

# NEWSLETTER

## RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

# Don't forget to RSVP!

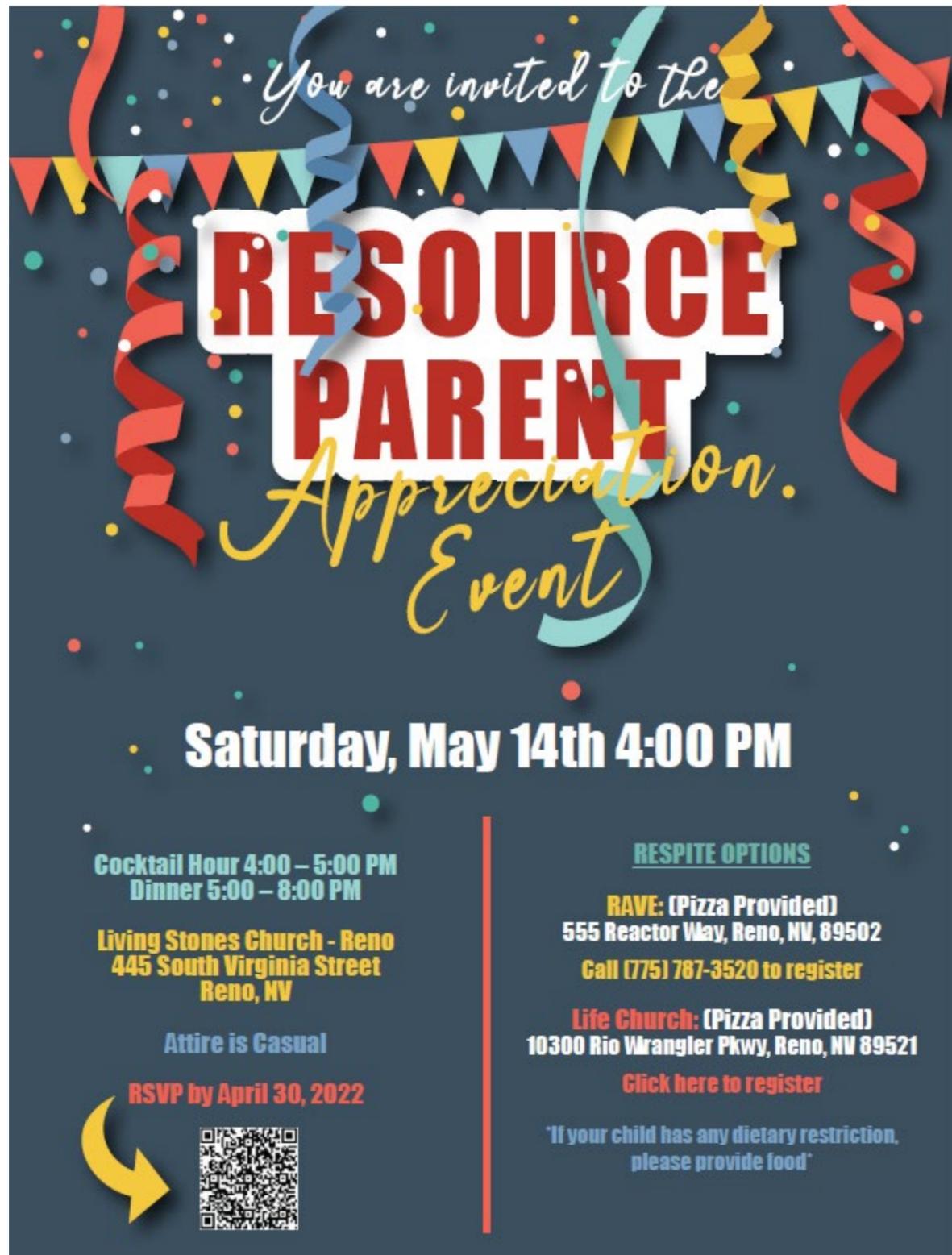
We have been diligently working for months on planning the most spectacular Resource/Foster/Adoptive/Relative Soiree! We have been so fortunate to assemble a team from the community that has donated their time, connections, and goods to help support this event and we cannot wait to spoil you on May 14<sup>th</sup>. I want to take this time to highlight a few of our sponsors for the event. Washoe County Human Services Agency is not able to solicit donations, which can present challenges in terms of securing a large venue.

First, **Liberty Food and Wine** will be catering the event and their cuisine and libations are amazing. We also have a team of folks who oversee decorating the venue that promise to provide a fun and fantastic flare to the location that will transport you into a world of awesomeness. We have secured **Rolled Ice Creamery** to be on site rolling gourmet ice cream for you! We will be recognizing years of service and have the privilege of **having KOLO's Rebecca Kitchen** serving as the emcee for the night. I could go on and on...Like, the LIVE **Jazz band** who will be performing tunes for you to dance to your hearts delight and the **FREE respite** offered at **two separate** locations with FREE food available for your littles... oh and the **professional photographer** who will be taking glamor shots.

We very much look forward to celebrating you all and ask that you take the time to RSVP. The WCHSA team is hosting this event in a venue that has been provided to us for *free*. This means we have been able to focus on food, awards, and raffle prizes. This event is not hosted by **Life Church**, though we are appreciative we are able to use their space as it is in a convenient location with plenty of parking and room to accommodate all our Resource Parents! If anyone has recommendations for future venues that are free or low cost, we would appreciate them.

Please RSVP using the link provided <https://forms.office.com/g/BYATWKL5Xf> or emailing Kylee Spring or Laura Caprioli. Questions about the event? Reach out to us for those as well.

Event RSVP- <https://forms.office.com/g/BYATWKL5Xf>  
 Laura Caprioli, [lcaprioli@washoecounty.gov](mailto:lcaprioli@washoecounty.gov)  
 Kylee Spring, [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov)



You are invited to the

# RESOURCE PARENT Appreciation Event

**Saturday, May 14th 4:00 PM**

**Cocktail Hour 4:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**Dinner 5:00 – 8:00 PM**

**Living Stones Church - Reno**  
 445 South Virginia Street  
 Reno, NV

**Attire is Casual**

**RSVP by April 30, 2022**

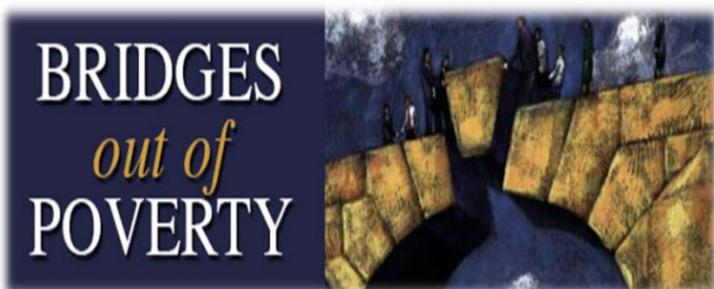


**RESPITE OPTIONS**

**RAVE: (Pizza Provided)**  
 555 Reactor Way, Reno, NV, 89502  
 Call (775) 787-3520 to register

**Life Church: (Pizza Provided)**  
 10300 Rio Wrangler Pkwy, Reno, NV 89521  
 Click here to register

*\*If your child has any dietary restriction, please provide food\**



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.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.  
[MPolley@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MPolley@washoecounty.gov)

## *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!

## *Northern Nevada Moses Project*

One of our very own WCHSA foster/adoptive parents Lauren Dees has a nonprofit to help support foster / relative/ kin/ adoptive or birth families!

The Moses Project can help families with clothing, furniture, basic necessities, anything a child might need!

If you are in need of anything or have donations, please reach out to Lauren Dees at 775.857.7924

Find more on the Northern Nevada Moses Project by going to their website- [www.nnmosesproject.org](http://www.nnmosesproject.org)



## *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.

## *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 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:**

2395 East Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434

**Main Phone Line:** 775-784-7330

**Hours:** 8-5pm



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



QR code for  
Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support  
Facebook group

## Interested in Adoption?

### Da'Michael & Michae'la

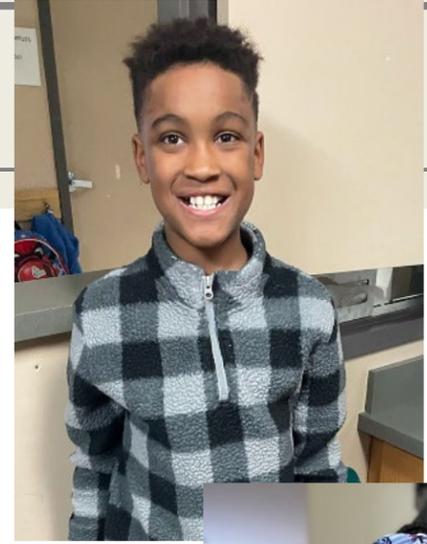
*10 & 8-years-old*

**100% FREE**

These fun, silly, close-knit siblings are looking for an equally fun and active family to call their own. Da'Michael can be a little shy at first but don't let that fool you! He is playful and full of energy. He is also a loving, protective big brother and is eager to please. Da'Michael loves basketball and being outside. He enjoys learning, going to school, using his creativity in his play and is a master builder who is always looking for a challenging Lego set. Da'Michael's favorite superhero is the Black Panther, and his favorite food is tacos.

Michae'la is a very active, bright and sharp-witted little girl with a smile that will light up a room. Just try not to giggle right along with her as she cracks herself up. She is a happy child who enjoys making people laugh and engaging others in play. Michae'la likes gymnastics, dancing/performing and in general being the center of attention. She thrives with positive feedback. Michae'la enjoys school and her favorite part of the day is recess. Her favorite foods are tacos and ice cream.

If you would like to learn more about this adorable sibling group, please contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 525-4583 or [troberson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:troberson@washoecounty.gov)



### Trey, Jayden & Milo

*10, 8 & 5-years-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 cars; fast cars, muscle cars, games about cars, music from any of the Fast and Furious movies.

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. He loves pizza, burgers, pasta with red sauce and cereal and is working on expanding his pallet.

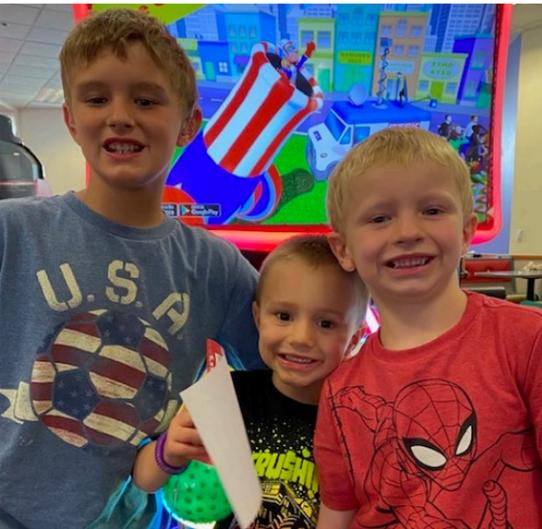
Jayden is very bright and articulate for his age. People will tell you that Jayden's smile lights up a room. He loves being in close proximity to his care givers whenever possible. He also, loves Roblox and is a kind, loving, polite little boy with good manners and a little flirtation mixed in.

Milo is all boy and looks up to his older brothers. Like Jayden he is very bright and articulate for his age. He loves to be outside playing on his scooter, riding his bike and digging in the dirt. Milo also enjoys being a helper. He 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 [Troberson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:Troberson@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 [troberson@washoecounty.us](mailto:troberson@washoecounty.us)



## Up Coming Meetings:

- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month** at **11:00am-12:00**. Please contact [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) to RSVP
- **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 **11:00 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

## Nevada Statewide Support Groups:




**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](mailto:Rose@fosterkinship.org) for additional information or view our public calendar at [www.fosterkinship.org/contact](http://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](mailto:Rose@fosterkinship.org) for additional information or view our public calendar at [www.fosterkinship.org/contact](http://www.fosterkinship.org/contact)

702-546-9988

## 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!

### Substance use in Human Trafficking (cc)

Substance use and human trafficking occur together very often. Traffickers use drugs and alcohol to groom, lure, manipulate, and control the people they are trafficking. Victims and survivors who are substance dependent are targeted by traffickers because of this vulnerability. How can those who work with adults or youth who are sex and labor trafficked understand how to best support survivors who have substance use disorders? What do substance use disorder professionals need to know about human trafficking? How can we all do more to understand the intersection of substance use and trauma and how this can impact survivors over the short and long terms? (1 hour)

### Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome & Substance Exposed Infants

This presentation provides an overview of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and Substance Exposed Infants (SEI). Topics discussed include symptoms, treatment, prevention efforts, reporting and resources. The presentation emphasizes a holistic, whole person-whole family, approach to care and treatment. (0.5 hour)

### Diabetes Type 1: Diagnosis Specific Education

A general, informative, and educational presentation to support the previous learning of caregivers who are providing care for a child with Type 1 Diabetes. (0.5 hour)

### Power Struggles

This presentation for parents is designed to provide evidence-based, practical information in dealing with Power Struggles. A trauma-informed approach is discussed to help parents understand why a reaction might occur and presents proven strategies for improvement. (0.5 hours)

### Parenting a Child with Food Allergies

Parenting a Child with Food Allergies is designed to provide evidence-based, practical information for those caring for children with serious food allergies. (0.5 hours)

### Understanding Autism

As the prevalence of Autism continues to rise across our nation, now up to 1 in 44 children, more families are caring for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Historically, children with ASD have been served using Applied Behavior Analysis, focusing on reducing problem behaviors and teaching skills. While this approach is effective, it does not take into consideration the relationship and connection that is so critical to our children's growth and development. This session discusses the utilization of Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) with children with ASD and share how impactful this approach is using Connecting, Empowering, and Correcting Principles. (1 hour)

### Teens & Technology: What to do when Technology is in Control? (cc)

The presentation discusses several of today's most popular technology platforms for youth and how to connect and protect them while accessing these platforms. The audience will learn the necessity of today's technology, interventions and strategies to build safe boundaries while also maintaining connection with teens, safeguards for the most popular platforms and how to access them, and how to determine healthy and unhealthy relationships with technology. (1 hour)

### Top Tips for Getting a Certificate



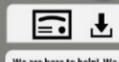
You will see a box beneath the video where the link to the quiz will be available. But if you fast forward anywhere in the video, the link will not be enabled.



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.



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 [centersupport@sd.edu](mailto:centersupport@sd.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.

## *Adoption: Top 5 Needs*

Greetings potential adoptive families!

The adoption process often includes responding to children's Top 5 Needs...and stellar responses are a great way to shine. There will be a training on responding to children's Top 5 needs! In addition, our Family Manager, Mitch Matthews will be there to answer any questions you may have. No need to RSVP! You can find the training link below.

**Date:** May 18, 2022 (5:30PM-6:15PM)

**Time:** 5:30PM

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82737096755?pwd=cHFYREFPMVdQZGxYaGhZTGtnSHJiUT09>

Any question please contact Mitch Matthews at [mmatthews@washoecounty.gov](mailto:mmatthews@washoecounty.gov)

## *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 Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum. 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.

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](mailto:mmatthews@washoecounty.gov)

Sincerely, Mitch Matthews



Any question please contact Mitch Matthews at [mmatthews@washoecounty.gov](mailto:mmatthews@washoecounty.gov)



VICTORY RANCH

## Ranch Visit Program

Spending time with a horse has proven therapeutic benefits. Horses have a special spirit that is ready to connect with you! Victory Ranch has been providing our horse programs successfully now for over 15 years!

We follow the COVID-19 health safety guidelines/precautions – social distancing/facemasks, if required

What to expect:

- An enjoyable and fun experience at a rural ranch in Reno, NV
- A way to meet connect with, and spend time with some special horses
- An opportunity to feed, pet, groom, and lead a horse buddy
- A couple of hours away from a normal day
- There is NO Charge for the program!
- Either a one-day session **OR** three sessions that are scheduled



For further information and/or to sign up, please contact Doug Hutten.  
Phone/VM: 775-432-8320 Email: [doug@victoryranchinc.org](mailto:doug@victoryranchinc.org)

Victory Ranch Inc. – a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Serving the Reno/Sparks Area  
 Website: [www.victoryranchinc.org](http://www.victoryranchinc.org) Phone/VM: 775-432-8320

# Victory Ranch

## 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

## Car Seat Resources

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

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

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>](#)

[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.

# WCHSA Directory

**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.

## Administration:

### Division Directors:

- Cara Paoli
- Ryan Gustafson

### Coordinators

- Amy Sandvik- [asandvik@washoecounty.gov](mailto:asandvik@washoecounty.gov)
  - Child Care licensing, Licensing, Recruitment & Training, Adoptions
- Kim Martin- [ksmartin@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ksmartin@washoecounty.gov)
  - CQI, Training Unit
- Shannon McCoy- [smccoy@washoecounty.gov](mailto:smccoy@washoecounty.gov)
  - Permanency
- Stacy Lance- [slance@washoecounty.gov](mailto:slance@washoecounty.gov)
  - Clinical, FEC
- Tammi Williamson- [twilliamson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:twilliamson@washoecounty.gov)
  - Assessment

## Assessment / Permanency:

### Assessment Supervisors

- Amber Hurtado- [ahurtado@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ahurtado@washoecounty.gov)
- Cassie Pasley- [cpasley@washoecounty.gov](mailto:cpasley@washoecounty.gov)
- Denise Tyre- [dtyre@washoecounty.gov](mailto:dtyre@washoecounty.gov)
- Jennifer Bascom - [jbascom@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jbascom@washoecounty.gov)
- Jennifer Kelly- [jlkelly@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jlkelly@washoecounty.gov)
- Kacie Schwin- [kschwin@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kschwin@washoecounty.gov)
- Kassi Morris- [kmorris@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kmorris@washoecounty.gov)
- Megan Aguayo - [maguayo@washoecounty.gov](mailto:maguayo@washoecounty.gov)

### Permanency Supervisors

- Julia Nesser - [jnesser@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jnesser@washoecounty.gov)
- Kasey Pomerleau - [kpomerleau@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kpomerleau@washoecounty.gov)
- Melony Elam - [melam@washoecounty.gov](mailto:melam@washoecounty.gov)
- Natalie Miller - [nmiller@washoecounty.gov](mailto:nmiller@washoecounty.gov)
- Rocio Lopez - [ralopez@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ralopez@washoecounty.gov)
- Scott Sheldon - [shsheldon@washoecounty.gov](mailto:shsheldon@washoecounty.gov)
- Steven Canale - [scanale@washoecounty.gov](mailto:scanale@washoecounty.gov)
- Tara Sterrett - [tsterrett@washoecounty.gov](mailto:tsterrett@washoecounty.gov)

## Adoptions:

### Supervisors

- Emily Smith- [esmith@washoecounty.gov](mailto:esmith@washoecounty.gov)
- Jessie Valencia – [jvalencia@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jvalencia@washoecounty.gov)

## Recruitment & Training:

### Supervisor

- Laura Caprioli- [lcaprioli@washoecounty.gov](mailto:lcaprioli@washoecounty.gov)

### R&T Staff

- Brenda Silis – [bsilis@washoecounty.gov](mailto:bsilis@washoecounty.gov)
- Mitch Matthews - [MMatthews@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MMatthews@washoecounty.gov)
- Myra Yeargan – [myeargan@washoecounty.gov](mailto:myeargan@washoecounty.gov)
- Tawnya Robertson – [trobertson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:trobertson@washoecounty.gov)

**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

### Relative Support:

Ana Bassett- [abassett@washoecounty.gov](mailto:abassett@washoecounty.gov)  
 Marci Hlade - [mhlade@washoecounty.gov](mailto:mhlade@washoecounty.gov)

### Placement Support

Heather Wenker - [hwenker@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hwenker@washoecounty.gov)  
 Katie Proctor - [kproctor@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kproctor@washoecounty.gov)

### SFC Support

Mele Peaua - [mpeaua@washoecounty.gov](mailto:mpeaua@washoecounty.gov)  
 Rayna Labarry- [rlabarry@washoecounty.gov](mailto:rlabarry@washoecounty.gov)

### Post-Adoption Support

Erika Meszaros - [emeszaros@washoecounty.gov](mailto:emeszaros@washoecounty.gov)  
 Mary Encarnacion- [MEncarnacion@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MEncarnacion@washoecounty.gov)

**OPI Liaison:** Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646  
[kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov)

**Family Engagement Center (FEC):** 775.352.3230  
 905 E Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434  
 Corner of Prater and Howard

### FEC Supervisor

- Jesse Brown - [jbrown@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jbrown@washoecounty.gov)

### Engagers:

- Betty Sharkey- [BSharkey@washoecounty.gov](mailto:BSharkey@washoecounty.gov)
- Kin Minor - [KMinor@washoecounty.gov](mailto:KMinor@washoecounty.gov)
- Leona Lopez - [LLopez@washoecounty.gov](mailto:LLopez@washoecounty.gov)
- Mayra Quiroz - [MQuiroz@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MQuiroz@washoecounty.gov)
- Olivia Lynch - [olynch@washoecounty.gov](mailto:olynch@washoecounty.gov)
- Patty Daniel - [pdaniel@washoecounty.gov](mailto:pdaniel@washoecounty.gov)

**Medical Unit:** 775.284.2763

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

### WCSD Liaison

- Keri Pruitt - [KPruitt@washoecounty.gov](mailto:KPruitt@washoecounty.gov)

# 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.

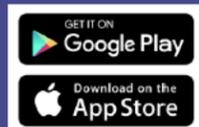
## Nevada 211 YOUTH APP

Ages 12 to 19  
Easy  
Fast  
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SEARCH FOR  
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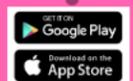
Find help 24/7 by dialing 2-1-1  
texting 898-211 or  
visiting [www.nevada211.org](http://www.nevada211.org)

## NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

BÚSQUEDA DE  
RECURSOS  
LOCALES

A TUS DEDOS 24/7

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aplicación para  
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Refugio de emergencia  
Cuidado de la salud  
Servicios LGBTQ  
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Grupos de apoyo  
Empleo juvenil



¡Y mucho más!

