

# NEWSLETTER

## RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

### CALL TO ACTION!

Hello Resource Parents!

As we move closer to the holiday season, we want to express a sincere THANK YOU to all of you. We know this year has been another tough one and as the world adjusts to all of the recent changes, unfortunately, the child welfare system has been one of the hardest hit systems. We are seeing trends that are hard to adjust to and keep up with. With more children coming into care and less resource parents getting licensed, we are all feeling the stress. Each and every one of you have stepped up in taking on more placements, caring for or providing support to other resource parents, or have spread the word on the need for more people to enter this sometimes-crazy child welfare world. We know this system is challenging and difficult to work with and work for. We know this job can be thankless, but we also know how much the children in your care need you and how the trajectory of their lives are changing because of the love and care you are providing. Please know that above all else, we value what you are doing for the children in our community. Please continue to refer people in your network to learn more about fostering, adopting, and mentoring. The more skilled resource parents there are, the better we can all work together to support the children in our community. Thank you all for the work you are doing for our children and for our agency. We can't do this without you.

Sincerely,  
The Recruitment and Training team



It's a bird...It's a plane....  
**No, it's the new Resource Parent Headquarters!!!**

You heard that right, the new "HQ" is the hot spot for all things Resource Parent. Our team has been working hard on moving in and we are actively prepping it for your future use.

Our vision is to have a place for resource parents to come and hang out, grab a cup of coffee, meet with a placement liaison or adoption manager. If you have a visit at the FEC and you are not expected to supervise the visit, come a mile up the road and use the wifi at HQ until it's time to pick up the kids! This spot is intended to be a safe place for you to relax, vent, and feel supported. We are working hard on having a grand opening soon so keep your eyes peeled for an invite!

We want to hear from you while we are under construction on how we can make the HQ somewhere our resource parents feel welcome and enjoy coming. Please email Kylee Spring [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) with any ideas on how we can make the HQ great!



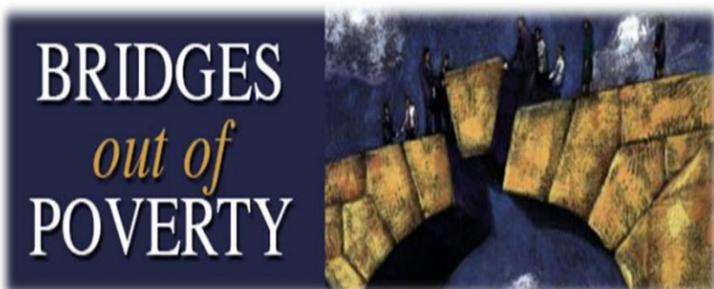
Bridges is a mandatory training for all resource parents and is offered throughout the year to ensure all resource parents have the opportunity to attend. Please sign up at your earliest convenience.

**November 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30pm & November 20<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm on ZOOM**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm : in-person**

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=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 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!

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

**OPI 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.

**New Training updates:****QPI WEBSITE:**

[HTTP://WWW.OPINEVADA.ORG/](http://www.opinevada.org/)

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website. You can receive renewal training hours for these trainings!

**LifeBook Training**

Foster children need a sense of value and a way to maintain connections while in foster care. Lifebook's document a child's journey through foster care. This training helps to define what a Lifebook is for foster children. It discusses the importance of a Lifebook. The training teaches participants options for pages to work on with the child. It reviews the parameters and expectations of a Lifebook. Lifebook's can prepare a child for reunification and/or adoption. The training helps to engage a child with the book. (1 hour)

**Affirming Care of LBGTQIA+ Youth (cc)**

In this presentation you will learn about child development and gender and orientation. LGBTQ+ youth are over-represented in the child welfare system, and this presentation explains that affirmation can be life changing for youth. You will learn about the psychological evaluation process, puberty blockers and hormone therapies, and the importance of seeking help from affirming professionals. (0.5 hour)

**Understanding & Supporting Children with Oppositional Defiant Disorder**

Is your child angry and irritable? Vindictive? Defiant? Our presenters explain the criteria for an ODD diagnosis, and several parenting strategies you can use to help with these behaviors. (0.25 hour)

**Regulation for Preservation**

This brief training defines dysregulation and provides examples of what dysregulation could look like for some children. The training also touches on brain functioning and the differences between "old brain" and "new brain" responses to dysregulation. Techniques on how to identify dysregulation for children and how to help children identify their own dysregulation, as well as techniques on how to encourage regulation when a child is triggered are also discussed. (0.25 hour)

**Managing Children's Emotions & Behaviors**

Connections and relationships are foundational to help children manage their emotions and behavior. Our presenters offer several techniques to connect with children and build relationships that will sustain challenges. (0.25 hour)

**Transitioning for Success**

Whether big or small transitions, it is important to understand how to help our children. Our presenters give helpful techniques to use to honor our children and help them develop the skills they need to successfully manage transitions. (0.25 hour)

**Top Tips for Getting a Certificate**

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

We are here to help! We want you to have the best experience possible. If you need assistance (including unlocking your account) email [center-support@washoecounty.gov](mailto:center-support@washoecounty.gov) 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.

**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.

## *Interested in Adoption?*

### **Bryan**

*13-years-old*

**FLEX FAMILY**

Are you a 49'ers fan? Do you generally enjoy watching, maybe even playing sports? Meet Bryan! He is a kind, resilient and respectful young man who enjoys trying his hand at a variety of sports. He is wrapping up his soccer season at his middle school and getting ready to start basketball. Bryan also dreams of playing in the NFL one day. His Case Worker loves to brag about the emotional growth he has been privileged to witness in Bryan. Not a 49'ers fan? Bryan is worth it and might just change your mind. Or maybe you'll change his. Let's talk.

If you would like to learn more about Bryan, please contact Tawnya Robertson at [Trobertson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:Trobertson@washoecounty.gov)



### **Kyler**

*12-years-old*

**LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME**

Kyler is described as a happy, articulate, active young man! He finds joy in drawing, playing football and going to church/youth groups. He also loves, singing, dancing and learning new instruments. He adores his younger siblings and is an excellent big brother.

To see his Have a Heart video from KOLO 8 News Now click on the link below:

<https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Have-a-Heart-Meet-Kyler-508160191.html>

If you would like more information about Kyler, please contact Tawnya Robertson at [trobertson@washoecounty.us](mailto:trobertson@washoecounty.us)

### **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@washoecounty.gov](mailto:myeargan@washoecounty.gov)



## Itati, Maritza, Isabel, Johana, Abraham

*15, 13, 11, 9, & 7 years-old*

### LEGAL RISK

The more the merrier is an understatement when it comes to these 5 siblings, whose biggest wish is to all live together again. Itati, Maritza, Isabel, Johana and Abraham are all described as happy and very polite and will sure bring joy to their forever family.

The children are affectionate, bonded and turn to one another for comfort. Although they have individual interests, they interact well with one another and enjoy spending time together.

Itati is the eldest and is the leader of the group, while being very protective of her siblings. Itati is a bright young woman with big dreams and even bigger goals, she dreams of attending college to become a surgeon or a social worker and dreams about visiting London someday. Itati is learning to cook and bake, enjoys playing card games, listening to music and loves frozen yogurt. She is reserved and somewhat of an introvert, but once she trusts her caregivers opens-up and her true happy self comes through.

Maritza is sweet, shy, and motherly to her siblings. She enjoys going on hikes, watching movies, playing with dolls, and dressing her dolls up. Maritza dreams of going to Hawaii and Disneyland one day, as she has never been there. She loves eating Mexican, Chinese and Italian food, and is a very good eater. Maritza participated in cheerleading in the past and hopes to again be able to do so.

Isabel is a very active girly girl, who can be somewhat of a loner at times. She enjoys spending time in the garden, painting rocks, and doing arts and crafts. Isabel loves Mexican food, dislikes peanut butter and unlike most kiddos her age, she is not big on sweets. Isabel strives to be a leader but can come across as being bossy, so she is working on her socialization skills with her peers. Isabel dreams of going to Disneyland and Hawaii.

Johana is a happy, kind, and helpful young lady, who is constantly offering and wanting to help others. She is very friendly and can make and keep friends easily. Johanna enjoys playing house with her siblings, dancing, and slumber parties. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up and loves to dance. Like her siblings, Johana wants to go to Disneyland and to Hawaii. Johana dislikes meat.

Abraham is a very active young boy, who enjoys all your typical boy activities, such as building things, playing with cars and action heroes, and who plays house with his sisters very well. He is a good eater, but like most kiddos his age has a list of foods he does not like, such as beans and guacamole. Abraham is sweet and loving but continues to work on developing stranger danger. He tends to gravitate towards males, and enjoys spending time with his foster dad, probably since he has always been surrounded by so many females.

Abraham can at times struggle with managing his emotions, but overall is a loving little guy. He too is in love with the idea of someday visiting Disneyland and going to Hawaii. These siblings need a loving home, where they can feel safe, know their routine, and can just be kids. They need guidance, support and love as they continue to grow and blossom together. If you are interested in learning more about Itati, Maritza, Isabel, Johana and Abraham, please contact **Brenda** at [Bsilis@washoecounty.us](mailto:Bsilis@washoecounty.us)



## Ah'meen, Se'Kani, Ms'Layla

*Sept 2016, April 2019, June 2020 years-old*

---

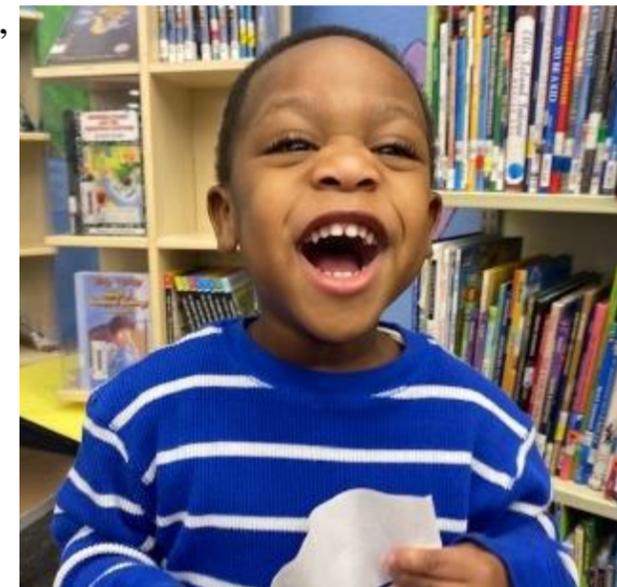
**LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME- 100% FREE**

---

These beautiful and loving siblings need a forever home where they can stay together, as they have an incredible bond with one another. Ah'meen is intelligent and extremely athletic for a 5-year-old. He loves playing sports outside, especially football, baseball and running! Ah'meen loves to be a helper, especially with chores! He loves attention and is great at giving compliments! He is inquisitive and can have amazing conversations with anyone and loves to talk all day! Ah'meen gets along well with other children and loves meeting new people. He started Kindergarten this year and loves school and homework! He is learning boundaries outside of his home and will need patience and positive praise as he grows and learns. He is a great eater and enjoys home cooked meals, although he has been excited about pizza lately! He would benefit from a family that will set loving and firm boundaries, with confidence and care.



Se'Kani, or "Kani" as he is so affectionately called, is a busy toddler. He loves playing with his toys, including his tablet, and his favorite shows are PJ Mask and Cocomelon. Kani is a happy boy, and it is not uncommon to find him waking up singing each day! He is articulate and knows his letters and numbers! Kani is sensitive and seeks affection and comfort. He enjoys big hugs and loves to verbalize his affection with "I love you". Kani has a big appetite and enjoys most foods, including sweets. Recently, he started taking big bites, so he needs support to take smaller bites. Kani loves his siblings and is very gentle with his little sister.



Ms'Layla is a busy one-year-old! She is learning to walk and is exploring the world around her, as fast as she can! Her confidence and self-assuredness is already evident in her personality. While she can look very serious, this little sweetie loves to play! She enjoys fashion and loves to go in the closet to try on shoes and hair bows! She is eating well and drinking from a sippy cup. Ms'Layla likes dogs, but is a little nervous at first, so should the prospective family have animals, she will need some support meeting them.



Ah'meen, Kani and Ms'Layla have developed a strong bond with the foster parents, and a transition to the new home will be supportive of the children's needs. All three children are in excellent physical health. A family with no other children, or children older than Ah'meen would make a great fit for these busy three! The ideal family will have patience and plenty of positive feedback. If you are interested in learning more about Ah'meen, Kani and Ms'Layla, you may contact Myra Yeargan, Case Worker, Recruitment & Training, Washoe County Human Services Agency – Children's Division. (775)560-8913

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

## *Updates & Fun Facts from WCSD*

### **Holiday Card Design Contest!**

With the holidays quickly approaching, it's time for the 11th Annual WCSD Holiday Card Design Competition! There are many talented artists in the school district. This would be a great opportunity for foster youth to share that talent with the Washoe County community by sending the community a holiday card created by our students. For more info. [click here!](#)

### **College Education Opportunities for Foster Youth**

WCSD presents an opportunity to engage in a series of events related to supporting your students by participating, exploring, planning for the next steps as they imagine, and learn about college possibilities. For more info. [click here!](#)

### **Re-Engagement Intervention Program – Things to know!**

What is the program all about?

- Locating youth who have vanished from school
- Identifying barriers to attendance and provide case management through resource referrals, mentoring and advocacy
- Increasing student engagement
- Enrolling students back into a school setting within 45 days of intake date
- Improving the 'stick rate' of students to be defined as those students who work with Re-engagement to get enrolled and ensure they will then be enrolled the next year
- Accessing academic needs and determine an appropriate education setting
- Increasing attendance rates for enrolled students
- For more info. [click here!](#)

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Points of Distribution**

- In partnership with the Washoe County Health District (WCHD), the Washoe County School District (WCSD) is hosting COVID-19 Vaccination Points of Distribution (PODs) for the community at school sites, free of charge, to anyone 12 years or older who has not received the vaccine.
- In addition to vaccine clinics during school hours for students, members of the community may receive vaccines at the school sites later in the day, after students have been dismissed from classes. At the community clinics, the Health District is offering all three types of available vaccines: Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer, along with boosters for Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer. Mix and match boosters are only available for Johnson & Johnson at this time.
- For more info. [click here!](#)

### **Foster Care Program**

Students in foster care are entitled to similar rights as students classified as Children In Transition, but foster is not considered a homeless situation and foster students are not CIT eligible. WCSD works with Washoe County Human Services Agency to eliminate barriers to education for children in foster care. [Click here](#) for more info!

**Tutors Needed!**

Are you interested or know anyone who may be interested in tutoring?



Boosted Diplomas

We're hiring.

Tutoring positions starting at **\$18/hour**

Learn More Here:



Apply Here:



Simply point your mobile phone's camera at the QR codes above

**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.

## *Something new with Specialized Foster Care*

After some time in the making, a significant change is coming to Specialized Foster Care (SFC)! The State of Nevada (Division of Child and Family Services and Medicaid) worked with the Medicaid at the federal level to get a state plan amendment for SFC to provide additional services to help children with behavioral/mental health issues. Under a 1915i Home and Community Based Services application, children placed in Specialized Foster Care can now be supported with Crisis Stabilization Services and Intensive In-Home Supports and Services. So what does this mean?

Children in SFC, and the families with whom they live, that have difficulties at home can receive services to help stabilize the child and family. Crisis Stabilization Services can include psychoeducation, crisis stabilization, and crisis resolution support.

Additionally, children in SFC who have identified service needs can be provided Intensive In-Home Supports and Services. These services are delivered based on a plan of care and through Coaching resource parents using Together Facing the Challenge (a.k.a., "TFTC"). With this service, evidence-based interventions that target emotional, cognitive and behavioral functioning within a variety of actual and/or simulated social settings can be targeted.

These services focus on enabling children to attain or maintain his or her maximum potential, the goal to achieve community stabilization, prevention disruption, and maintain health and safety. WCHSA is grateful for the addition of these services to help improve the overall well-being of children placed in Specialized Foster Care.

## *Get Help with Homework Daily*

Washoe County Library: Teens can get free help with homework every day from 1-10pm! BrainFuse HelpNow has live tutors available for all grade levels. Log in with you Washoe County Library card to get help from their trained tutors. Visit [washoecountylibrary.us/helpnow](http://washoecountylibrary.us/helpnow) to get started.



**GET HELP WITH HOMEWORK**

**brainfuse HelpNow**

live tutors available every day 1 - 10 pm

- text or audio
- all grade levels
- most subjects, including Spanish and French

free help in English or español with your library card

visit [washoecountylibrary.us/helpnow](http://washoecountylibrary.us/helpnow)

## *Family Engagement Center & Resources*

**Stuff A Bus:** occurring Nov. 5 from 2-6 at Target. FEC will be handing out winter clothing beginning the week of November 8. More to come.



**Holiday With A Hero:** This program is back on after COVID cancelled it last year. For 60 lucky kiddos currently being served by WCHSA, they will receive a \$100 gift card to Target and will shop with a 'Hero' from the Sparks Fire Dept or Sparks Police Dept. Caseworkers will nominate kiddos who they think will benefit the most. Care Providers are encouraged to help their caseworkers with nominations. The event will occur Dec. 8.

**Holiday Meal Help:** many local organizations are donating food or meal kits for Holiday dinners. If you or someone you know are in desperate need of assistance, contact your caseworker/licensing worker, along with the FEC to see what is available.



**Reunification Bags:** to reward families for their tremendous work towards reunification, gifts are presented at transition meetings through a grant for Fostering Relationships. Supplies and games are provided to the birth family in addition to the care provider.

**Fostering Relationship Events:** an email will be out soon regarding this program. Throughout late November and December, families (foster, birth, and child) will have events to choose from to enjoy together, while co-parenting. You will get to choose from Ice Skating, Coconut Bowl/Wild Island, and Galaxy Movies in Sparks. Once the email and RSVP form comes out, get it returned quickly to secure your spot.



**Books for foster care:** FEC has many books available to families who want some resources for children struggling with feelings of abandonment, trauma, and reunification. Come by the FEC to grab one.



**Pennington Grant:** 7 more shopping days are scheduled to allow all care providers to come shop for Christmas Gifts for kiddos in care. Emails have been sent out. Call the FEC 352-3230 to reserve your time/day for shopping. Ask for Ashley or Rhonda. As a reminder – kiddos should not be present for these shopping days as we encourage the gifts to be surprises.



# CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Season's Greetings Care Providers, Resource Families, Caseworkers, and others!



HO HO HO! Here we are again - the Holidays are coming fast. For those not aware, the Pennington Foundation has graciously gifted foster children in WCHSA custody an unbelievably large grant for 2021 that encompasses Supplies, Clothing, and Christmas Gifts. So far, all children have been provided access to SUPPLIES (school/educational or diapering), CLOTHING (at one of several shopping days held in Sept/Oct) and now we are ready for the final (and most exciting) portion of the grant... CHRISTMAS PRESENT shopping days! As with supplies and clothing, the Christmas portion of the grant is only available to children in WCHSA custody who reside in Northern Nevada. To sign-up for and attend a shopping day, please **open the attachment, complete it and send it back to [hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov)**.

## Important things to note:

1. **Within 3 business days of sending in your RSVP you should receive a response that your request was received and you are RSVP'd for your preferred date and time.** Please call the FEC (775-352-3230) and ask for Ashley if you need to follow up on your request or if you do not receive a confirmation email.
2. You **must check-in at the table** located inside the store to obtain your 'shopping pass' any time after 12 noon to ensure you are ready to check-out at your identified time (the time you sign up for).
3. WCHSA staff will be present at each event to assist you. You must be in the check-out line by 4:00 pm or you will need to come back another day.
4. When done shopping, you will move to one of 2 check stands with WCHSA staff who will purchase your items.
5. **Children should not be in attendance at these events – Christmas gifts should be surprises.**
6. We are only allowing one shopping day per child so all the items you choose will need to be made at that one store on that scheduled day.
7. For those that want to send pics or thank you letters to the Pennington Foundation, please email those to [hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov).

For general questions about this grant and our process, 'don't get your tinsel in a tangle', please email [hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov) or call the FEC (775-352-3230) and ask for Rhonda. 😊

Thank you – WCHSA hopes that everyone has an amazing holiday season filled with love, happiness, and positive co-parenting relationships. We thank you for everything you do, the support and stability you provide to the children and families of Washoe County, and the inspiration you provide to our community.

## 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.



# 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.

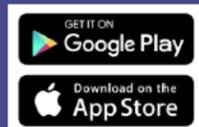
## Nevada 211 YOUTH APP

Ages 12 to 19  
Easy  
Fast  
Confidential



SEARCH FOR  
LOCAL  
RESOURCES  
AT YOUR  
FINGERTIPS 24/7

DOWNLOAD THE  
APP TODAY



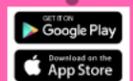
Find help 24/7 by dialing 2-1-1  
texting 898-211 or  
visiting [www.nevada211.org](http://www.nevada211.org)

## NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

BÚSQUEDA DE  
RECURSOS  
LOCALES

A TUS DEDOS 24/7

¡descargue su  
aplicación para  
jóvenes Nevada 211  
hoy!



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

¡Y mucho más!

