

♥ 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

2017 Southwest Region

Foster Dad of the Year: Paul Sullivan

By: Cindy Sullivan



I would have nominated Paul before now, if we hadn't always been loaded with children in care, adopted children, and helping with respite care when we could over the past 17 years. Now we are having a break, so here it goes. He has always been so willing to move furniture, take down bunk beds, and cribs to be set up on different floors and in 7 different bedrooms to match the age, gender and temperament of the 91 children in foster care and sibling groups we have parented over the last 17 years. Sometimes we have had to move rooms of children already in our home. Our bio children have had to do the same sometimes and bless their hearts they have never complained!

Paul has willingly put up to 10 closet hooks in each of the bedrooms and bathroom and replaced many, many towel racks, sink drains, tub drains, garbage disposals, and even replaced a toilet that a toy would not budge out of. He has repaired stereos, couches, recliner chairs, entertainment centers, table lamps, etc. We could have filled out damage or replacement forms, but we didn't. He dealt with going into the pantry to find his favorite snacks gone over and over again (the empty box/bag still there)!

He has slept many a night by himself so that I can sleep on the floor by a scared child; or handling a crying baby that won't stop all night. He has sacrificed many a date night for a sick child or behaviors that we could not leave.

He has also been a shoulder to cry on when a few of my favorite things have gotten broken, or when a child in foster care goes back home. With all the sacrifices he has made over the years, he has always been willing to let me keep fostering. About 5 years ago I asked him if he was still ok with us fostering. He said, "Well I am happy 95% of the time if we have children in foster care or not, so it's fine with me!!" What a great guy!

UTAH FOSTER CARE (UFC)

Southwest Region UFC Staff

Ben Ashcraft

LEAD FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Amy Bates

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Marissa Douglas

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT /

RETENTION SPECIALIST

Cliff Farnsworth

TRAINER

Denice Becham

TRAINER

Diane Callister

RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST

UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ (801) 538 - 4100

195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SLC

Southwest Region DCFS Offices

NEED TO REACH YOUR RFC?

CALL YOUR LOCAL DCFS OFFICE ...

Beaver (435) 438 - 3400

875 NORTH MAIN STREET

Cedar City (435) 865 - 5600

106 NORTH 100 EAST

Manti (435) 835 - 0780

55 SOUTH MAIN STREET, #24

Panguitch (435) 676 - 1400

665 NORTH MAIN STREET

Richfield (435) 896 - 1250

201 EAST 500 NORTH

St George (435) 652 - 2960

178 NORTH 200 EAST

FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

utahfostercare.org/southwest



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!*

CEDAR CITY CLUSTER

Diane (435) 656-8065

MANTI CLUSTER

Connie (435) 262-1347

RICHFIELD CLUSTER

Holly (801) 360-1967

ST GEORGE CLUSTER

KC (801) 592-2446
forkclark@aol.com

ST. GEORGE CLUSTER

Foster Parent Appreciation Event

June 3; 11:00am-3:00pm

350 Community Center Dr.

Free family swimming and pizza.

Location is the Washington City Rec Center.

ST. GEORGE CLUSTER

CPR/First Aid

Robert Hooper, Southern Utah CPR

July 11; 6:00-10:00pm

UFC Office / 491 E Riverside Dr #2B

Training will provide CPR/First Aid Certification (\$40.00 per person). Please RSVP to Diane Callister.

CEDAR CLUSTER

Book Review

Cliff Farnsworth, LCSW

June 21; 7:00-9:00pm

Festival Hall / 105 N 100 E

Training will provide a review of the books *The Connected Child* and *The Resilience Breakthrough*.

CEDAR CLUSTER

No Cluster meeting in July

Happy Independence Day!

“Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty.”

Brene Brown, *The Gift of Imperfection*.

RSVP FOR CLASSES & CLUSTERS!

If a class or Cluster is cancelled, moved or rescheduled, we can only alert you if you've RSVP'd! Also, if childcare is provided, it can only be offered to those who've RSVP'd. Help us help you — RSVP!

RSVP: CLIFF FARNSWORTH / (435) 656-8065

cliff.farnsworth@utahfostercare.org

RICHFIELD CLUSTER

Foster Care Appreciation Event

June 5; 6:00-8:00 pm

Gunnison City Pool / 45 W 300 N

Enjoy pizza and free swimming at the pool with other foster families.

RICHFIELD CLUSTER

Pizza at the Park

June 14; Noon-2:00pm

Richfield Rotary Park / 698 S 1000 W

Bring your family and enjoy pizza and let your children play at the park.

RICHFIELD CLUSTER

Pizza at the Park

July 12; 6:00-8:00pm

Richfield City Park / 75 E Center St

Bring your family and enjoy pizza and let your children play at the park.

MANTI CLUSTER

Foster Care Appreciation Event

June 5; 6:00-8:00 pm

Gunnison City Pool / 45 W 300 N

Enjoy pizza and free swimming at the pool with other foster families.

MANTI CLUSTER

Behaviors 101

Cliff Farnsworth, LCSW

July 19; 6:00-8:00pm

Manti City Office / 55 S. Main St.

Training will discuss potential causes to problem behaviors and how foster parents should respond.

PARENTING TIP

Rewards, punishment, and ignoring are often used as consequences.

What consequences Do & Don't Do:

- Do: Teach basic lessons and provide external motivation.
- Don't: Teach complex thinking skills, build relationships or help kids stay regulated.

Remember: when we interact with a child the most important tool we have is the relationship.



How the Sowards Family became Thirteen

By: Lucinda Sowards

Recently Southwest Region held a contest for families to have a chance to win one of three lovely playhouses from Vintage Revivals in St George. Lucinda Sowards, 17, of Cedar City wrote this amazing heartfelt essay that we just had to share.

I have never lived a life without love. I've never been afraid to go home after school, or uncertain of whether or not my parents would even be there. I may have never lived a life without love, but until my 4 foster siblings, I never knew how much love my home could truly hold.

Being a big sister has always been my most important role. I remember the day my parents told me they were getting certified to be foster parents. I thought they were crazy. We already had seven kids in our family at that time. Even though we tried to be, not all of our hearts were completely open to the idea. One fall evening I was with my dad at his office and he got a call from my mom telling him that we were bringing a little boy and girl into our home to foster and that they were on their way. We rushed home as quickly as we could. Looking out the window, a little cowboy hat was all I saw when they came to the door. The second Lilli (age 7) and Jaden (age 6) walked into my home with nothing but a bag of clothes my life was changed forever. They were immediately pulled into my heart.

Foster care is no fairy tale, the additional struggles foster children bring are completely over shadowed by the

internal struggle it is to see them in pain. It hurt me to see them cry for their parents. I still long to give them safety, consistency, and love.

Six month after Lilli and Jaden arrived, we welcomed their two little sisters which made me the oldest of eleven children! Eight under the age of ten. My family has grown so much, not only in numbers but in strength and capacity to love. I've seen firsthand how my siblings opened their hearts to these kids they had never met before. They share their home their toys, their parents, but most of all they share their love.

The most remarkable thing to me is how much my 4 foster siblings have improved since they moved in. Their performance in school has skyrocketed. They literally glow and the color has returned to their cheeks. They are happy and healthy. They love playing outside for hours on end. It gives them a chance to be kids and nothing else.

On April 17th 2017 we adopted Lilli, Jaden, Desiree, and Ava into our family. Where they once had uncertainty they now have a permanent home. Where there used to be hunger, there is now memories made around the dinner table every night. Before foster care my family may not have known a life without love, but because of it, my families hearts are full of more love and compassion than we ever had before.



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!*