

# Caregiver Connection

A monthly resource for family caregivers and foster and adoptive families in Washington state

## Dreams Come True

Three-year-old **Danika Thompson**'s dream to be part of a family that loves and supports her has already come true.

Danika was adopted by her aunt and uncle, Erika and Brent Thompson of Puyallup. She is a little girl who, Erika predicted, is "going to do great things in this world."

Danika is one of many children who have been adopted in Washington.

For the period July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) recorded 1,349 adoptions.

But those are just numbers—statistics. Behind those numbers are the intensely personal stories of lives and families changed forever.

"For kids, they want normalcy," said DCYF Adoption Program Manager Debbie Marker. "They want somebody to be part of their lives [including] during holidays, at birthdays, and other milestone events," she said. "It's all about connections."

As of August 1, 2018, there are 1,900 legally free children in foster care, and 380 of those children are in need of permanent families.

Among the ways DCYF has tried to connect children and adults, is "reverse matching" of youth and families – letting young people choose from among adults who want to adopt instead of having the adults choose the children.

Debbie has great respect for adults who bring kids into their lives as adoptive parents do. "They have a love of family and a love of kids," she said.

Washington celebrates Adoption Day on November 16th this year. More information about Adoption Day events around the state can be found at [www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/adoptionDay/?fa=adoptionDay.home](http://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/adoptionDay/?fa=adoptionDay.home)

In honor of Adoption Day and National Adoption Month, we tell Danika's story as well as others that reveal the diverse world of adoption.

- The foster parents who had a child leave their home only to return years later to be adopted by them.
- A foster-adoptive mom who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, seeking to help the most marginalized children in our society.
- A young man who found his way into the hearts of his foster parents and whose path has literally led him to a mountain top.

These are their stories. We begin with Danika.



NATIONAL  
ADOPTION DAY

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The Thompson family: (l-r)Baily, Danika, Erika, Aiden, Brent, Essy

**Learn more about  
Kinship Caregiving  
on the next page.**



### **"It's not just what we do. It's who we are."**

Danika bore heavily on Erika's heart from the moment of her birth – even before. Throughout her sister's pregnancy, Erika worried about her sister's life situation and the child she was expecting.

"I never slept," she said of that time.

"It was good preparation."

She and Brent have been foster parents to more than 125 children, and Erika is a liaison for Fostering Together, recruiting and supporting other caregivers, so they knew what they could likely expect when Danika was born.

"I knew she [could] have all kinds of issues" related to drug use, Erika said. And, Danika did spend weeks in a specialized pediatric unit withdrawing from drugs.

Erika, Brent and their family also experienced some of the unique factors that arise in kinship adoptions. "They are different than other placements," Erika said "There are all these mind games that don't go on with foster care. You have family dynamics."

One night when they were talking, Erika talked to Danika about her sister, Danika's birth-mother. Erika shared with Danika that she, Danika, she had been in Erika's sister's tummy.

"You have a sister?" Danika said. "That's crazy."

Erika and Brent knew they wanted to adopt Danika, but in the process, they experienced "the high-highs and the low-lows that pre-adoptive families go through."

Danika was adopted when she was 23-months-old.

"There were powerful emotions," Erika said. "This is not how it is supposed to be. I can't believe I'm raising my sister's child."

Erika said her older children love their little sister, and that they cannot imagine their family any other way.

"It becomes who you are," she said. "It's not just what we do; it's who we are."

## Kinship Caregivers and Permanency

Kinship caregiving includes unique experiences and dynamics. This extends to relatives and suitable adults who may offer a child or youth permanency through adoption, guardianship, or non-parental custody.

Here are some general considerations and information for kinship caregivers regarding what is in the best of the children and youth in your home:

- Honest, thoughtful discussion about anger, guilt, and other strong feelings about family dynamics are important. Acknowledging feelings is powerful whether or not agreement is reached.
- Your willingness to share and honor a child's positive memories about their parent – your relative – can be very meaningful. This values and recognizes the child or youth's experiences before entering care.
- If return home is not an option, a shared planning meeting will provide a setting to discuss permanency planning options. While many factors contribute to permanency planning recommendations, the child or youth's best interests are a major element. Adoption and guardianship are the most common permanent plans for children in the child welfare system who cannot return home.
- Kinship caregivers navigate adoption in many different ways. No one way is the "correct" way, and adoption can look different in every case. Adoption allows for continued contact with birth family through an open adoption agreement; whereas, guardianship requires a formal visitation plan with the birth parent. The decision to establish a guardianship indicates that the relationship between the child/youth and birth parent(s) is positive and unlikely to disrupt the placement of the child/youth.
- Adoption support is individually negotiated and based on the child/youth's special needs.

### "There was just something about him."

Those were the words Sue Kellie of Kennewick used to describe how 15-year-old Joey came to live with her and her husband Ed, with the goal of finalizing his adoption during November and National Adoption Day.

A caseworker with Catholic Charities for ten years, Sue has seen and helped many young people.

But when Joey came into her life, she saw a young person who had moved 11 times. She did not want him to move again.

"There was something about him—he needed a safe and secure home more than the majority. He's just got a sweet heart," said Kellie.

So at age 61, she and Ed, 59, took him into their hearts and home.

"He's already part of the family," she said.

The Kellies were neither licensed foster parents nor were they related to Joey. Rather, the Kellies were considered "suitable others"—important adults known to a child who can and will safely care for a young person.

Sue loved what Joey wrote about his life experience for a school project; Joey agreed to share it with others.

### This is Joey's story:

"My name is Joey and I love being outdoors whenever I can. My favorite activities include being outside and playing sports or just hanging out with my friends. My favorite sport is wrestling, which I have done only one year of but am proud to say I did pretty good. I also like to play basketball or soccer, and sometimes on my free time, I'll play football. I love to go outside and skateboard or rollerblade while listening to my music. My favorite song is "Hope" by XxxTentacion. Music has really changed my life for the better because it calms me down and gives me something I can relate to.

A little something about me is that I was in foster care for seven years and it was a hard time of my life because I didn't have anyone to look up to as a good example. Now I have a family that loves me for who I am and I could ask for nothing more. I am grateful to my mom and dad for what they have given me. My mom and dad have given me hope that I could do something with my life. I appreciate them beyond words and I am happy that they care enough to adopt me and accept me as part of their amazing family.

My mom is amazing. She may just look like an ordinary mother but to me she is the world. I am extremely lucky to have a family that loves me and maybe someday I would like to give that to other kids who might've gone through what I did because I know what it is like to live without a family and feel like you have no reason in life.

My dad is amazing. He may seem like the dimmy downer of the family but he is extremely helpful when I have a question. My dad knows the weirdest

Joey, triumphantly standing atop Mount Adams



things but sometimes he helps out more than anyone realizes. He has helped me procrastinate more responsibly. I never would've been able to have that skill if it weren't for him. I appreciate him too, for who he is and what he has done in my life like taking me to climb to the summit of Mount Adams.

Most of all I love my parents because they have realized what I have been through and want to help me by giving me a loving family. My parents are extremely amazing because they realize that everyone makes mistakes, so they don't hold anything on me like I'm a bad person for it, they try to help me right my wrongs.

All have to say to them is thank you for everything you have done and given me."

### **An unexpected path to adoption**

The road to adoption can take many twists and turns.

Few people know that better than Leslie and Chris Campbell of Bonney Lake. When they were newly licensed foster parents, their first foster child was a member of their family for several years and, through many twists and turns, later became a permanent member of their family.

That child, Hazel, had been in and out of several homes when she came to live with the Campbells when she was 18-months-old.

Hazel lived with the Campbells until she was just shy of her 4th birthday, when she

was supposed to go live with relatives in Alaska. The Campbells had a party for Hazel and her birth-mother came, Leslie said. Hazel's birth-mother saw how much the Campbells cared for her child. "We developed a relationship," Leslie said. Hazel did not end up going to Alaska; rather, she went to live with her birth-mother for four years. During this time, Hazel's birth-mother and the Campbells stayed connected, and Hazel's birth-mother would drop Hazel off for visits. One visits lasted for eight weeks.

Then Hazel "disappeared" from the Campbell's life, Leslie said. Hazel was living in and out of foster care.

One day, Leslie ran into another foster parent who is also a social worker at a private agency. This individual knew of Hazel and told Leslie, "She's still missing you. She still loves you."

It was then that Leslie decided she wanted Hazel to be a permanent part of their family. Hazel was placed with the Campbells again, and they began moving toward adoption. There was an additional consideration. Hazel is Native American and a Tribal member, so the Tribe was approached about the adoption. "It was scary," Leslie said. "I didn't want my girl to leave." The Tribe saw that the Campbells have been a part of Hazel's life for many years, and although they are not a Native American home, the tribe agreed this is where Hazel belonged. They gave permission for the adoption to proceed.

Finally, after 1,705 days of Hazel's life spent in state custody, she officially became part of the Campbell family.

"She has been [let down] so much," Leslie said. "But through all that, she remains strong. She is so resilient."

### **The importance of one caring adult**

Shambricia Spencer of Olympia will soon be honored by the YWCA with Thurston County's Women of Achievement Award.

It seems fitting that this foster and adoptive mom of two receives this honor. Her life's work is to be the caring adult kids need to put them on a good path to the future.

This is especially true for young people in foster care, who are often some of the most vulnerable and marginalized in society.

Layer onto that if a youth is LGBTQ+ or a person of color; the growing-up years can be even more daunting.

"Youth in foster care need someone who is going to be with them no matter what—someone who is going to be a continually supportive adult," she said. "I want to be that for these kids."

Although she never lived in foster care, Shambricia had a tough growing-up period, she said. A couple of caring adults in her life made a significant difference.

"I want to give back for those who helped me," she said.



Hazel Campbell



Some of the Campbell family l-r, Tanner, Leslie, Chris, Kaysin, Hazel



Shambricia Spencer, right, with Amareuz, left and Clariah

As a lesbian, she also understands the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth.

As a way of giving back, she believed she could foster kids who needed a caring adult. So she and her former wife made a decision, she said.

“My wife and I decided we wanted to have kids in our life,” she said. “We said, ‘let’s do it.’ And specifically, we wanted to foster some of the most marginalized kids.”

So they began fostering. And, they adopted. Although they have since split up, they share parenting duties for two young people, Amareuz, 12, and Clariah, 5.

Even more than taking in the most marginalized kids, Shambricia can be a resource and support for LGBTQ+ youth, respecting them and connecting them with services such as Stonewall Youth and Pizza Klatch in Thurston County,

“A lot of people act like they are okay with taking [children and youth who may identify as LGBTQ+] but often don’t treat them with respect,” she said.

Asked if there are differences for caregivers in raising LGBTQ+ youth compared to straight youth, she said you have to respect who they are. That starts with using the pronouns they prefer as they refer to themselves.

“They have a right to be themselves,” she said. “You have to gain and earn their respect, following through with action.

Many [LGBTQ+] kids have had a series of adults they can’t trust so they turn to drugs, sex, or living on the streets. Supportive adults can make the difference.”

Shambricia is in a good place to spread that message. She is the capacity-building manager for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands, managing a group of trainers in four states. Shambricia is also a member of the DCYF Division of Child Welfare LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee.

So in all her work she will mentor, train and serve as an example to others, spreading the message about kids.

“I want to let kids know they matter,” she said.

## Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence

### Learn More About Adoption through a Training

A three-hour training from the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence provides caregivers an introduction to the adoption process, including the home study, adoption support, the legal process and steps to adoption. This training is open to all participants: those who have not taken Caregiver Core Training, those who have, and those who are using the training as a field experience during Caregiver Core Training.

The training helps caregivers consider their decisions around whether to work with the public system or a private agency and whether to provide general foster care or focus on only providing care to legally free children. The training’s focus is developing understanding of the full adoption process, including the emotional impacts of commitment, changing your family, grieving, and attachment.

The training will also give information about:

- Open adoptions.
- The placement process.
- Resources, and more.

Registration is required. Need help? Call 1-866-577-1915 or email [help@acwe.on.spiceworks.com](mailto:help@acwe.on.spiceworks.com)

Please include your name, phone number and/or email, and the course title in your request for assistance.

**You can learn when training is available in your area by clicking on this link:**

[alliancecatalog.org/node/12842/course-signup](https://alliancecatalog.org/node/12842/course-signup)



## Time for Some Holiday Magic

The Holiday Magic program, which provides gifts to children and youth in care during the holiday season, will continue this year! Holiday Magic, a decades old program, is a collaboration between the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and Treehouse, a non-profit based in Seattle.

Last year, more than 5,000 children across the state received a new, significant gift through the program. Those eligible include Washington dependents and children in shelter care, children in state custody who are living with relatives, and children in state custody who are living out of state.

“That [5,000 number] has been the trend for many years now,” said Christopher Nix, Holiday Magic program assistant for Treehouse.

The hefty program gears up in early October, with an e-mail notification to caregivers of kids eligible for a gift. That information is pulled from the DCYF computer system.

“We’re going to try to go more digital this year,” Nix said. The e-mail indicates how to register for the program. Follow-up emails are sent after the initial registration email in October. They continue until the Holiday Magic Program closes on November 23.

Nix said caregiver contact information is pulled from the computer several times during the Holiday Magic program to ensure the most accurate and up-to-date information about kids entering care or who may have moved.

Letters were also sent to caregivers near the end of October for those who had not yet responded electronically.

“Our goal is to capture as many online registrations as possible” said Nix.

He said these kinds of emails sometimes get caught in “spam” folders. Nix suggested that foster and relative caregivers should check their spam folder for an email about Holiday Magic, if they have not been contacted.

Nix said it takes about 15 minutes to complete the process of filling out the registration and selecting a gift.

A number of age-appropriate gifts are offered, and each caregiver can select his/her top choice and second choice from the list for each child in care. The second choice is offered in case some items run out of stock. Gifts are then mailed to the mailing address provided between the middle of November and mid-December. Caregivers should select a gift as soon as possible.

Caregivers with questions about the program should contact their child’s caseworker.

For further information visit:

[treehouseforkids.org/our-services/holiday-magic/](http://treehouseforkids.org/our-services/holiday-magic/)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Separated Siblings Invited to Camp to Belong Holiday Party

**Camp To Belong Washington (CTBW) will host a sibling holiday party.**

**November 30th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Christ the Rock Church  
4100 Old Clifton Road SW  
Port Orchard, Washington**

**Siblings do not need to have attended camp in the past to come to the party, stressed Director Deb Kennedy. Brothers and sisters, 6 to 18 years old, who are separated from each other due to foster, kinship or adoptive care are invited to attend.**

**This marks the second year for the party, Kennedy said. Party-goers will get to spend time together enjoying a pizza feast and making some holiday memories. Mr. and Mrs Claus will be there for photos, and kids will be making holiday crafts and taking part in other activities. They will also be able to visit “Santa’s Shoppe” and choose a gift for their brothers or sisters.**

**Registration is necessary for planning purposes. For further information and to register, please visit [www.camptobelongwa.org](http://www.camptobelongwa.org) and then click on “Programs.”**

# The New “OurKids” for Caregivers

DCYF has recognized that the OurKids mobile application presented several challenges for users, which limited its use.

In an effort to increase ease of use, a work group formed. This group has partnered with Technology Services to develop a user-friendly web application for caregivers. OurKids will allow caregivers to view their placements and other important case information. All caregivers, foster, licensed, and unlicensed will have this access.

**The transition to the OurKids web application is an intentional effort to increase use, improve ease of access and continue to improve overall communication with DCYF’s valuable caregivers.**

Caregivers will now be able to access OurKids from their desktop, tablets and mobile devices. Development is taking place in phases, with phase one focusing on transferring the information that was available in the original OurKids app to the new accessible format. Caregivers can expect to view placement details for each child for whom they are providing care. That information includes personal, social, legal, medical and education data. Licensed foster parents also will be able to see information related to their license, such as expiration dates, and completed reimbursements.

Information that will be available includes but is not limited to:

- **Child’s personal information**, including name, date of birth, and FamLink identification (ID) number.
- **Social and legal information**, including the child’s legal status, the next scheduled court hearing and placement date.
- **Medical information**, including known allergies, medications and medical identification number.
- **Education information**, including the child’s current school, district and whether or not they have an education plan.
- **Licensing information**, such as the family’s license number, provider ID, their licenser’s and the licenser’s supervisor’s contact information.
- **Reimbursements**, including regular, monthly amounts and mileage.

The information displayed is the most current information in DCYF’s computer system; sometimes caregivers will have the most current information before their caseworker receives or enters it. Communication with the caseworker is encouraged. OurKids also will enhance communication between DCYF and caregivers, providing contact information for caregivers to reach out to assigned caseworkers and supervisors.

We hope to announce a launch date soon.  
Stay tuned for more information.



## Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month, and Coordinated Care wants you to be in the know.

Diabetes is a disease that affects how the body uses a sugar called glucose. Glucose is found in the foods we eat every day. This sugar is critical in helping our bodies run all day. Like a car runs on gas in order to work, our bodies need glucose to get around.

Insulin is the hormone our body makes in the pancreas, and it helps glucose get to our bodies' cells. But when someone has diabetes, the process doesn't work like it should.

There are two types of diabetes:

- **Type 1 diabetes** (also called juvenile diabetes). With Type 1 diabetes, the body doesn't make insulin. Sadly, this type of diabetes cannot be prevented.
- **Type 2 diabetes** – In Type 2 diabetes, insulin does not work the way it should in our bodies. This type of diabetes is preventable.

Caring for a child with Type 1 diabetes can be tough. Coordinated Care is here to help!

Call 1-844-354-9876 and ask about care management for diabetes.

You can also check out Coordinated Care's FREE BOOK and Parent Guide, "Darby Boing and the Adventures from

Sugarland" [coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care/member-resources/healthy-kids-club/free-books.html](https://coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care/member-resources/healthy-kids-club/free-books.html)

And you can watch this "Kids Health" video to see "What Happens in Type 1 Diabetes." [kidshealth.org/en/kids/indiabetes-vid.html](https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/indiabetes-vid.html)

To help prevent Type 2 diabetes in the children you care for:

Serve foods that are low in fat but high in other nutrients. Here are some good choices: whole-grain cereals and breads, fruits, vegetables, milk, yogurt, cheese, lean meats and other sources of protein.

Limit fast food and sugary sodas. Eating too much fat and sugar can lead to weight gain. And being overweight can make a person more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes.

Encourage children to be active. In preventing Type 2 diabetes, staying active is a better choice than watching TV or playing video games to stay healthy. It can be as simple as walking the dog or playing outside.

Coordinated Care has a pediatric weight management program called "Raising Well."

The program is for children 2 to 17 years old, with a body mass index at or above the 85th percentile for their age and gender.

Raising Well offers personalized, one-on-one health coaching from a registered dietitian and tailored exercise interventions for families and children.

Also offered are online peer support and group discussions facilitated by health professionals.

Resources and activities include tip sheets, games and recipes.

Learn more about Raising Well by calling 1-844-354-9876.

### Thanksgiving Closures at Coordinated Care

Coordinated Care will be closed Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23, in observance of Thanksgiving. The 24/7 Nurse Advice Line is available for health related questions and concerns.

**Call Apple Health Core Connections: 1-844-354-9876 (TTY/TDD: 711)**

## Help for kids coping with holiday stress

The holidays can be stressful. For a child or youth in foster care, renewed feelings of grief and loss can make things more difficult. School schedules change. Holiday events clutter the calendar. Add in memories of past holidays, and it can be overwhelming.

If you're trying to help children in your home cope with holiday stress, join Coordinated Care for a free webinar.

The Coordinated Care Community Education team offers four "Coping with Holiday Stress" training sessions in November and December. We'll talk about why this is a challenging time of year and discuss ways to help guide children through the season.





## Share Some Time in the Kitchen this Thanksgiving

Few things say “belonging” to kids more than contributing to a family holiday meal. Spend some “QT” (quality time) together whipping up some of these kid-friendly Thanksgiving treats to serve your guests. They’ll get to practice measuring, teamwork and cooking skills, and feel proud to have contributed to the feast!

### Steamy, Creamy Apple Cider

Apple Cider is great cold, but nothing tastes better on chilly days than hot apple cider. This is a dolled-up recipe kids can make for celebrations like Thanksgiving or holiday parties.

#### Ingredients

- ½ cup cream
- ½ cup (or less) brown sugar, packed
- 6 cups apple cider  
(apple juice also can be used)
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla, optional
- Whipped cream
- Caramel sauce

#### Directions

In a large saucepan, mix the cream and brown sugar. Place it over medium heat until mixture begins to steam. Don’t let it come to a boil. Stir in the apple cider and water, then raise the heat to medium high until the mixture begins to simmer.

Pour the heated mixture into cups or mugs. Put a dollop of whipped cream on top and drizzle a little caramel sauce over the top.



## Crunchy Homemade Pita Crackers

These are a tasty and easy treat for kids to make. They can be served with a cheese tray or with your favorite dip.

### Ingredients

- 12 pita bread pockets
- ½ cup olive or canola oil
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- ½ teaspoon dried basil or Italian spice

### Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Line a cookie sheet with parchment.

With kitchen scissors, cut each pita into eight (8) triangles. To do this is cut the pita in half, then cut each half in half, making four quarters. Finally, cut each quarter in half. (This is a good lesson in fractions!)

Arrange the triangles on the cookie sheet.

Mix the oil and spices in a small bowl, then use a pastry brush to brush the top of each pita triangle with the oil mixture. Since most of the parsley seems to stay in the bowl's bottom, I sprinkled a little more on the wedges before baking.

Bake for 7-9 minutes, until the chips are lightly browned and crisp. Keep a careful watch on them so they don't burn.

## Pumpkin Spice Dip

Sprinkle a little nutmeg over the top of your pumpkin spice dip and serve your dip with an assortment of sliced apples and pears, graham cracker fingers, vanilla wafers and ginger snaps.

### Ingredients

- 1 12-ounce package cream cheese
- 1-1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons brown sugar, packed
- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin puree
- 2-3 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- (or use 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon and ½ teaspoon nutmeg)
- 1 teaspoon dried ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

### Directions

Use an electric mixer to mix the cream cheese and sugars. Add the pumpkin, vanilla, and spices, then mix well until creamy and somewhat fluffy. You can adjust the spices and the sugar as desired. (Note: If you want a fluffy dip, fold in some well-whipped heavy whipping cream.)

Place dip in a small serving bowl or hollowed out pumpkin or squash and refrigerate until guests arrive.



# Bring Your Issues to Consultation Team Members

Since 2007, statewide meetings have brought together caregivers and administrators and managers of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Within DCYF and the caregiving community, these meetings are frequently referred to as “1624 meetings,” (this number reflects the legislative bill number that created the committee). The meetings include foster parent representatives who are elected for a

two-year term by other caregivers in their region, elected representatives from the Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS), and DCYF staff who are appointed by agency leadership. If you, as a caregiver, have questions or concerns you would like to have discussed at the meeting, contact a team member from the list included in this issue.

The committee discusses issues of statewide concern to foster parents.

The regional members also help set dates for regional consultation meetings so local issues can be discussed.

You can also contact Caregiver Recruitment, Retention, and Support Program Manager Holly Luna at [Holly.Luna@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:Holly.Luna@dcyf.wa.gov) or 360-902-8035.

## DCYF Foster Parent Consultation Team (1624)

### Foster Parent Regional Representatives 2018

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## Caregiver Training from the Alliance

Explore our wide variety of caregiver training options designed to increase understanding and strengthen skills. These upcoming in-person classroom sessions provide in-depth information on relevant topics for the caregiver community at convenient locations across the state.

### NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 1: EASTERN WASHINGTON, NORTH OF KITTITAS AND BENTON/FRANKLIN COUNTIES AND EAST OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Caregiving for Children with Physically Aggressive Behavior Concerns
- Compassionate Parenting
- ILABS Module 3: The Importance of Early Interactions
- ILABS Module 4: The Power of Learning Through Imitation
- ILABS Module 6: Language Development: Learning Sounds of Language
- ILABS Module 7: Development of Attachment
- ILABS Module 8: Attachment in Practice
- ILABS Module 16: Foundations for Literacy
- ILABS Module 17: Development of Literacy
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What?
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)
- Talking with Children About Race
- Verbal De-escalation
- Youth Missing from Care

### NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 2: SOUTH/CENTRAL EASTERN WASHINGTON

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Bullying: Prevention, and Intervention
- Caregiving for Children with Physically Aggressive Behavior Concerns
- ILABS Module 7: Development of Attachment
- ILABS Module 10: Language Development From Listening to Speaking
- ILABS Module 13: Race Today: What Kids Know As They Grow
- ILABS Module 14: "Racing" Toward Equality: Why Talking To Your Kids About Race Is Good For Everyone
- ILABS Module 15: Early Music Experience
- ILABS Module 16: Foundation of Literacy
- ILABS Module 19: Early STEM Learning
- Kinship 101
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- Paper Trail
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)
- Talking With Children About Race

## Caregiver Training from the Alliance continued

### NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 3: I-5 CORRIDOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY TO WHATCOM COUNTY + ISLANDS

- African American Hair and Skin Care
- Behavior Management Tools for Foster Parents and Caregivers
- Emotion Coaching
- ILABS Module 2: Why The First 2,000 Days Matter: A Look Inside the Brain
- ILABS Module 5: Understanding Emotions
- ILABS Module 7: Development of Attachment
- ILABS Module 12: Temperament in Early Childhood
- Infant Safety and Care
- Introduction to Adoption From Foster Care
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- Minimizing the Risk of Allegations
- Parenting the Positive Discipline Way
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What?
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)

### NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 4: KING COUNTY

- Behavior Management Tools for Foster Parents and Caregivers
- Caregiving for Children with Sexual Behavior Concerns
- Caregiving for Children with Physically Aggressive Behavior Concerns
- Introduction to Adoption from Foster Care
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- Minimizing the Risk of Allegations
- Parenting the Positive Discipline Way
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What?
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)
- Talking With Children About Race
- Understanding and Managing Caregiver's Own Emotions and Self Care
- Verbal De-escalation

## Caregiver Training from the Alliance continued

### NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 5: PIERCE AND KITSAP COUNTIES

- DLR/CPS Allegations: An Overview of the Investigation Process for Caregivers
- Healthy Engagement With Children of Trauma
- ILAB Module 12: Temperament in Early Childhood
- Introduction to Adoption From Foster Care
- Kinship 101
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- Knowledge and Skills to Help Children Heal
- Minimizing the Risks of Allegations
- Paper Trail: Documentation Training for Caregivers
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)

### NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 6: I-5 CORRIDOR SOUTH OF PIERCE COUNTY TO CLARK COUNTY + OLYMPIA PENINSULA

- African American Hair and Skin Care
- As They Grow: The Drug Impacted Child
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Caregiving for Children with Physically Aggressive Behavior Concerns
- Caregiving for Children with Sexual Behavior Concerns
- Eating Disorders and Beyond
- Introduction to Adoption from Foster Care
- Introduction to Positive Discipline
- Kinship 101
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)
- Verbal De-escalation

## Caregiver Education and Training Administrator

Michael Tyers . . . . . 425-268-9375 [tyersm@uw.edu/](mailto:tyersm@uw.edu)

## Your Child Welfare Training Team for Regions 1 and 2

### Eastern Washington

Kebbie Green . . . . . 509-362-1336 [kgreen10@uw.edu](mailto:kgreen10@uw.edu)

Patty Orona. . . . . 509-834-8535 [po5@uw.edu](mailto:po5@uw.edu)

Ryan Krueger . . . . . 509-660-0350 [krry300@uw.edu](mailto:krry300@uw.edu)

Sherry Colomb . . . . . 509-322-2552 [scolomb1@uw.edu](mailto:scolomb1@uw.edu)

## Your Child Welfare Training Team Regions 3 and 4

### King County and North to Whatcom County and Island County

Joan Sager . . . . . 360-594-6744 [sagerj2@uw.edu](mailto:sagerj2@uw.edu)

El-Freda Stephenson . . . . 206-923-4922 [elfreda@uw.edu](mailto:elfreda@uw.edu)

Gracia Hahn . . . . . 253-983-6362 [hahng@uw.edu](mailto:hahng@uw.edu)

## Your Child Welfare Training Team for Regions 5 and 6

### Pierce County & South to Clark County plus the Olympic Peninsula & Coast

Penny Michel . . . . . 360-725-6788 [mpen300@uw.edu](mailto:mpen300@uw.edu)

Stephanie Rodrigues . . . . 206-321-1721 [steph75@uw.edu](mailto:steph75@uw.edu)

Robert Judd. . . . . 360-344-3003 [juddre@uw.edu](mailto:juddre@uw.edu)

## Your Registration Help Desk

Registration Help . . . . . 866-577-1915 [help@acwe.on.spiceworks.com](mailto:help@acwe.on.spiceworks.com)

**Join us on Social Media for inspiration, tips, trainings,  
the latest events and to be part of a caregiver community**



# Meet Our Recruitment Partners Who Support You



**Fostering Together supports the west side of the state (Regions 3, 4, 5, and 6) through foster care Liaisons.**

**Fostering Washington supports (Region 1 and 2) the east side of the state through Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs),**

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) works in partnership with two separate agencies to provide foster parent recruitment and retention / support services to prospective foster parents, current foster parents and relative caregivers in all areas of Washington. Our goals are to:

- Increase the numbers of safe, quality foster families to meet the diverse needs of children and youth placed in out-of-home care in Washington State, and
- Offer support to foster parents and relative caregivers

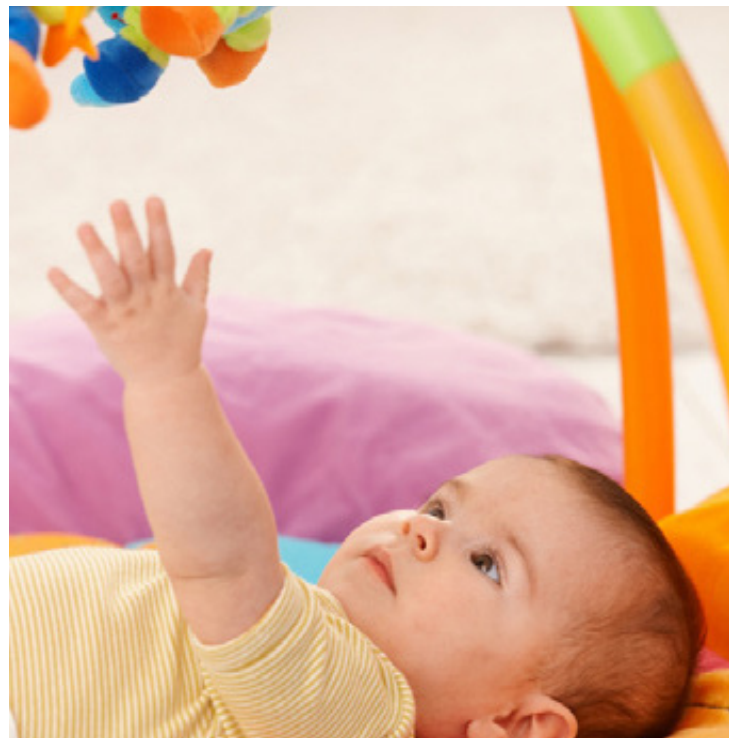
Prospective foster parents are welcome to license through either CA's, Children, Youth and Families – Licensing Division (DCYF-LD), or any private child placing agency licensed in Washington. Our recruitment partners serve all families, regardless of where they choose to become licensed. Prospective foster parents are welcome to license through either CA's, DCYF-LD, or any private child placing agency licensed in Washington. Our recruitment partners serve all families, regardless of where they choose to become licensed.

The Liaisons or Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs) provide information, help and guidance for you from your first inquiry, through training, and throughout the licensing process to become foster parents. Liaisons and RPMs both answer questions and share helpful information during your foster care journey. They offer:

- Support at your first placement,
- Support groups , (some with training hours available and some provide a meal and / or child care)
- Mentoring,
- Training, and
- On-line Facebook groups

All supports are designed with our caregivers in mind.

We want to help you connect with other caregivers, obtain additional training, and find answers to questions. Both Fostering Together and Fostering WA offer information and referral services to foster parents and relative caregivers. The regional liaisons or peer mentors also help resolve issues foster parents may experience in their local area. Contact the liaison or RPM listed for your area with any questions you might have.





Position/ Area Covered	Name	E-mail	Phone
Director All Counties	Kim Fordham	kfordham@ewu.edu	(208)-659-7401
Recruitment Coordinator Asotin, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman Counties	Amber Sherman	asherman4@ewu.edu	(509) 359-0874
Recruitment Coordinator Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Yakima, Walla Walla, Counties	Tyann Whitworth	twhitworth@ewu.edu	(509) 731-2060
Recruitment Coordinator Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan Counties	Hayley Stoebner	hstoebner@ewu.edu	(509) 322-1191
FIRST Program Mngr. All Counties	Dru Powers	Dpowers8@ewu.edu	(509) 928-6697

Fostering Washington’s website [www.fosteringwa.org](http://www.fosteringwa.org) can help you locate your local foster parent

Resource Peer Mentor (RPM) from the county map on their website.

Click on: → *Find your mentor*

**Fostering Together:  
1-866-958-KIDS (5437)**



Position	Name	E-mail	Phone
Shala Crow	Director	<a href="mailto:shala-crow@olivecrest.org">shala-crow@olivecrest.org</a>	(425) 462-1612
Leeann Marshel	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:leeann-marshel@olivecrest.org">leeann-marshel@olivecrest.org</a>	(360) 909 0421
Patrice Vansligtenhorst	Program Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Patrice-Vansligtenhorst@olivecrest.org">Patrice-Vansligtenhorst@olivecrest.org</a>	(425) 462-1612 x 1308
Danielle Martin	FIRST Program		(866) 393-6186

Fostering Together’s website [fosteringtogether.org](http://fosteringtogether.org) can help you locate your local foster parent liaison.

Click on: → *Region where you live* → *Find Your Liaison*