

♥ fosteroster

UTAH'S FOSTER FAMILY MAGAZINE



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UTAH FOSTER CARE
CHALK ART
FESTIVAL



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

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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 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

3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

By: Maegen Bernardo, Retention Services Specialist

Thanks to the hard work of Jay Carrigan and his desire to make a difference, this year's Easter Egg Hunt exceeded expectations. Approximately 181 children and parents joined in the festivities with over 2,400 eggs ready to be hunted. None of it would be possible without Jay.

When deciding on a project for his Eagle Scout, he wanted to make a difference for an organization that hit close to home. As a young boy, he was adopted through foster care by his parents, Chad and Kallee Carrigan.

He is another example of our amazing youth and the goals they can accomplish with the support of their family and friends.



UTAH FOSTER CARE (UFC)

Northern Region UFC Staff

Amy Wicks

LEAD FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Eva Goodfellow

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Brian Young (801) 475 – 5537

TRAINER

Melissa Majors

TRAINER

Maegen Bernardo

RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST

UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ (801) 538 – 4100

195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SLC

Northern Region DCFS Offices

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

Bountiful (801) 397 – 7640

57 WEST 200 NORTH

Brigham City

(435) 734 – 4075

1050 SOUTH MEDICAL DRIVE, #B

Clearfield (801) 776 – 7300

1350 EAST 1450 SOUTH

Logan (435) 787 – 3400

115 WEST GOLF COURSE ROAD, #B

Ogden (801) 629 – 5800

950 EAST 25TH STREET, #C

FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

utahfostercare.org/northern



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!*

CACHE VALLEY CLUSTER

Laura (435) 753-7232

BOX ELDER CLUSTER

Holly (435) 851-2509

OGDEN CLUSTER

Amber (801) 814-5693

Millie (385) 405-9057

NORTH DAVIS CLUSTER

Jenn (801) 633-4155

WEBER WEST CLUSTER

Heather (801) 589-9839

SOUTH CENTRAL DAVIS CLUSTER

Maegen (801) 392-1114

LEVEL III CLUSTER

Jill (435) 850-0028

SPANISH CLUSTER

Gaby (801) 458-8121

CACHE VALLEY CLUSTER

Family Swim Party

June 16; Dinner 5:30pm

Pioneer Park / 720 W Forest St

Join us and cool off at the Brigham City Pool! This is a free event. We will kick off the night with dinner. RSVP to Laura at 435-753-7232 (or laura.nelson@digis.net) and please bring a dessert or side to share!

CACHE VALLEY CLUSTER

No Meeting in July

Happy Independence Day!

BOX ELDER CLUSTER

Family Swim Party

June 16; Dinner 5:30pm

Pioneer Park / 720 W Forest St

Join us and cool off at the Brigham City Pool! This is a free event. We will kick off the night with dinner. RSVP to Laura at 435-753-7232 (or laura.nelson@digis.net) and please bring a dessert or side to share!

BOX ELDER CLUSTER

No Meeting in July

Happy Independence Day!

OGDEN CLUSTER

Annual Foster Family Swim Party

June 24; 7:30-9:30pm

Clearfield Aquatic Center / 825 S State St

Snacks will be provided.
RSVP to your Cluster facilitator.

ALL CLUSTERS INVITED!

OGDEN CLUSTER

No Meeting in July

Happy Independence Day!

NO DAVIS/WEBER WEST CLUSTER

Adoption Exchange

Brandie Naylor

June 15; 6:30-8:30pm

Clearfield DCFS / 1350 E. 1450 S.

Learn more about the process of adoption through foster care.

NO DAVIS/WEBER WEST CLUSTER

Annual Foster Family Swim Party

June 24; 7:30-9:30pm

Clearfield Aquatic Center / 825 S State St

Snacks will be provided.
RSVP to your Cluster facilitator.

ALL CLUSTERS INVITED!

NO DAVIS/WEBER WEST CLUSTER

3rd Annual Foster Family Campout

July 14, 6pm-July 15, 11am

Mantua: map will be mailed

Bring your tent or trailer. Dinner and breakfast will be provided. Please bring side dish to share with dinner.
RSVP to Jenn 801-633-4155.

SOUTH/CENTRAL CLUSTER

Please join another training this month.

SOUTH/CENTRAL DAVIS CLUSTER

Please join another training this month.

LEVEL III CLUSTER

Annual Foster Family Swim Party

June 24; 7:30-9:30pm

Clearfield Aquatic Center / 825 S State St

Snacks will be provided.
RSVP to your Cluster facilitator.

ALL CLUSTERS INVITED!

LEVEL III CLUSTER

No Meeting in July

Happy Independence Day!

PEER PARENT TRAINING

Peer parents teach home management and life skills. Watch for upcoming trainings to be offered and come learn more about this valuable program! Contact the Family Support Center for further information.



When Your Child in Foster Care Leaves

“The capacity to grieve is just as much a part of us as the capacity to love,” author unknown.

You and your family have spent days and nights helping this child become a part of your family. Some of these days and nights have been fun and exciting, others have been emotionally challenging. As you and your family experienced life with this child, a bond began to build. This child became a part of your life, your family, your routine. Then one day you woke up and they were gone. Now what do you do? What does your family do? How should you act? And what about all your feelings?

These are some of the questions you may have after children leave your home. If therapy is not readily available to you and your family here are some ideas:

- Take care of yourself and get support. Then, you can model coping skills to your children.
- Share your feelings in a developmentally appropriate way to your children, reminding them that feelings are OKAY.
- If there is confusion and anxiety make things for you and your family as stable as possible and maintain your routine to help you and your children gain a sense of control and comfort.

A FEW TOOLS:

- Create a Memory Box or Book. Work with your family/child and gather pictures, write or draw out memories you have involving the child in foster care. Add symbols that have attached meaning. Spend time decorating the book or the box together. When your family wants or needs to be reminded of the person they lost, bring out the Memory box/book and spend time going through it. It's okay and important to talk about these memories, allow feelings to be expressed.
- Read the book, *Invisible Strings* by Patrice Karst. Role play having an invisible string. This can be read to the entire family before the child leaves or after they have gone.
- Imagine that you could hold a perfect memory in the palm of your hand....
 - What would it be?
 - Draw a hand on a sheet of paper or trace your own, then write or draw out this perfect memory.
 - Allow everyone time to share their memories.

“Grief is like the ocean; it comes on waves ebbing and flowing. Sometimes the water is clam, and sometimes it is overflowing. And all we can do is learn to swim.” - Vicki Harrison

These are only a few ideas you can incorporate yourself. For more therapeutic ideas, please call us at the Family Support Center of Ogden. The Family Support Center specializes in working with children in foster care and with families. Our therapists can provide long term and short term therapy for individuals, couples and families. We are skilled to help with: Attachment & Bonding issues, Trauma, Grief & Loss, Anxiety, etc.

For questions, ideas, or to schedule an appointment, please call 801-393-3113



LEGISLATION	DCFS/FOSTER FAMILY IMPACT
<p>HB 145 Foster Children Visitation Amendments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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.) •DCFS will obtain consent from the legal guardian for visitation. The Child and Family Plan shall incorporate reasonable efforts for sibling visitation.
<p>HB 185 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"> •Incidental care means occasional care, not in excess of 5 hours a week and never overnight. •Foster parents must use reasonable and prudent judgement to select individuals to provide incidental care for children in foster care.
<p>HB 239 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"> •Judges will not be able to order children into DCFS custody due to delinquency. •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.
<p>HB 289: DID NOT PASS Grandparents Rights Amendments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Would have allowed a grandparent to petition for visitation of a child after an adoption by a relative was finalized. •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.
<p>SB 85 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"> •to permit a sibling group who re-enters foster care to return to a previous foster home •to place a sibling group in a home when one other child is already placed there •to place a child in a foster home where a sibling of the child resides •to place a child in a foster home where they previously resided

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 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



Utah Foster Care
5296 South Commerce Drive, #400
Murray, UT 84107

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!*