

# 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.



Nurture *the* Village

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

Our Recruitment and Training 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!

### Contact Information

Below are some of the most common phone numbers you will/may need while being a resource parent, relative, kin, or adoptive parent.

**Center Street Front desk:** 775.785.8600

**Emergency After hours number:** 1.833.900.7233

In case you have an emergency that occurs after hours please call.

**Family Engagement Center (FEC):** 775.352.3230

905 E Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434  
Corner of Prater and Howard

**Medical Unit:** 775.284.2763

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)  
2097 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502  
next door to Kids Kottage

**Foster Care Services Front Desk:** 775.337.4470

**Foster Care Licensing Supervisor:**

Melissa Coates: 775.815.3827

**Licensing team:** Call or text

Codi Soap: 775.842.1992  
Barbara Jaime: 775.842.1704  
Jessica Shepherd: 775.622.6919  
Anastasia Cooper: 775.560.7773  
Sandra Espino: 775.530.6373

**QPI Liaison:** Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646

[kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov)

If you have questions or need any type of support don't hesitate to call, text or email Kylee Spring & your licensing worker.

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 attend. Please sign up at your earliest convenience.

**October 15<sup>th</sup> & October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Center Street Building**

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

[MPolley@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MPolley@washoecounty.gov)

Resource Parent, relative, Fictive Kin & adoptive

Connections Groups

**WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR CONNECTION GROUPS**

- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 11:00am-12:00. Please contact [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** Please contact [jcasarez@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jcasarez@washoecounty.gov) or [danderson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:danderson@washoecounty.gov) 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=Y2R2eEVKVV0RzU0I5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09>  
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 10:00 am on TEAMS. We would love for you to join. Please email Kylee Spring at [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) to be added to the invite

**REMINDER**

We are trying to get more support groups together especially in Spanish! Please email Kylee Spring at [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) if you would like to start a support group. Kylee can help make that happen!

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

**Top Tips for Getting a Certificate**

- No Fast Forward** (No 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** (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.edu](mailto:center@supportus.edu) 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. You can receive renewal training hours for these trainings!

***The Trauma Cycle: How You Can Help Children and Families (cc)***

*This session will define trauma and its effects on children and families. You will learn how parenting styles and behaviors from one generation influence the parentings and behaviors of the next generation. The session also discusses brain-functioning, common trauma triggers and responses we see in children and adults as well as the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, protective factors and attachment styles. (1.5 hour)*

***Taking the Blame off Kids: Understanding Systems and the Ecological Model (CC)***

*Exploration of the Ecological Model as an effective way of understanding family dynamics and individual behavior within larger systems and communities. This presentation includes information specific to children and youth in foster care. (0.5 hour)*

***Children Centered Strategies for Supporting Families (CC)***

Children from hard places manifest the trauma they have experienced in many different ways. Caregivers report the child in their care acting out in ways such as running away, lying, stealing, and arguing but also with children who shut down, become isolated, and stop communicating. Despite the services and trainings available to support families, caregivers often report they continue to feel unprepared and not provided with adequate tools to support children who display significant intensity of behaviors in their home display. This panel will provide a brief overview of recent media events highlighting caregiver's responses to the behaviors of the children in their homes and engage participants in a discussion in approaches to assist in the moment. The panel will be interactive, providing a significant question and answer segment as well. (1.5 hour)

***Entrenamiento De Seguridad de Pasajero Infantil (CC)***

Esta capacitación le ayudará a aprender cómo mantener a su hijo viajando de manera segura en su vehículo. Esta capacitación cubre cómo seleccionar un asiento de seguridad para niños apropiado, explica las diferencias entre la posición orientada hacia atrás y hacia adelante, analiza las consideraciones sobre dónde se puede colocar el asiento en su vehículo, cómo instalar los asientos para el automóvil y cómo sujetar correctamente a los niños en el asiento para el automóvil. Se demuestra y corrige el uso indebido de los asientos de seguridad para niños, y se abordan preguntas comunes sobre la seguridad de los niños pasajeros. (1.0 hour)

***How to Build a Better World, One Child At A Time***

Successful futures for our children are directly tied to their healthy development as human beings. One way to approach the vast topic of positive youth development is through the framework of the "40 Developmental Assets." Join us for an in-depth discussion about how the 40 Developmental Assets can be a powerful tool to help caregivers support young people to become caring, responsible adults. This dynamic presentation will assist participants in the creating of strategies for the child welfare professional to partner with caregivers to support the 40 Developmental Assets in their daily involvement with children. These strategies will support the caregivers to provide a nurturing home environment where their children will thrive physically, emotionally, and cognitively. (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 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 (<http://www.qpinevada.org/>). After you fill it out send it to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison ([kspring@washeocounty.us](mailto: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?

### Jayden, Trey & Milo

*7-year-old, 9-year-old & 5-year-old*

#### LOCAL FAMILIES ONLY

These closely bonded, high energy little boys will have you laughing all day long. They love to make people happy, are sweet, silly, affectionate and love cars and all things super-heroes.

Trey is a "pretty easy-going kid" with "an incredible imagination" who loves to make people happy. He is described as fearless, determined, adventuresome and not afraid to try new things. Although he is a pretty picky eater. Still, he loves pizza, burgers, pasta with red sauce and cereal and is working on expanding his pallet.

Jayden is very bright and articulate for his age. He is currently learning Spanish and his foster parents are impressed with the fact that he's doing so with no accent. He shows remarkable leadership skills and is very protective of his brothers. People will tell you that Jayden's smile lights up a room. He is a "big hugger", loves to be a helper and is a kind, loving, polite little boy with excellent manners and a little flirtation mixed in.

Thanks to his foster parents Jayden has been exposed to a large variety of foods and loves to explore.

Milo is all boy and looks up to his older brothers. Like Jayden he is very bright and articulate for his age and is learning Spanish. However, unlike Jayden Milo is a very picky eater. He strives to be "a big boy" and loves to dress himself and be independent. Milo has an infectious laugh and his foster parent cautions that he uses his cuteness to his advantage and it's pretty easy to get sucked in.

Click on the link below to watch their Have a Heart video:

<https://www.kolotv.com/video/2020/11/06/have-heart-meet-trey-jayden-milo/>

If you'd like to learn more about more about this precious sibling group, contact Tawnya Robertson at [Trobertson@washocounty.gov](mailto:Trobertson@washocounty.gov)



### DeMarco

*9-years-old*

#### LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Are you an active family who loves exploring and learning new things? DeMarco would fit right in! This sweet, adorable little boy with the cheesy, infectious grin is a people pleaser for sure! DeMarco loves to share and help others. He thrives from one on one attention, enjoys conversing and generally relishes connecting with others.

Now that DeMarco has the opportunity, he is exploring every sport and outdoor activity he can try. He loves his bike, his scooter, hiking, soccer and football. If that's not enough, he also loves swimming. Well, really anything to do with water play. DeMarco is looking for an active family who will keep up with all his newly found interests while allowing him the opportunity to continue discovering. Oh, and do not forget about Mine Craft. If you can check off all those boxes, you might just win DeMarco's heart.

If you'd like to learn more about this exuberant, active little boy please reach out to: Tawnya Robertson at [Trobertson@washocounty.gov](mailto:Trobertson@washocounty.gov)

### Salem (Sayla)

*March 2019*

#### 100% FREE FOR ADOPTION

Meet Salem, or Sayla as she is affectionately called! This sweet toddler is sure to melt your heart with her happy and loving nature! Little Sayla loves to giggle as she pulls her bib off during mealtimes to make you laugh. Animals make her giggle as well, and she loves to pet dogs when they sit next to her. Sayla loves water and bath time, as she enjoys splashing and getting wet! She also loves books, music, and looking at herself in the mirror! She has special toys she enjoys playing with while sitting in her highchair, especially her driving wheel and piano! Sayla enjoys going for walks in her stroller and feeling the breeze on her face. While little miss Sayla loves being rocked, be sure to face her outward as she loves to see what's going on all around her! She loves watching other children and animals play!

If you are interested in learning more about this sweet girl, please contact Myra Yeargan, (775)560-8913 [myeargan@washocounty.gov](mailto:myeargan@washocounty.gov)



## Akira, Tre'Mill & Rahquain

*12-year-old, 11-year-old & 5-year-old*

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### LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

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Three kind hearts and infectious smiles!

Meet Akira, Tre'Mill and Rahquain; three siblings who need a loving home where they can flourish and grow. These siblings love each other very much, though like many other siblings, they display some sibling rivalry and can trigger one another.

Akira is a happy and kind young lady, who is somewhat of an introvert. She is strong willed, enjoys her privacy and spending time in her room but enjoys receiving 1:1 attention. Akira is the eldest sibling and has been in the role of caregiver most of her life and for the first time, is now having the opportunity to just be a kid. Akira is artistic, loves Anime, Cosplay, Furry's and can sometimes live in a fantasy land. She loves pizza and hamburgers but has an allergy to kiwis.

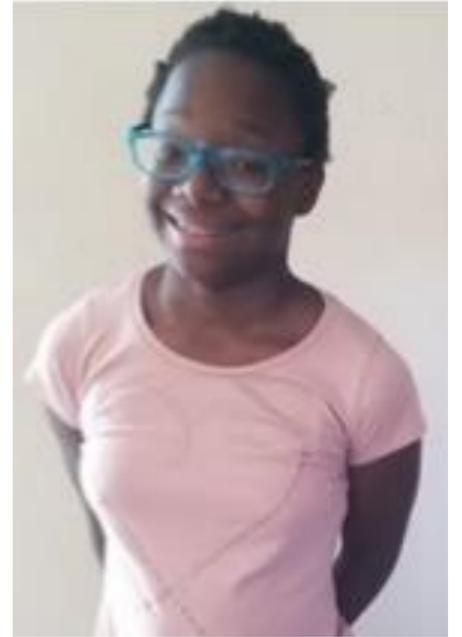
Tre'Mill is a polite, fun, and outgoing child, who gets along well with adults and kiddos alike in his current home. He warms up to people quickly, is thoughtful and is supportive of his peers. Tre'Mill enjoys receiving 1:1 attention and helping others, but is not afraid to speak up if he disagrees with something. He enjoys reading and best expresses his thoughts and feelings through art. Tre'Mill loves pepperoni pizza, corn dogs, playing games on the computer (i.e., Roblox, Minecraft), LEGO's and playing and collecting Beyblades. Outdoor activities are something that he also enjoys, like jumping on the trampoline and playing basketball. He is very competitive and does not like to lose. Tre'Mill wants to travel to Disneyland one day and be a police officer when he grows up.

Rahquain is a smart, sweet, kind, and affectionate little guy, who gives affection to everyone he meets. He is your typical 5-year-old boy, who enjoys being active, whether it is playing outside, playing ball, swinging, or running around. Amongst his other interests, are electronics, toy cars, superheroes and Roblox. Rahquain loves animals, school, learning, and is a great friend. His favorite foods are spaghetti and fruit snacks, but he will try new foods, always keeping an open mind.

Akira, Tre'Mill and Rahquain are sweet children, who have love to share and whose unique qualities make them who they are. These three siblings have experienced significant trauma and need a family who is patient, loving and supportive.

They will need a structured home with a family that understands trauma, will earn their trust, and can make them feel safe. Their family will need to be open minded, consistent and offer them unconditional support, guidance, supervision, and a willingness to assist in their emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

If you are interested in learning more about Akira, Tre'Mill and Rahquain, please contact **Brenda** at [Bsilis@washoecounty.gov](mailto:Bsilis@washoecounty.gov)



# FEC HALLOWEEN



**STEP RIGHT UP!**

halloween ~trick or treat~ carnival  
wed & thu oct 27-28, 2021  
1-6pm  
@ the family engagement center  
905 e prater way sparks

please join us for treats, fun, games and prizes!

RSVP to [HSA-SpecialEvents@washoecounty.gov](mailto:HSA-SpecialEvents@washoecounty.gov)  
to reserve your time slot!  
please provide names & 3 time slots in order of preference  
(half hour blocks between 1-6pm)  
you will receive a confirmation email with your designated arrival time!

foster parents, birth  
parents & kiddos  
please attend &  
register together for  
the greatest show on  
earth!

please note:  
the FEC will be closed  
to visitation on 10/27 &  
10/28 from 12-7p for  
this event!



**LEARN 2 LIVE  
NOW Open for Enrollment!**

Independent Living Workshops

**8 Week Session  
For Youth ages 14+**

(Scholarships available for non-foster youth)

**OCTOBER 19, 2021 - DECEMBER 9, 2021**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30pm - 6:00pm



**Youth Will:**

Earn up to \$100 for attendance and participation!

Learn basic life skills for adulthood!

Participate in Talent Show featuring youth: CASH PRIZES!

Lean and Grow in a positive community of driven teens!

For more information email  
[LavendaT.Caring4Angels@gmail.com](mailto:LavendaT.Caring4Angels@gmail.com)

**REGISTER** @ link below  
<https://forms.gle/HukDrYkVmFsgtHly8>



**Calling all youth 14 years old and older!  
Come for this fun weekly training while learning amazing life skills. You can earn up to \$100 for just attending!**

**FAQ – Educational Quick Facts re. Youth in Foster Care**

**INCLUDING important WCHSA policy updates!!**

(Updated 9/30/21)

**Did you know??**

- **SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE:** Foster youth have the right to remain at their School of Origin (see definition at end of document) when they come into care and/or change placements – even if it’s an adoptive placement - to reduce additional disruptions and maintain their educational stability.
  - **WHY?**
    - Often the school they attend when they come into care is the “only” stable environment in their world – while parents and placements are in flux.
    - Statistically, foster youth lose an average of 6 months of education for every school move/disruption.
    - WCHSA is bound by State and National legislation, to ensure that every effort is made to maintain our foster youth in their School of Origin.
    - IF it is determined to be in the best interest of the student to change schools, it **MUST** be approved by WCHSA leadership. This process is coordinated through the student’s worker and the WCHSA educational liaison.
  - Foster Parents, relatives and fictive kid **CANNOT** change a youth’s school without proper approval through WCHSA.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Mileage reimbursement is available to whomever is assisting with transportation if there is no bus available. This applies to “anyone” transporting the youth, while the case is open.
  - The district tracks the miles, so you don’t have to! The reimbursement is one round trip, based on mapped miles between school and placement address and is disbursed once a month (electronic payments are available!) for the prior month of transport.
- **STRONG COMMUNICATION IS KEY**
  - The relationship with your student’s school is your first line of defense in providing support.
  - Communicate with your worker when things get confusing or challenging.
  -
- **INFINITE CAMPUS:** Get acquainted with Infinite Campus to follow student progress – provide kudos earned and track missing assignments. “It takes a village” and caregivers are an essential part of that village!
- **WCSD Board of Trustees meets (almost) every other Tuesday**, so if you would like to be “in the know” and have the opportunity to have your voice heard, please tune in! <https://www.washoeschools.net/domain/168>
- **SUPPORT:**
  - WCHSA Educational Liaison & WCSD Foster Liaison work together to support all things education! Your case worker can reach out when things get sticky!
  - **TUTORING** is always available. Be sure to check with your worker.

**Washoe County  
School District  
  
Frequent Asked  
Questions.**

# REMSA Community Outreach

**REMSA Community Outreach**  
2021 Car Seat Inspection Checkpoint Schedule



**Point of IMPACT**

Dates and locations are subject to change. Checkpoint dates are available online at [www.remsahealth.com/outreach](http://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

## Boppy Company Recalls

**The Boppy Company Recalls Over 3 Million Original Newborn Loungers, Boppy Preferred Newborn Loungers and Pottery Barn Kids Boppy Newborn Loungers After 8 Infant Deaths; Suffocation Risk**

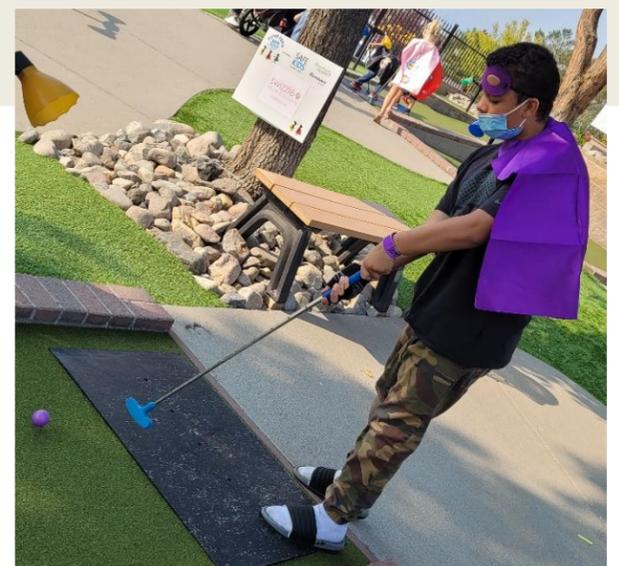


Recall Date: 9/23/2021

Recall Details: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/The-Boppy-Company-Recalls-Over-3-Million-Original-Newborn-Loungers-Boppy-Preferred-Newborn-Loungers-and-Pottery-Barn-Kids-Boppy-Newborn-Loungers-After-8-Infant-Deaths-Suffocation-Risk>

## Safe Kids Mini-Golf Tournament

Here are some of the photos from the Safe Kids Mini-Golf Tournament.



## WCHSA Clinical Unit

You likely know Nevada is unique in many ways. Specific to child welfare, Nevada is one of the last, if not only, states that have clinical services as part of child welfare. WCHSA's Clinical Services Team (CST) works to address the well-being of children and/or their parents or caregivers referred to or have entered child welfare in Washoe County identified to have behavioral/mental health needs. The CST is available to serve clients throughout the life of a child welfare case by attempting to provide prevention services to those referred to CPS when there is an allegation of abuse or neglect; after a child enters the child welfare system (i.e., "in foster care"); upon the child leaving for reunification or another permanent placement; or following adoption for post-adoption supports. Services provided by the CST include crisis response; assessment; placement stabilization and support; parent training; treatment readiness; evidence-based individual, couples/family, and group therapies; linkage and referral; and support related to other mental health activities (e.g., personal legally responsible (PLR); child placement; children's legal commitments; insurance navigation). The CST has an Office Support Specialist, 5 Case Workers, 12 Mental Health Counselors, 3 Mental Health Counselor Supervisors, a Program Specialist, and a Program Coordinator. Below are a few of our amazing clinical unit staff!



My name is Stacey Lance. I have been with WCHSA since 2003 when I came over from DCFS as part of the integration of state/county child welfare services. I joined the clinical team as the program coordinator after serving as a coordinator over adoptions, recruitment & training, childcare, and foster care services for several years. I earned my undergraduate degree in social work in 2002 from the University of Nevada, with a minor in psychology. I immediately began my career in Child Welfare, where I always knew I wanted to work. I worked in permanency, independent living, and licensing before I became a supervisor. I returned to pursue my master's degree in Counseling-Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Phoenix, in 2007. Life had other plans for me, and I didn't complete that degree until 2019. I have been an MFT-Intern, working on my clinical hours since October 2020. My passion is serving children and families and I absolutely love what I do! I am currently the coordinator over the Clinical Services Unit (CSU) the Family Engagement Center (FEC), and the Transportation Team (runners). I get to work with the best people every day! Born and raised right here in Reno, NV. I am a wife and the mother of two boys (Jordan 23 & Josh 19) and two fur babies (Chewy & Willow).

*I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples...Mother Teresa*

Hi! My name is Kim Taitano and I am one of three clinical supervisors with our Clinical Services Team and supervisor over placement liaisons for specialized foster care. I have spent my career working in various areas of child welfare and have been with Washoe County Human Services for 15 years. I can't imagine doing any other work than in child welfare where I have the opportunity to be a part of amazing collaborative teams working with children and families and watching each family member grow as they incorporate new skills and techniques. I am the proud mom of two fur babies who keep me very busy as they demand lots of hikes and they have recently branched out to incorporate paddle boarding in their list of outings.



Hi! My name is Stephanie Walker. I recently joined the HSA team in June after serving our youth and families at Koinonia for six years. I primarily have worked with children ages 5-14; however, love working with all ages and adults. On my free time, I enjoy spending time with my three daughters (12, 10, and 8), being outside camping and exploring, and spending time with those I love. It is truly a privilege and honor to be a part of the HSA team and clinical unit and I look forward to continuing to work helping our youth and families!

Hi, I'm Danica Anderson! Most of my time is filled with family, work, church, and friends! My husband and I have a 1-year-old son and a baby girl on the way (coming September 2021)! I love traveling and find that every time I travel, I fall in love with Reno/Sparks even more. Like every city, we have our struggles, but I love being a part of the change and growth process!

I have been working for WCHSA for almost 5 years and I have grown and learned so much from working with all the families connected to HSA! During my first two years at the agency, I was a permanency worker and came to realize that my passion was in mental health. I then moved to the Clinical Unit as a Mental Health Counselor and have been pursuing my Clinical Social Work License. I'm very close to finishing my LCSW internship and will be fully licensed soon! I love working with individuals and families of all backgrounds, and I have learned so much from everyone I get to work with. I am always blown away by the resiliency and amazing support our foster families provide! Thank you so much for all you do!



Hello! My name is Lysette Gilling. I joined WCHSA, clinical care team, in 2021. I earned my undergraduate degree in criminal justice from the University of Nevada, with a minor in substance abuse prevention. Shortly thereafter, I returned to pursue my master's degree in social work from Walden University. I have been working in the mental health field for over 10 years. I was able to gain experience at local state agencies being part of wraparound services, mobile crisis response and psychiatric residential treatment facilities, working with diverse populations with wide spectrum of mental health disorders. Populations served include at risk youth, adolescents, adults and families. Born in Southern California but raised in Nevada, I enjoy spending most of my free time outdoors. I am a big believer in self-care and how that contributes to overall wellbeing.

## *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.



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.nevada211.org)**

The advertisement features a smartphone displaying the app's interface with icons for Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.

**NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP**

¡descargue su aplicación para jóvenes Nevada 211 hoy!

**BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES A TUS DEDOS 24/7**

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 features a smartphone displaying the app's interface with icons for Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.