

♥ 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

Western Region's New Retention Specialist

By: Heidi Naylor, Retention Services Specialist



I am excited to be joining Utah Foster Care as the new Retention Services Specialist in Western Region. I am honored to be working with such an amazing team.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for twenty years. I spent almost ten years working with the Utah County Drug Court program. When we adopted our first child, I decided to stay at home. When he turned three, we stumbled upon foster care. We moved through the licensing process quickly and began the roller coaster of fostering, reunification, and adoption. We have fostered children from babies to teens. We have added six more children to our family, including two sibling groups.

We believe that contact with birth families is important when it is safe and healthy for everyone. We work diligently on maintaining those relationships.

We have extensive experience with children who are autistic, have sensory processing disorders, who are sexually reactive, have fetal alcohol syndrome, drug exposure, suicidal ideation and ADHD.

I love to spend time in the mountains. I love everything about books. I wish my life had a sound track and am always listening to music. I competed in my first DOXA last year (Think Ragnar, only a triathlon) and lived to tell about it. I have spent time on the National Families Supporting Adoption Board, and I am a former Board member for Utah Foster Care.

I look forward to getting to know you better. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do for you at heidi.naylor@utahfostercare.org

UTAH FOSTER CARE (UFC)

Western Region UFC Staff

John Thill

LEAD FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Jennie Sheperd

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Terri Rowley

TRAINER

Maggie Noyes

TRAINER

Heidi Naylor

RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST

UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ (801) 538 - 4100

195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SLC

Western Region DCFS Offices

NEED TO REACH YOUR RFC?

CALL YOUR LOCAL DCFS OFFICE ...

Heber City (435) 657 - 4200

69 NORTH 600 WEST

Am Fork (801) 763 - 4100

861 EAST 900 NORTH

Orem (801) 224 - 7820

1106 NORTH 1200 WEST

Sp Fork (801) 794 - 6700

607 EAST KIRBY LANE

Provo (801) 374 - 7005

150 EAST CENTER STREET, SUITE 5100

Nephi (435) 623 - 7207

1403 SOUTH MAIN

Delta (435) 864 - 3869

39 SOUTH 300 EAST

Fillmore (435) 743 - 6611

55 WEST 100 NORTH

FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

utahfostercare.org/western



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!*

NORTH CLUSTER

Britta (801) 367-3329
brittakale@gmail.com

CENTRAL CLUSTER

Beth
utahcentralcluster@gmail.com

SOUTH CLUSTER

Teresa
utahsouthcluster@gmail.com

LEVEL III CLUSTER

Staci
staci0625@gmail.com

ADOPTION CLUSTER

Ronnett
adoptedfosterkids@gmail.com

UFC GROUP

Foundations for Youth, Class 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.

UFC GROUP

Foundations for Youth, Class 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.

UFC GROUP

Foundations for Youth, Class 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.

UFC GROUP

Foundations for Youth, Class 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.

Locate your Cluster...

North: Cities north of Lindon to the Utah County border

South: Cities south of Provo including Millard/Juab

Central: Provo/Orem & Wasatch/Summit (for now)

Level III: Those who care for Level 3 children

Kinship: Those who hold Kinship foster care licenses

Adoption: Those who have adopted from Utah's foster care system (with or without current licenses)

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: PHONE NUMBERS & E-MAIL ADDRESSES IN THE LEFT SIDEBAR.

KINSHIP

The Power of Positivity

Maggie Noyes, SSW

June 14; 6:30-8:30pm

Orem UFC/274 West Center Street

Learn how to build foundational relationships with your foster children, while reinforcing positive behaviors.

NORTH

It's All in the Family

Family Panel Discussion

June 19; 6:30-8:30pm

Orem UFC/ 274 W Center Street

Fostering children is a family affair. Come here from a variety of ages and stages as they talk about the joys and struggles of being a fostering family.

UFC GROUP

It's in the Bag

Terri Rowley, LCSW

July 6; 6:00-7:30pm

Orem UFC/ 274 W Center Street

We will learn a system of food storage that bags everything you need for a ready to go meal that simplifies cooking for youth and will make your unpredictable life easier.

CENTRAL

Drugs & Their Effects

Orem Police Dept.

July 20; 6:00-9:30pm

Orem UFC/ 274 W Center Street

Let's hear the most updated information about the war on drugs and what we should be aware of.

UFC GROUP

Positive Discipline

Maggie Noyes, SSW

July 27; 6:00-8:00pm

Orem UFC/ 274 W Center Street

Learn evidence-based parenting strategies to best deal with problem behaviors.

SOUTH

Communication through Art

Ann Measom

August 8; 6:00-9:00pm

Sp Fork DCFS/ 607 E Kirby Ln

Art tends to be one way kids open up and share their feelings. We will learn some of the fun things that spark their interest and start the flow of communication.

LEVEL 3

Love & Marriage

Terri Rowley, LCSW

August 11; 6:00-8:00pm

Orem UFC/ 274 W Center Street

Bring your spouse for a FUN night including our own version of the TV show "Love and Marriage," as well as some great insights into bettering your relationship as partners.

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING

According to the Office of Licensing, ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES ARE ACCEPTABLE. Feel free to find a course that suits you by searching "CPR/First Aid Training or Certification." FYI, you can take a totally free course at the following website [http://www.firstaidforfree.com/.](http://www.firstaidforfree.com/)

If you use this site, please take the "basic first aid" AND "Basic CPR" courses. They are separate courses and you will need each one to get licensed.

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.



Foster Mom of the Year



Congratulations to our Western Region Foster Mom of the Year Jessica Longmore! Jessica and her husband David have been foster parents since 2014. Jessica is a Registered Nurse with four biological children, who are all homeschooled. Jessica effectively juggles sporting events, therapy, doctor appointments, school activities, and more, while she teaches piano and music that she incorporates into her home atmosphere. All of this, while managing to attend to the emotional, psychological, and physical needs of her nine kids, including 5 children in foster care. One of her daughters was born with a life-threatening heart condition and will eventually require a heart transplant.

Jessica is known for doing fun projects and activities with her children who love her hugs, the fun trips she takes them on and her cooking. Jessica strives to understand the difficulties children in foster care experience by finding new ideas and resources to meet their individual needs. She is very gentle, kind, loving encouraging and nurturing, Jessica is consistent and a strong advocate for her children and others when needed.

Her Resource Family Consultant (RFC) Says, “She truly is amazing to work with and more importantly, has made a lasting impact and difference on the children she has cared for.”

Husband David writes: “Her kindness and compassion bless the lives of all those who know her. Each day as I am around Jessica, I become a better person because of her example.”

Her motto is “Love life and live it to its fullest” and she includes everyone in all of her exciting adventures.

Foster Dad of the Year

The Adam Ostmark Foster Dad of the year is Nate Ingles!

Pleasant Grove residents Nate and his wife Maren have been foster parents since 2015. The Ingles family took in a newborn girl who was ultimately diagnosed with liver cancer shortly after placement. Nate committed his time and energy to care for her, even taking extended time to work from home to meet her needs. Nate was at appointments, her first surgery and held her during her first chemotherapy treatment. Nate spent countless nights comforting her and cleaning up the messes from the effects of chemotherapy. When Nate was not at work, he was at the hospital caring for her. When discharged, he was involved in all of her aftercare.

Nate worked closely with her biological parents to inspire them to regain custody of their child while educating them in her medical care. When the biological parents relinquished their rights, they recognized Nate’s morals and loving nature. They said if they could not raise their daughter, they would not pick anyone other than Nate. Nate’s dedication, patience and unconditional love and commitment to his daughter have given them an unbreakable bond.

Congratulations Nate!



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!*