

APRIL 2022

NEWSLETTER

RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Please Save the Date for our
Resource Parent
Appreciation Event!

**This event is for all of our
Resource, Relative, Fictive
Kin, Adoption, Flex and
SFC homes!**

We would love to see
everyone in attendance to
celebrate and show how
appreciated you are. RAVE
and Life Church are offering
Respite so please contact
them to get registered



SAVE THE DATE
Resource Parent Appreciation Event

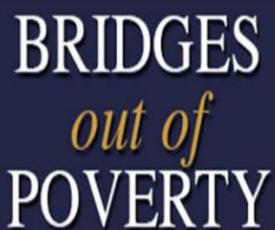
Saturday, May 14, 2022
Cocktail Hour 4:00 – 5:00 PM
Dinner 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Living Stones Reno
445 S Virginia St
Reno, NV 89501

Respite Options

RAVE: 775-787-3520 (pizza provided)
Life Church: (pizza provided) <https://lifechurchreno.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1243468>

* If you child has any dietary restriction, please provide food*
Please contact the specific respite option to get registered

 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.

April 16, 2022, from 11am-1pm

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

MPolley@washoecounty.gov

Contacts

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

Relative Support:

Ana Bassett- abassett@washoeconomy.gov
Marci Hlade - mhlade@washoeconomy.gov

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

Placement Support

Heather Wenker - hwenker@washoeconomy.gov
Katie Proctor - kproctor@washoeconomy.gov

SFC Support

Mele Peaua - mpeaua@washoeconomy.gov
Rayna Labarry- rlabarry@washoeconomy.gov

QPI Liaison: Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646
kspring@washoeconomy.gov

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

- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the **4th Tuesday of every month** at **11:00am-12:00**. Please contact kspring@washoeconomy.gov to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** Please contact jcasarez@washoeconomy.gov or danderson@washoeconomy.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=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU015VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09>
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@washoeconomy.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@washoeconomy.gov if you would like to start a support group. Kylee can help make that happen!

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.

New Training updates:

QPI WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/](http://www.qpnevada.org/)

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

Child Labor Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

Labor trafficked children are rarely recognized if systems and individuals zero in only on the victimization of children by sex traffickers. The children who are vulnerable to labor trafficking may have factors that can heighten the risk for them, including separation from families and supports, poverty, lack of educational opportunities and undocumented status. Child labor traffickers can be like any other traffickers: from family members to organized crime networks and forced labor of children can coincide with sex trafficking. This presentation is for anyone who has contact with children in our community: neighbors, school personnel, child welfare, law enforcement, justice system, attorneys, parents and grandparents – everyone! Experts will provide a survivor perspective and give attendees information about this current reality that is too often overlooked. (1.5 hour)

Tools for Maintaining African American Hair

This training addresses questions many foster parents have about caring for ethnic hair types. The training interviews two barbers on hair care routines, needs, and how to maintain the hair of foster youth. Many foster parents have questions and want to hear it from the experts. (0.5 hour)

Providing Support to Youth Who Have Experienced Toxic Stress

This video provides an overview of adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress, how toxic stress shows up in behavior and beliefs, as well as how to support youth who have experienced or are experiencing toxic stress. Presented by licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Barbara Lankamp-Kochis. (0.5 hour)

Creating Permanency for Youth

Youth transitioning out of foster care often come out at a disadvantage. The norm they had grown accustomed to where supportive adults fulfill specific needs typically comes to an end when they leave foster care. However, that's when they actually need more supportive people and this training addresses the need. This training is designed to help caretakers have the conversations needed to discover the supports youth will have when they leave care. (1.5 hour)

2021 QPI National Conference Page

A collection of trainings from the 2021 QPI National Conference



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.
- Download** 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@qpi.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.

Reno Rodeo Closet

Did You Know?

The Reno Rodeo Foundation generously provides clothing, teddy bears, and rolling backpacks to children who are newly placed into foster care. Foster parents and children can visit the Reno Rodeo closet to "shop" for clothing essentials, ensuring that the items they receive are the correct sizes and preferred style. If you have a new placement in need of clothing, please contact your case worker to coordinate a visit to the Reno Rodeo closet!

Washoe County Foster & Adoption Virtual Support Group

This is our Resource, Relative, Fictive Kin & Adoptive Family Facebook Support group!

Washoe County QPI presents to you the Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support Group! This group welcomes ALL WCHSA's Resource families, Relative/ Kin families, SFC families & Flex and Adoptive families. This group is to share support and resources with one another. The ONLY WCHSA staff in this group is the QPI Liaison to help promote a safe place to share successes, frustrations, and things you've learned along the way. We want to share stories and have our group be more of a community supporting one another. Please reach out to the QPI Liaison with questions or concerns Kylee Spring kspring@washoecounty.gov



QR code for
Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support
Facebook group

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.

Interested in Adoption?

Lucas

9-years-old

FLEX FAMILY

Are you an intellectual type who finds as much joy in video games (like Minecraft) as you do in getting out and embarking on new adventures? Meet Lucas! He is a bright, upbeat, polite and respectful kid who has become an excellent role model to his younger foster brother. He enjoys helping him read, teaching him how to play board games & of course guiding him through all things Minecraft. Lucas loves reading chapter books like Treasure Hunters. He also likes fun books like Diary of a Wimpy Kid. His foster parents will tell you he is the most honest kid they've ever had in their home. Lucas is a people pleaser for sure and finds joy in being a helper in the kitchen. He thrives from one-on-one attention and earning rewards for positive behaviors. He does not have to be reminded to complete his weekly chores because he wants to earn his allowance and use it to buy himself new books.

Lucas is an excellent student who takes great pride in excelling. His teachers describe him as a sweet, thoughtful little boy. As much as Lucas enjoys video games, he also loves getting to participate in sports and playing outside, riding his skateboard, bike or scooter. His favorite sport is Basketball, but he loves soccer too and is currently learning to ride dirt bikes! Lucas' favorite foods are chicken wings, steak, salmon, asparagus wrapped in bacon. Foods he will not eat are Mac-n-cheese, or cereal.

If you would like to learn more about this sweet little boy please reach out to Tawnya Robertson at Trobertson@washoecounty.gov



David, MaKenna & Madison

5, 8 & 11-years-old

FLEX HOME



Meet this amazing sibling group who are looking for a flex placement! Madison has a big heart and keeps an eye out for her younger siblings. She's very independent, and often prefers to do things all by herself. Madison has many interests, including painting, drama, and Girl Scouts. She likes to help everyone and is a natural leader. Madison has even been recognized for her leadership skills in her after school program! She is bright and is doing well in school! Madison will benefit from a family who is patient, supportive, and will set boundaries that supports her developing independence. MaKenna is creative and imaginative and believes in fairies! She likes to draw, color, and use story boards. She loves attention and is skilled at telling elaborate stories. MaKenna is also involved with Girl Scouts and loves soccer! She will benefit from a family who will encourage her in her daily routines, advocate for her educational needs, and support her strengths. David has a very close relationship with his sister Makenna, and they tend to have their own style of communication with one another. He loves to play outside and wants to start playing football! David also loves playing with toy cars and can usually be found with one in his hand. He is very good at using technology, and he and his sisters love to play on their tablets. David makes friends easily at school and is involved with Boy Scouts. David will benefit from a family who will advocate for his educational needs and will provide loving and consistent boundaries. These three are slowly learning about different types of foods, and their favorite food is raviolis.

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, these three are looking for an immediate flex placement, who will support their visitation with their bio family and older sibling, who is not living with them. If you interested in learning more about Madison, MaKenna and David, you may contact

Myra Yeargan, (775)560-8913 myeargan@washoecounty.gov

Kyler

12-year-old

100% FREE

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



Respite information

Dear Resource Family:

We have an exciting UPDATE regarding respite! Each family* is now eligible for up to **14 days of paid alternative care** through June 30, 2022. If you already claimed 7 days since July 1, 2021, you are eligible to claim up to another 7 days. The ongoing availability of this reimbursement program will be dependent on funds being available. Paid alternative care days not taken by June 30, 2022, are not carried over and will be forfeited.

Alternative care gives parents and children the chance to have short periods of time apart in which they can reset and recharge. It enhances the quality of care for the child, gives parents a deserved and necessary break, and ensures healthy and stable placements for all children by preventing parental exhaustion and burnout. Some parents also find that taking family vacations together is a means to recharge as a family. Therefore, alternative care funds may also be utilized to provide funding to include the foster children on a family vacation. WCHSA strongly discourages the use of alternative care for foster children so that families can take vacation without the foster children.

Requirements:

- **Prior approval** – The *WCHSA Paid Alternative Care Request Form* must be submitted no later than one week in advance. This form must be submitted to take advantage of the reimbursement.
- Use of an approved licensed foster parent or other approved provider to provide the alternative care. Enhanced/SFC+ are required to use the same level provider (ex. SFC+ to use SFC+ provider). Please review the attached Alternative Care Policy.
- Paid alternative care days can be taken in increments from one day to 14 days. WCHSA will track number of days used, so contact HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us to check your remaining balance.

Types of Alternative Care and Payment:

1. **Inclusive Respite:** WCHSA's Alternative Care Policy outlines the option to receive respite payments to off-set costs associated with taking the whole family, *inclusive of the foster children*, on a family vacation. These payments are paid directly to the foster parent with whom the foster child resides. Issuing respite funds as an *inclusion* is not a taxable event and therefore a 1099 tax form will not be issued. Inclusive respite reimbursement is \$40 per day per child.
2. **Paid Alternative Care:** WCHSA's Alternative Care Policy outlines the option for foster families to use funding to select and *pay an alternate licensed foster parent directly*. When an alternate caregiver is used to provide respite for a foster child and the respite payment is made directly to that alternate caregiver it is considered a taxable event, as it meets the IRS's definition of respite earnings. Therefore, a 1099 tax form will be issued to the alternate caregiver if their respite earnings for the calendar year total \$600 or more. A one-time completed W-9 must be submitted to HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us to receive payment. For a two-parent licensed foster home only one parent is required to submit a W-9 and will be the taxed individual. Upon WCHSA confirming that alternative care was provided, all alternative care respite providers will be paid at a rate of \$40 per day per child.
3. **Other Approved Alternative Care Providers:** WCHSA's Alternative Care Policy outlines the option for foster families to use other approved caregivers to provide respite, including cleared direct care staff, babysitters, and licensed childcare staff. These provider types are *eligible* for alternative care reimbursement. Providers must submit a copy of their identification, a completed Alternative Care Acknowledgement letter, and a completed W-9 to HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us to receive payment. Upon WCHSA confirming that alternative care was provided and the aforementioned documents are on file, all alternative care providers will be paid at a rate of \$40 per day per child. This payment is considered a taxable event by the IRS and providers will be issued a 1099 form if paid \$600 or more in a calendar year.

Use of alternative care beyond the 14 days is allowed; however, it is the responsibility of the foster parent requesting care to pay the care provider directly. If you need assistance locating a care provider or have other questions about paid alternate care, please email HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us .

*Homes licensed for adoption only are not eligible for this program.

The attached *WCHSA Paid Alternative Care Request Form* must be completed and emailed to HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us or a hard copy hand delivered to the 1st floor front desk at 350 S. Center Street.

Attachments:

1. WCHSA Paid Alternative Care Request Form
2. W-9
3. Alternative Care Acknowledgement letter
4. Letter to Foster Parents – Respite Tax Information 5.4.2021
5. Quality Parenting Standards – Paid Alternative Care Policy (07.2021)

HQ is now open!

Hello Resource Parents!

We are pleased to announce the lobby of Headquarters (HQ) is now open. Our goal for the HQ lobby is to serve as a place for our Resource Parents to have a place to seek out resources, connect with staff, and to utilize the lobby as a waiting space if you've dropped kids off for FEC visits and are not participating in visits. We have plans continue to grow our supportive services for Resource Parents and we hope this location can be a catalyst to do so. For now, the lobby will be open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. You do not need an appointment to visit. If you are hoping to connect with a certain member of your team, its best to reach out to ensure they will be in the office when you plan to stop by as many of our staff work part time from home. Please feel free to come by and say "hi."

Address: 2385 East Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434

Main Phone Line: 775-784-7330

Adoption Mixer

Greetings Everyone! After a two-year break, we will resume in person adoption mixers on Saturday May 7, 2022 (11:00AM-1:00PM) At The Discovery. Adoption mixers provide an opportunity for potential adoptive families to interact with children who are in adoption recruitment. Any child in your home is welcome to attend. In the spirit of maintaining as much normalcy as possible, we don't want to single out the kids in recruitment. For many children, they will be oblivious to nature of this event...and this is fine. They can do without the stress of knowing they are meeting with potential adoptive families. Some older teens will know exactly what is going on. In either of these cases, please communicate with your child's team in terms of how best to discuss (if at all) this with the kids in your home.

I will host two Q&A/check-in's (April 28, 2022, 11:00AM and 5:30PM via Zoom) for foster families/caregivers/workers/recruiters to ask questions, share ideas, problem solve logistics. Please check your email for the provided links.

Please mark your calendars for May 7th and check in with your child's caseworker during the April visit.

If anyone wants to chat sooner than later related to a child's participation in this event, please contact me directly and we can set something up. mmatthews@washoecounty.gov

Sincerely, Mitch Matthews



Nevada Statewide Support Group



Nevada Statewide Kinship Support Group

"All in This Together"

Partnering with birth parents a 5-week curriculum of support and learning

Wednesday, March 2nd @ 5pm
Friday, April 1st @ 5pm
Friday, May 6 @ 5pm
Friday, June 3rd @ 5pm
Friday, July 1st @ 5pm

Meetings are online via Zoom.

Email Rose@fosterkinship.org for additional information or view our public calendar at www.fosterkinship.org/contact

702-546-9988



NEVADA STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Kinship, Foster, and Adoptive families can join us for our Nevada Statewide partnership meeting to share strength, receive support & resources, and get additional training opportunities.

Participants will receive one hour of re-licensing credit

Thursday, 2/17 @ 5PM

Thursday, 3/17 @ 5PM

Friday, 4/15 @ 5PM

Friday, 5/20 @ 5PM

Friday, 6/17 @ 5PM

Meetings are online via Zoom.

Email Rose@fosterkinship.org for additional information or view our public calendar at www.fosterkinship.org/contact

702-546-9988

TBRI Training

Trust-Based Relational Intervention is an evidence-based, trauma-informed intervention.

This attachment-rich intervention is designed to meet the unique needs of children who have experienced trauma. Connection is the heart of TBRI. When children feel safe and know they have a voice, their survival behaviors: including lying, stealing and anger outbursts, are diminished.

When TBRI is applied, caregivers spend less time stressfully putting out fires and more time joyfully engaging their children. As a result, these children who desperately needed a sense of self-worth, begin to discover their value.

Full Series:

April 6th and 7th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Introduction and Overview

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-introduction-overview-registration-258268045677>

April 13th and 14th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Connecting Principles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-tbri-caregiver-training-connecting-principles-registration-258280472847>

April 20th and 21st 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Empowering Principles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-empowering-principles-registration-258284043527>

April 27th and 28th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Correcting Principles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-correcting-principles-registration-258288256127>

June 7th and 8th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Introduction and Overview

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-introduction-overview-registration-258303421487>

June 22nd 9am-2pm

NV TBRI Implementation Day (TBRI Full Series Completion is required)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-implementation-day-registration-258306931987>

Family Engagement Center: COVID Information

FEC UPDATES 3-10-22



It's been a rough two years with a ton of changes and we are ready to get back to where we were in early 2020. General updates on the FEC moving forward:

Visitation (Family-Time) Scheduling:

- ✓ We will continue scheduling visitation based on the availability of both the parent and care provider.
- ✓ We will continue requesting care providers transport children to/from visitation, when able. When truly unable, Runners and FEC staff will be available to assist with transport needs.
- ✓ Increased visit times (length and frequency) as schedules allow for all families.
- ✓ We can once again include 'other approved visitors' regardless of whether or not that person resides with the visiting parent. This is dependent on space/staffing and availability so talk with your engager.

Visitation (Family-Time):

- ✓ We continue to require all visitors to use hand sanitizer and temperature screening, upon entry.
- ✓ If you choose, face coverings can continue to be worn and/or others in your party may wear them.
- ✓ You (families) will have more freedom to choose where to spend their family time while at the FEC. They will have access to more activities, crafts, etc.
- ✓ You (families) will once again have access to cook and prepare meals together. Bring food in or use what we have available. You must clean up after yourselves, though.
- ✓ FEC staff are excited to get back to providing a 'normal', home-like environment for WCHSA families.

Thank you, the WC Family Engagement Center (FEC)

Community Easter Baskets & Dinner Kits



Community Easter Baskets and Dinner Kits

Free to families in need

April 9th - 10th

April 15th - 16th

**Drive thru pick up at The Bridge Church Reno Campus
1330 Foster Dr. Reno, NV 89509**

**In order to receive the dinner kit and baskets
you must sign up online at**

<https://thebridgereno.com/easter>

**Hosted by The Bridge Church, Cookies for
Kindness, Ashlee's Toy Closet and the Katie
Grace Foundation**

Washoe County School District

Transportation Crisis!

As you are aware, there is a major shortage of bus drivers and the district is charged with finding the best way to mitigate this crisis, so rolling blackout weeks have been imposed.

- Foster youth ARE exempt, but unfortunately there are a few that they are not able to route. Please know that HSA is doing everything in our power to support our kids, but resources are stretched thin so please bear with us.
- During blackout weeks – foster youth will have an alternate bus route, then will return to their normal bus routes during non-blackout weeks.
- Schools are notifying families and we are adding a second layer of notification – BUT those routes are coming to us very last minute SO PLEASE pay close attention to your emails and reach out to the school or your worker for clarification.
- Click here <https://www.washoeschools.net/transportation> for details of backout areas & dates

Summer School Registration is Open!!

Our kids really need the extra support this summer, especially due to the impact of Covid. Please sign your kids up to help them get a leg up on their education. Transportation will be provided based on availability.

<https://www.washoeschools.net/summerschool?fbclid=IwAR105uMImD-Giicz1T5EobnFo0-mMTC03XLJlwPDIcCNGgLDNfXPdH9EUBs>

Kindergarten Registration Now Open for the 2022-2023 School Year!

[Click here for more info.](#)

Spring Break Programs!

[Spring Break is quickly approaching, can you believe it!?? March 14th – 25th](#)

[Be sure to reserve your slot before they fill up!](#)

[City of Reno – Click here for more information](#)

[City of Sparks – Click here for more information](#)

[Link to several camps in the area. Click here!](#)

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.

Frequent Asked Questions.

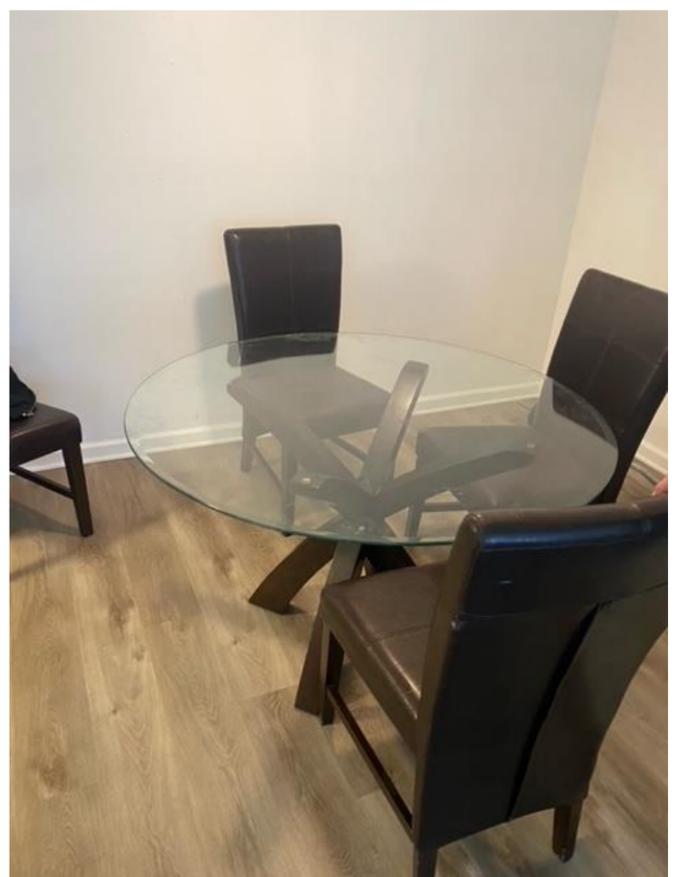
A spot to share!

Holly Hill and Bill Weston are one of our amazing Washoe County resource homes. They are working reunification with one of our biological families and last month the birth family was able to move into a new apartment. Bill and Holly have gone above and beyond in supporting these birth parents in so many ways one way is in helping with providing them furniture for their new apartment.

These birth parents struggled with building a relationship with the resource parents but through consistency and always working on fostering relationship Holly and Bill were able to develop a relationship that has led to this moment.

Thank you, Holly and Bill, for all that you do.

If you have a story to share for the next newsletter, please email me at kspring@washoecounty.gov



Car Seat Resources

REMSA Community Outreach 2022 Car Seat Inspection Checkpoint Schedule



Date	Time	Location
Saturday, February 19th	10 am – 1 pm	Washoe County Sheriff's Office Sun Valley Neighborhood Center 115 W 6th Ave, Sun Valley
Saturday, March 26th	10 am – 1 pm	Reno Housing Authority 7760 Carlyle Drive, Reno
Saturday, April 9th	9 am – 12 pm	Sun Valley Family Resource Center 7550 Donatello Dr, Sun Valley
Saturday, May 14th	9 am – 12 pm	Neuro Restorative 3980 Lake Placid Drive, Reno
Saturday, June 11th	9 am – 12 pm	Women & Children's Center of the Sierra 3905 Neil Rd, Reno
Saturday, July 16th	9 am – 12 pm	Foster Kindship TBD
Saturday, August 6th	9 am – 12 pm	Children's Cabinet 1090 South Rock Blvd
Saturday, September 24th	9 am – 12 pm	Traner Middle School 1700 Carville Dr, Reno
Saturday, October 15th	10 am – 1 pm	Raley's 1630 Robb Drive, Reno
Saturday, November 5th	10 am – 1 pm	UNR Early Head Start 785 W. 6th Street, Reno

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

**Nellie Martinez, Point of Impact CPST-I
(775)858-5700 ext. 3139**

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**
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- 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.