

♥ 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

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 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

Foster Dad of the Year 2017: Marcos Orozco

By: Nan Orozco



It would be hard to find a more involved father in his children's lives than Marcos.

In every placement over the last 6 years, he has never missed one court hearing, one family team meeting, one bio-family visit, and makes it to most of the doctor appointments as well. He has taken off countless hours of work to help with the children's needs even if it's for a day at the zoo.

He loves every child as his own and treats them with kindness and tenderness in their darkest hours. He gets up in the middle of the night for bottle feedings or nightmares. He teases and plays with the kids and teaches them how to take a joke, which teaches the children how to laugh off some of the comments that other children say that could be hurtful.

Marcos has been Daddy to a baby girl who was a Daddy's girl, who loved her bio-dad deeply, but couldn't be with him anymore. Marcos has taught a 15 month old boy, that men should be kind and gentle and loving and protective and trustworthy. The boy was so terrified of men, because of the abuse he suffered at the hands of his bio-dad, that he wouldn't be in the same room as men for two weeks. Marcos is now that little boy's favorite person and the man he goes

to for comfort and protection. Marcos has sacrificed time with friends, hobbies, and even retirement for the sake of these children. Marcos has a heart of gold and his children know it! They adore Marcos! He is their everything!

Karin Thorn, the family RFC, added:

They are very cute with their current placement. He is known amongst his friends and family to be the guy outside playing with the kids at a party, while all the other dads are inside on the couch.

They had to take a tough stand in the last Team Meeting and speak up for the kid's needs. They voiced that the transition was traumatizing for the children and advocated to move forward with reunification, even though the bio mom had screamed in their face and stormed out of the room during their previous meeting.



UTAH FOSTER CARE (UFC)

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TRAINER

Tina Porter

RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST

UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ (801) 538-4100

195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SLC

Salt Lake Region DCFS Offices

NEED TO REACH YOUR RFC?

CALL YOUR LOCAL DCFS OFFICE ...

Metro (801) 253-5720

1385 SOUTH STATE

Sandy (801) 253-5720

10008 SOUTH CREEK RUN WAY

Tooele (801) 253-5720

305 NORTH MAIN STREET

West Valley (801) 253-5720

2655 SOUTH LAKE ERIE DRIVE

FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

utahfostercare.org/saltlake



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!*

KEARNS/MAGNA

Rachel B (801) 651-3098
richoblackmer@gmail.com

SANDY/DRAPER CLUSTER

Janet (801) 867-1552
jmclain6@outlook.com

SOUTH VALLEY WEST CLUSTER

Heather (801) 560-3238

WEST JORDAN CLUSTER

Ruthanne (801) 652-5500

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Tina (801) 994-5205

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LEVEL 3 CLUSTER

Jessica (801) 831-2029

TOOELE CLUSTER

Stephanie (801) 682-5925
Blair (801) 200-8150

SPANISH CLUSTER

Ruth (801) 568-6632

FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUTH

Session 2

Terri Rowley, LCSW

June 26; 5:30-9:30pm

Fred House Academy/14727 Minuteman Dr

The Effects of Trauma on
Adolescent Development.

Fred House Academy is located in Draper.

FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUTH

Session 3

Terumi Sagers, BS

July 31; 5:30-9:30pm

Fred House Academy/14727 Minuteman Dr

Introduction to Life Skills
Assessment & Learning Plans.

Fred House Academy is located in Draper.

FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUTH

Session 4

Maggie Noyes, SSW

August 28; 5:30-9:30pm

Fred House Academy/14727 Minuteman Dr

Transition to Adult Living Skill Building.

This is the end of the Summer series.

Fred House Academy is located in Draper.

FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUTH

Session 1

Liz Rivera, MS, SSW

September 25; 5:30-9:30pm

Fred House Academy/14727 Minuteman Dr

Introduction & Solution-
Focused Relationships.

This is the start of the Autumn series.

Fred House Academy is located in Draper.

HEALING TRAUMA

Part 1 & 2

Terumi Sagers, BS

July 11; 10am-1pm

UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400

Introduction to Trauma-Informed
Care: Understanding how children
may respond to traumatic events.

HEALING TRAUMA

Part 3 & 4

Terumi Sagers, BS

July 18; 10am-1pm

UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400

Understanding Trauma's Effects &
Building a Safe Place for Children: How
trauma can interfere with a child's
development and functioning and
how to help them begin to feel safe.

HEALING TRAUMA

Part 5 & 6

Terumi Sagers, BS

August 1; 10am-1pm

UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400

Dealing with Feelings and Behaviors
& Connections and Healing: How to
help children develop new emotional
skills and positive behaviors.

HEALING TRAUMA

Part 7 & 8

Terumi Sagers, BS

August 8; 10am-1pm

UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400

Becoming an Advocate & Taking
Care of Yourself: Become a trauma-
informed advocate and increase your
personal coping skills and resiliency.

KEARNS/MAGNA & WVC**Playful Interactions****Daniel & Laura Hamilton****June 5; 6-8pm***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

Trust-Based Relational Intervention, effective approach to parenting children from hard places. The 1st hour is a training and the 2nd hour is hands on and buliding community support.

LUNCH & LEARN**Summer Ideas for Fun & Learning****Terumi Sagers, BS****June 8; Noon-1pm***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

Various speakers every month. Bring your own lunch on odd months. We will feed you on the even months.

SALT LAKE**Office of Licensing****Licensors****June 14; 6-8pm***Foothill-Andersen Library / 1135 S 2100 E*

The Administrators from the Office of Licensing will join us to discuss Licensing issues and protocol.

SANDY/SVW & LEVEL 3**Improving Connections****Becky Pierce****June 21; 6-8pm***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

Becky will be presenting on attachment and connection. Her focus will be on understanding attachment and ideas for improving connection with our children. Becky is trauma trained and TBRI trained.

WEST JORDAN & MURRAY**Positive Discipline****Les Harris****June 28; 6-9pm***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

If you haven't heard Les Harris present on Positive Discipline...you have to! It's informative and fun!

KEARNS & MAGNA**Healthy Touch****Daniel & Laura Hamilton****July 3; 6-8pm***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

Trust-Based Relational Intervention, effective approach to parenting children from hard places. The 1st hour is a training and the 2nd hour is hands on and buliding community support.

WJORDAN & MURRAY**Early Child Development****DDI Vantage****July 10; 6-8pm***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

We will learn about general child development for young children.

LUNCH & LEARN**Headstart Program****Amy Whittemore****July 13; 12-1pm***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

Various speakers every month. Bring your own lunch on odd months. We will feed you on the even months.

TOOELE**TBA**

Information coming soon!

Watch Facebook for details.

MINDFULNESS: BRAIN TRAINING**Terumi Sagers, BS****June 5, 12, 19, 26; 10-11am****July 3, 10, 17, 31; 10-11am***UFC Murray / 5296 S Commerce Dr. #400*

Bring your children ages 5-12 to this FUN class to learn more about how their brains work and strategies for calming their big emotions.

RSVP FOR CLASSES & CLUSTERS!

If a class or Cluster is cancelled, moved or rescheduled, we can only alert you if you've RSVP'd! Help us, help you — RSVP!

RSVP: LIZ RIVERA
(801) 994-5205 OR
liz.rivera@utahfostercare.org

RFC Kudos Corner

By Karin Thorn, Resource Family Consultant (RFC)

Ben and Felicity Gotsch's road to adoption was long and bumpy. Their kids were first placed with them in December, 2015 and they were finally able to adopt in February 2017. During that time they had 2 Judges, 2 Assistant Attorney General's (AAG's), 5 caseworkers, 2 caseworker supervisors, a trial home placement and an appeal. During the ups and downs, a baby was added to the family.

Felicity never complained about long drives for Team Meetings and visitation. The Gotsch's fortunately had constant support from the RFC and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL).

Once they had the kids back in her home, they didn't seem to care how long it took for them to be adopted, they were just happy to have them.

Kuddos to the Gotsch family for their patience, and their gifted parenting. May you have many years of joy as a family.



Dr. Stuart Ablon did an exceptional job presenting at the Utah Foster Care Symposium! He proposes that we start "rethinking challenging kids." If you would like to find out more information about Collaborative Problem Solving, a revolutionary, evidence-based approach for helping children with behavioral challenges, please go to: Think:Kids at www.thinkkids.org

RFC Assignments by Zip Code

Kayla Maxfield (801) 916-4945

84020 (South side of Draper/Suncrest),
84065, 84096 (Riverton), North side of Utah County

Jamie Hayden (801) 755-7248

84081, 84118, 84119, 84120, 84123, 84129

Jill Druce (435) 224-2714

84029, 84044, 84071, 84074, 84128

Lori Zumbrunnen (801) 755-7646

84009, 84088, 84095, 84096 (Herriman)

Cindy Delgadillo (801) 859-5732

Spanish Speaking
84020 (North side of Draper), 84070, 84084, 84092,
84093, 84094

Karin Thorn (801) 809-6964

84047, 84102, 84103, 84104, 84105, 84106, 84107, 84108,
84109, 84115, 84116, 84117, 84121, 84124

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!*