provide children to support healthy development and heal from trauma is strong, enduring relationships with caring adults. Dr. Barbara Stroud, licensed psychologist and internationally recognized expert on early childhood development and mental health, will explain the science behind connection as intervention and teach skills for nurturing the relationships that allow children to thrive. Dr. Stroud will also offer reflections on the insights that caregivers and systems have gained over the past year about the power of connection, and how we can build on those insights as we move forward. (1.0 hour)

Kin-First Systems and QPI (CC)

A kin-first approach to foster care is an important element of building a relationship-based system. It takes more than a philosophical commitment to put kin first: kin have unique needs that systems must address in order to support them in providing excellent care for children. In this session we'll hear from kinship caregivers and QPI site leaders about innovative ways to meet kinship caregivers' needs using the values and principles of QPI. (1.0 hour)

Partnering to Prioritize Relationships for Children (CC)

Legal partners play a key role in critical decisions that impact children's ability to maintain connections with the loving adults in their life. Building and strengthening relationships with courts, attorneys, and other legal partners is critical to successfully implement and sustain practices that prioritize excellent parenting. Members of the legal community will share how they are living the QPI values both in and out of the courtroom and provide tips for getting more court partners engaged in the QPI movement. (1.0 hour)

Case Management Connections to Quality Parenting (CC)

Excellent case management is critical to ensuring excellent parenting for children in care, so QPI is most effective when case management is fully engaged. In this session, panelists will discuss the best ways to involve case management staff in QPI. Panelists will also explore changes to case management practices that give case managers the tools and support they need to serve children and families through strong relationships. (1.0 hour)

Reflective Practice for Building Relationships-Based Systems (CC)

Good outcomes for children can hinge on the relationship between the caseworker and consumers. That relationship is influenced by parallel processes: a worker in a system based on compliance and consequences is likely to engage differently with consumers than a worker in a relationship-based system. This session will teach reflective practices that enhance self-awareness, build empathy, and mitigate harmful power dynamics. Workers, supervisors, administrators, and executives will all be able to apply reflective practice not only to themselves as individuals, but to their system as a whole, ultimately recognizing systemic and structural factors that either promote or undermine relationships in child welfare. (1.0 hour)

Recruitment, Support and Retention Through a QPI Lens (CC)

Learn how to best communicate the QPI brand in all of our efforts to recruit and support caregivers. Suggestions range from use of graphics and language to changing work styles and training. (1.0 hour)

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@washoeounty.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?

Avellyna

9-year-old

FLEX HOME REQUIRED

Avellyna, or “Avie” as she likes to be called, loves playing at the park and enjoys swimming! When she’s not staying active outdoors, she loves to play with playdough, slime, and dress-up. She also loves to sing along to her favorite movies. The Greatest Showman, Tangled, and Frozen are some of her favorites! She’d love to get a karaoke machine to sing with a microphone at home! Her love of the arts doesn’t stop there, this sweet girl loves to draw her favorite animals dogs and cats! Avie hopes to strengthen her peer relationships and will benefit from a family who can support her in this area.

Avie would like to be adopted by a loving family with pets. She would also love to have a younger brother and/or sister if she isn’t an only child, as she is great with younger children! She is hoping her family will make her favorite foods-chicken with spices, and spaghetti and meatballs! Don’t forget her favorite desert, chocolate pudding pie! She thinks it’s the bomb!

If you interested in learning more about Avie, you may contact Myra Yeargan, Case Worker, Recruitment & Training, Washoe County Human Services Agency – Children’s Division (775)560-8913 myeargan@washoecounty.us



David

12-years-old

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

David is longing for a forever family. This genuinely thoughtful boy is wise beyond his years and full of personality. He loves to please others and is an excellent big brother who takes pride in looking out for his little brother.

David’s favorite super-heroes are Batman and Black Panther. His favorite food is sushi and his favorite dessert is ice cream. Foods he simply will not eat are tomatoes, sweet peppers, zucchini and mushrooms. Although David admits if mushrooms are on his pizza, he won’t pick them off. David says he is a dog person but will tolerate cats if they’re loving and cuddly. David loves building Legos and will talk for hours about the ones he’s already built as well as those he’d like to. David likes to play video games and dreams of one day having his own Xbox Series X and or a PS5.

David is hoping for a two-parent household where he is the only child. His forever family will love him unconditionally, while providing a safe, structured environment where he can grow, thrive and heal.

If you’re interested in learning more about this amazing boy please contact Tawnya Robertson at trobertson@washoecounty.us

Check out the link below to watch David’s Have a Heart episode which aired on 9/7/21 - <https://www.kolotv.com/video/2021/09/07/ha-ve-heart-meet-david/>

JACOB

14-years-old

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Do you like to laugh? I mean really laugh. Meet Jacob! He is ready to be adopted and is looking for a compassionate, devoted family who will commit to him unconditionally. Side note, this will include listening to and laughing at all his silly jokes. It would be a bonus if you have a dog. In addition to being a self-proclaimed jokester, Jacob will tell you he’s talented. He starts out shy, but once you get to know him and he starts to trust you, you’ll understand what the rest of us already know!

Jacob’s foster parents describe him as a leader who is sensitive, cooperative and polite to others. He enjoys cooking with is foster dad and helping around the house. He also enjoys, going on walks, hiking, music, dancing and attending community events. His favorite foods include sushi, beef jerky, fruits and vegetables. He is an active young man who loves playing flag football, basketball and soccer and he recently began playing tackle football.

If you would like the opportunity to hear one of Jacob’s jokes or watch one of his games, please contact Tawnya Robertson at troberson@washoecounty.us



Click on the link below if you’d like to watch his Have a Heart video which aired in March 2019:

<https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Have-a-Heart-Meet-Jacob-506545841.html>

REMSA Community Outreach

REMSA Community Outreach 2021 Car Seat Inspection Checkpoint Schedule



Dates and locations are subject to change. Checkpoint dates are available online at www.remsahealth.com/outreach

Date	Time	Location
Saturday, August 21st	9 am – 12 pm	Children’s Cabinet 1090 South Rock Blvd, Reno
Saturday, September 25th	9 am – 12 pm	Wild Island 250 Wild Island Ct, Sparks
Saturday, October 16th	10 am – 1 pm	Raley’s 1630 Robb Drive, Reno
Saturday, November 6th	10 am – 1 pm	UNR Early Head Start 785 W. 6th St., Reno

Family Engagement Center (FEC) Resource

Accessing new clothing, diapers, shoes, etc. for kiddos coming into care is difficult for most resource families to do at the ‘drop of a hat’. I am happy to announce that with ‘leftover’ monies from our 2020 Pennington Foundation grant, the FEC was able to purchase a large amount of new clothing items and diapers for kiddos. At this time, however, the items purchased are ONLY for NEW kids coming into care. If you receive a new placement, give the FEC a call (775-352-3230) or stop by (905 E. Prater Way in Sparks) to gather a few of the following items for kiddos 0-18:

- Diapers/wipes (including pull-ups, goodnites, etc.)
- Shoes
- Socks
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- Shorts and T-shirts.
- Bathing suits
- Hygiene items
- Etc.

In addition, for any foster home that has African American children, we have a large supply of ethnic hair care products just for them.



All Star Flag Football

Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Athletics

WHO: 3rd – 8th Graders

WHEN: September 13 – October 29th

TIMES: 5:30 - 8:30 PM Games and practices are 1 hour

WHERE: Oppio Park / Shadow Mountain Sports Complex

COST: \$60, \$40 for BCGTM Members

Registration: Closes on September 9th



All Star Flag Football Boys & Girls, Grades 3rd-8th

Administered by the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows through a cooperative agreement with the City of Sparks, All Star Flag Football is a non-contact sport that offers boys and girls the opportunity to learn the skills of football without tackling and blocking. Sponsored by the NFL, players receive a reversible NFL-style jersey. Separate divisions for 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, and 7th/8th graders. Practices start out at Oppio Park and games will be held at Shadow Mountain Park. Tentative Schedule: 3rd/4th and 7th/8th teams on Mondays and Wednesdays; 5th/6th teams on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

WHO: 3rd-8th Graders
 WHEN: September 13-October 29
 TIMES: 5:30-8:30 pm. Games and practices are one hour.
 WHERE: Oppio Park/Shadow Mountain Sports Complex
 REGISTRATION: Closes on September 9. Team Formation on September 9, 6:00 pm, 2680 E. Ninth St.
 COST: \$60, \$40 for BCGTM Members



To register online, visit www.bgctm.org/athletics
 For general information: (775) 360-2414 or (775) 360-2464, or tmontgomery@bgctm.org

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2021 Pennington Grant (Supplies, Clothing, and Christmas)

Greeting care providers, resource families, caseworkers, and others! Once again, the Pennington Foundation is graciously gifting foster children in Washoe County with an unbelievably large grant for 2021. All children in foster care (legal custody of Washoe County HSA) who reside in Northern Nevada will receive supplies, clothing, and Christmas gifts, totaling \$450 per child. The process will be somewhat like last year, with a few changes. Children who reside outside of Northern Nevada (regardless of placement) cannot be served through this grant/process, but we are working on alternative plans for those kiddos for the 2021 Christmas season. Please understand - to be efficient and consistent in the way we serve all eligible children, the deadlines put into place will be fully enforced barring emergencies (failure to read thoroughly or 'I forgot' will not constitute an emergency). Children in care within Washoe County will be receiving access to the grant in 3 separate sections – School Supplies (ages 5+), Fall/Winter Clothing (and supplies for ages 0-4), and Christmas gifts (for all ages). *****Please read this email thoroughly and carefully to ensure you understand the processes explained*****

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- For ages 5+: **School supplies and backpacks will be available for pick up from the FEC (Family Engagement Center – address below) August 3-6 and 10-13 from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm.** Please note that the supplies we provide will not cover ALL required school supplies. These will consist of basic items such as **backpacks (better than last year 😊), crayons, markers, scissors, colored pencils, pencils, pens, erasers, folders, sharpies, highlighters, dry-erase markers, pencil boxes/pouches, watercolors, glue sticks, composition notebooks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and rulers.** *You do NOT need to RSVP for this event, but you must be present to pick up the supplies during the times listed above. **It is imperative that kiddos are present for this event to pick out their own supplies.***

CLOTHING/SUPPLIES:

- For ages 0-4: Diapering supplies and/or educational materials - these will be available during one of our shopping events as described below.
- For all ages: Clothing will be available during one of our **in-person shopping events** in the Reno/Sparks area during the months of September and October. A reservation form will be sent out/available by August 31st to choose your date/time for shopping. **It is imperative that older kiddos be present for this event to pick out their own clothing/shoes/etc.**

CHRISTMAS:

- For all ages: Christmas Gifts will be available during one of our **in-person shopping events** in the Reno/Sparks area during the months of November/December. A reservation form will be sent out/available by September 30th to choose your date/time for shopping. Kiddos **should NOT** be in attendance for this event as these gifts should be surprises.

As mentioned above, reservation forms for shopping days will be sent out electronically in the coming months. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding with this process and with the volume of emails and interactions that will need to be made to coordinate for over 725 children. With that being said, please note that all communication about this project will be done electronically through email, Facebook posts (on the Northern Nevada Foster Parent Group), newsletters, etc. so please be on the lookout for the information. It is vital that all materials (supplies, clothing, gifts, etc.) that children receive while in their foster/temporary placements are ALWAYS sent with them when they move, regardless of the placement type. Specific questions or further clarification about this project/grant can be made by emailing Rhonda Walker, FEC staff member, at RWalker@washoecounty.us.

Thank you and please reach out with concerns, questions, kudos, etc. We appreciate photos of kiddos shopping/picking out/receiving items, letters, and thank you cards – all of which we will provide to the Pennington Foundation at the end of the year.



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

GET IT ON **Google Play**
 Download on the **App Store**

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

The advertisement shows a smartphone displaying the app interface with categories like Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.

NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES A TUS DEDOS 24/7

¡descargue su aplicación para jóvenes Nevada 211 hoy!

GET IT ON **Google Play**
 Download on the **App Store**

- 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!

2-1-1 Nevada

The advertisement shows a smartphone displaying the app interface with categories like Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.