

# ♥ fosteroster

UTAH'S FOSTER FAMILY MAGAZINE



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UTAH FOSTER CARE  
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JUNE

16, 17, & 18

THE  
GATEWAY



# Kindness is the Heart of the Matter

By Kelly Peterson CEO, Utah Foster Care



Utah Foster Care CEO Kelly Peterson (left) and DCFS Deputy Director Charri Brummer at UFC's Annual Symposium for foster families and child welfare workers in Park City in April.

*"After more than 22 years with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), I still come to work feeling excited, honored, and lucky to work in a job that believes in positive change and hope."*

Those words from Charri Brummer say a lot about why Utah Foster Care has chosen to honor her as the recipient of our 2017 Award for Outstanding Service to Children & Families.

Long before she became DCFS Deputy Director, Charri Brummer first thought of Social Work as a profession when she was a freshman in college, so she innocently signed up for a social work class. After graduating from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in Psychology, a friend happened to tell her about a state agency job where a social services department was hiring. So, she applied with DCFS in Salt Lake City.

Charri says she had never heard of DCFS, nor did she have any idea what people who worked there did. She learned very quickly and began working with families as an in-home worker. Soon after, she was selected as part of a neighborhood team and became a general practitioner investigating child protective cases, working in-home cases and foster care, then adoption. In Charri's words, "It was hard, emotional work and I decided I would stay just TWO years, get some experience, and MOVE ON!"

To the great benefit of hundreds of children and families – Charri chose to stay!

"I believe that social work is ultimately about kindness," says Charri. "Yes, we can assess people, we can coordinate services, we can manage situations; but most importantly, we can be kind. Kindness does not equate to weakness. Kindness equates to being human. Go forward, be kind to others, and do your best."

Her love for the children and families grew and she felt honored to be part of someone's life at such a critical and fragile time. She was blown away by the faith and trust that people put into her as she helped them through some of the most traumatic times of their lives. She realized that life was hard, very hard, and everyone had their own issues, baggage, and trauma. She wanted to be there for them.

She later became a supervisor overseeing what she calls an "amazing group of workers with dedication and love for the families they served." This made her love the work even more.

Charri also spent time learning about domestic violence, working directly with women at the YWCA and helping them create safety plans and work toward self-sufficiency. She earned her Master's degree in Social Work while working full-time and eventually obtained her LCSW clinical licensure.

All of us at Utah Foster Care say THANK YOU CHARRI—for your advocacy and years of dedication, and for your integrity by ensuring that whatever you do in the workplace, your motive will always be "what is best for the children."

## UTAH FOSTER CARE OFFICES

### Murray

5296 South Commerce Drive  
Suite 400  
Murray, UT 84107  
801-994-5205 Main  
801-994-5206 Fax  
877-505-5437 Toll-free

### Ogden

3340 South Harrison Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Ogden, UT 84403  
801-392-1114 Main

### Orem

274 West Center Street  
Orem, UT 84057  
801-373-3006 Main

### Price

475 West Price River Dr  
Suite 152  
Price, UT 84501  
435-636-0210 Main

### Roosevelt

Rural Route 3, Box 8008  
Roosevelt, UT 84066  
435-724-0959 Main

### Vernal

1052 West Market Dr  
Vernal, UT 84078  
435-781-4224 Main

### Moab

180 South 300 East  
Suite C  
Moab, UT 84532  
435-259-3345 Main

### St George

491 East Riverside Dr  
Suite 2B  
St George, UT 84790  
435-656-8065 Main

### Richfield

201 East 500 North  
Richfield, UT 84701  
435-979-2233 Main

## SPLORE

*open for adventure*

Would you and your family like the opportunity to try a new activity? Not sure where to begin? Splore is offering foster families, just like yours, an opportunity to try something new for a minimal cost!

**Cost:** \$10 per individual, \$20 for a family of 4 and \$5 for each additional family member.

**Includes:** lunch, transportation from UFC's Murray office at times listed, equipment and guide instruction.

**To reserve your spot:** contact Splore today and be sure to reference Utah Foster Care: [info@splore.org](mailto:info@splore.org) or (801) 484-4128.

### June 17th:

Stand Up Paddleboarding  
10-3pm, East Canyon  
Lunch Provided  
Group Size: 12  
Sign up Deadline: 6/12

### July 1st:

Climbing  
10-2pm, Storm Mountain  
Lunch Provided  
Group Size: 12  
Sign up Deadline: 6/26

### July 15th:

Stand Up Paddleboarding,  
10-2pm, Jordanelle  
Lunch Provided  
Group Size: 12  
Sign up Deadline: 7/10

### August 5th:

Outdoor Climbing  
10-2pm, Dogwood  
Lunch Provided  
Group Size: 12  
Sign up Deadline: 7/31

### August 19th:

Canoeing  
10-2pm, East Canyon  
Lunch Provided  
Group Size: 12  
Sign up Deadline: 8/14

## Dustin Rich

### Eastern Region Foster Dad of the Year

By: Faith Spencer, Retention Services



It is with great excitement and appreciation that we introduce you to Dustin Rich, our Eastern Region Foster Dad of the Year. In the last two years, he and his wife Megan have gone from a family of four to a family of eight, fostering and adopting children from three families.

Dustin was nominated by Boni Seals, the DCFS Resource Family Consultant (RFC) for Carbon and Emery Counties. In her nomination, Boni said, “Their first placement was two very difficult kids and they originally thought about having them moved. But they just got busy and learned and did whatever they could to help them. They didn’t want these kids to be moved from home to home. It was a tough time for their family, but it has paid off for them. I can’t tell you what a difference this has made for these kids.”

Dustin’s wife, Megan, said of him, “He’s always able to keep a level head and remember back to our training and bring that to our parenting. We made a promise that we would not ask for a child to be removed from our home, but with our first two, that promise was really put to the test. But we really pulled together and it has been worth it. Every sad moment, every hard moment, has lead us to what we enjoy now.”

After attending a foster parent Q&A in the community, Dustin told his wife that they had to do something to help, and they enrolled in training classes right away. “He is the hardest worker I’ve ever met,” said Megan. “He puts anyone before himself. He is a super unselfish person, who would do anything for anybody. If we have any extra, he wants to give it. He is a great man.”

When asked about their fostering experience, Megan shared, “It has worked out perfectly for what our family needed. It’s different for everyone, and no two kids are the same, but it can only enrich your life.”

We congratulate Dustin and his family, and wish all of our dedicated foster dads a happy and joy filled Father’s Day. Thank you for all you do!

#### UTAH FOSTER CARE (UFC)

##### Eastern Region UFC Staff

Kobi Prettyman  
LEAD FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

McKay Esplin  
FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT /  
TRAINER

Les Harris  
TRAINER

Faith Spencer  
RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST

Joel Redd  
FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT /  
RETENTION SPECIALIST

#### UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ (801) 538 – 4100  
195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SLC

##### Eastern Region DCFS Offices

NEED TO REACH YOUR RFC?  
CALL YOUR LOCAL DCFS OFFICE ...

Blanding (435) 678 - 1491  
522 NORTH 100 EAST  
Castle Dale (435) 381 - 4730  
1060 NORTH DESBEE DOVE ROAD  
Moab (435) 259 - 3720  
1165 SOUTH HIGHWAY 191, #1  
Price (435) 636 - 2360  
475 WEST PRICE RIVER DRIVE, #152  
Roosevelt (435) 722 - 6550  
140 WEST 425 SOUTH, #330 - 15  
Vernal (435) 781 - 4250  
1052 WEST MARKET DRIVE

##### FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

[utahfostercare.org/eastern](http://utahfostercare.org/eastern)



# Clusters



## WHAT'S A CLUSTER?

Clusters are peer groups for foster, adoptive, and kinship families who meet together on a monthly basis for support & required training.

Learn more, *online!*

### GRAND/SAN JUAN CLUSTER

Kaycee (435) 260 - 7372  
Jackie (435) 678 - 3019

### CARBON/EMERY CLUSTER

Karen (435) 749 - 1012  
Janarie (435) 820-6162

### UINTAH BASIN CLUSTER

Shanna (435) 722 - 6885  
Teresa (435) 621 - 1117  
tcook3758@gmail.com

## GRAND/SAN JUAN CLUSTER

### Parenting to Attachment

Les Harris, LCSW

June 13; 6:00-9:00pm

*Blanding DCFS / 522 N. 100 E.*

Developmental repair relative to a child's early attachment experiences can help them heal from the effects of trauma.

## GRAND/SAN JUAN CLUSTER

### Motivating Teens

Les Harris, LCSW

August 1; 9:00am-1:00pm

*Blanding DCFS / 522 N. 100 E.*

Helping children learn how to behave is the cornerstone of helping them learn to self-regulate their emotions and behaviors.

## Grand/San Juan News

We're going camping! Our Grand and San Juan County campout for all foster and adoptive families is July 14th-15th at the Niizhoni Campground in Blanding. Watch Facebook for more information, and be sure to save the date!



CARBON/EMERY CLUSTER

Lunch & Learn: Motivating Teens

Les Harris, LCSW

June 22; 9:00am-1:00pm

Price DCFS / 475 W. Price River Dr.

Understanding teen motivation can help caregivers build stronger relationships with youth while providing important guidance to help them achieve.

CARBON/EMERY CLUSTER

Maintaining Healthy Relationships

McKay Esplin, LCSW

July 13; 6:00-9:00pm

Orangeville Fire Station

This training will help foster parents learn to enhance their marital relationships during the potential stressors of fostering and adopting.

## Carbon/Emery News

It's time for a summer pool party with all of our wonderful families! Mark June 29 at the Emery pool from 4:00-7:00pm on your calendars and come make a splash at this free family event. Watch Facebook and your mail for a flyer with the details.



## UINTAH BASIN CLUSTER

### Parenting to Attachment

**Les Harris, LCSW**

**July 19; 6:00-9:00pm**

*Roosevelt DCFS / 350 W. 800 S.*

This training can provide methods to meet the attachment needs of children who have experienced trauma.

## UINTAH BASIN CLUSTER

### Help Bio Children Understand Foster Care

**Les Harris, LCSW**

**August 9; 6:00-9:00pm**

*Vernal DCFS / 1052 W. Market Dr.*

This training will help foster parents prepare children for the foster care experience.

## Uintah Basin News

Summer Family BBQ at the Goodrich home in Roosevelt, 730 E 600 N, Friday June 30 at 7:00pm. Come meet other resource families and enjoy time some summer BBQ time with your kids. We will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, please bring a side dish to share. Save the date, and we hope to see you there!





LEGISLATION	DCFS/FOSTER FAMILY IMPACT
<p><b>HB 145</b>                      Foster Children Visitation Amendments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Court may order visitation when siblings are separated due to foster or adoptive placement, visitation is in the best interest of the child, and the guardian gives consent for visitation. (The siblings do not need to be in care for this to apply.)</li> <li>•DCFS will obtain consent from the legal guardian for visitation. The Child and Family Plan shall incorporate reasonable efforts for sibling visitation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HB 185</b>                      Office of Licensing Amendments</p>	<p>Amends the background screening requirements to allow for incidental care of a foster child without a background check.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Incidental care means occasional care, not in excess of 5 hours a week and never overnight.</li> <li>•Foster parents must use reasonable and prudent judgement to select individuals to provide incidental care for children in foster care.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HB 239</b>                      Juvenile Justice Amendments</p>	<p>A large bill with many ramifications for JJS, as well as some implications for DCFS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Judges will not be able to order children into DCFS custody due to delinquency.</li> <li>•Truancy issues or certain criminal offenses committed on school property will no longer be referred to law enforcement or court, but they may be referred to alternative school related interventions, such as a youth court or restorative justice program.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HB 289: DID NOT PASS</b>                      Grandparents Rights Amendments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Would have allowed a grandparent to petition for visitation of a child after an adoption by a relative was finalized.</li> <li>•FFoU and DCFS took an official stance against it. This Bill has come up multiple times in past sessions and will probably come up again. Sponsor: Rep. Lavar Christensen.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SB 85</b>                      Ammendments to Child Welfare</p>	<p>Allows DCFS to exceed the numerical limit of foster children placed in a foster home (current limit is four) in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•to permit a sibling group who re-enters foster care to return to a previous foster home</li> <li>•to place a sibling group in a home when one other child is already placed there</li> <li>•to place a child in a foster home where a sibling of the child resides</li> <li>•to place a child in a foster home where they previously resided</li> </ul>

**UTAH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES | SAFE CHILDREN STRENGTHENED FAMILIES**

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact: DCFS’s Statewide Out of Home Specialist Tanya Albornoz: talbornoz@utah.gov or 801-696-4866.

# The Wishing Well

By Debbie Hofhines, UFC Development Director

Summer will be soon upon us. You'll be frantically finding activities to keep the little nuggets in your home busy to prevent the endless, "Mooooommm!! I'm boooored!!!"

This is a good time to remind you about Wishing Well Funds. They are funds donated to Utah Foster Care to support programs that enrich the lives of children in your care. Will a day camp help alleviate some of the doldrums? How about karate or sports lessons to burn off extra energy? Maybe buying books on Audible or in hard copy would satisfy the bookworm in your midst. These are all good examples of how Wishing Well Funds may be used.

Check with your child's caseworker to see if there are funds available through DCFS. If there are not, go to [www.utahfostercare.org/wishingwell](http://www.utahfostercare.org/wishingwell) and fill out the form. Keep in mind these guidelines:

- Requests may be for up to \$300 per child in care per year.
- Please be specific on how meeting this need will enhance the life of your child in care.

- Please send your Retention Services Specialist a thank you note by mail or email, telling us how this wish helped improve your child's experience while in foster care. (While not required, it is appreciated for donor feedback.)

Thank you for all you do to help our kids heal and grow. Being that safe person in their lives and providing opportunities for growth and development will make all the difference!



## Save the Date!

Our annual Cowabunga Bay outing will be on Monday August 7th. Watch your mail and Facebook for more details!



## Kolby

With his favorite building toys, Kolby could spend hours creating a masterpiece! While he is happy with nearly any activity, movies, electronics, and video games make his day. Kolby is a kind fellow who enjoys taking leadership roles and helping younger children. He is fond of animals and does well with them.

Now a ninth-grader, Kolby loves attending school and excels at completing assignments.

The caseworker prefers a family in which Kolby can be the only child. If you can provide him with the love, support and care that he so greatly deserves, we urge you to inquire. Kolby has siblings with whom he hopes to remain in contact following placement. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services.



## Jacob

Jacob has a great sense of humor and loves to laugh! Anything having to do with zombies or dinosaurs is popular in his book. Mechanically minded, Jacob is fascinated by building with LEGOs or Kinex, and can create amazing things without instructions. This positive young teen always looks for the good in others.

Jacob is a ninth grader who enjoys drawing.

If you are able to provide Jacob with the love, support and care he deserves, we urge you to inquire. Jacob has a sibling with whom he wishes to remain in contact. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services.

*These profiles are provided by The Adoption Exchange. For information about these and other children available for adoption, please contact The Adoption Exchange, directly: (801) 265-0444.*

## WISHING WELL FUNDS

Utah Foster Care has funds available to meet the special needs of children in foster care when DCFS is unable to meet these needs. These funds are limited.

### Contact Your Regional Office for More Info:

**Northern Region**  
Maegen Bernardo  
(801) 392 - 1114

**Salt Lake Valley Region**  
Tina Porter  
(801) 994 - 5205

**Western Region**  
Heidi Naylor  
(801) 373 - 3006

**Eastern Region**  
Faith Spencer  
(435) 724 - 0959

**Southwest Region**  
Diane Callister  
(435) 656 - 8065

### Please Remember:

- Dispersal of funds can take up to four weeks
- Checks are mailed to the foster parent's home address
- Funds are for children in foster care ONLY
- Items covered by the reimbursement or by Medicaid are not eligible

### A Word on Vacations:

- A child in care can receive vacation funds once in their lifetime
- Vacation funds are restricted monetarily & may not cover all costs



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Murray, UT 84107

[utahfostercare.org](http://utahfostercare.org)

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Successful foster parents give  
the children in their care the tools and the  
loving support they need to  
sprout wings and *fly!*