

♥ foster roster

A BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN UTAH : VOL 5, OCT & NOV 2011

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Foster Mom**





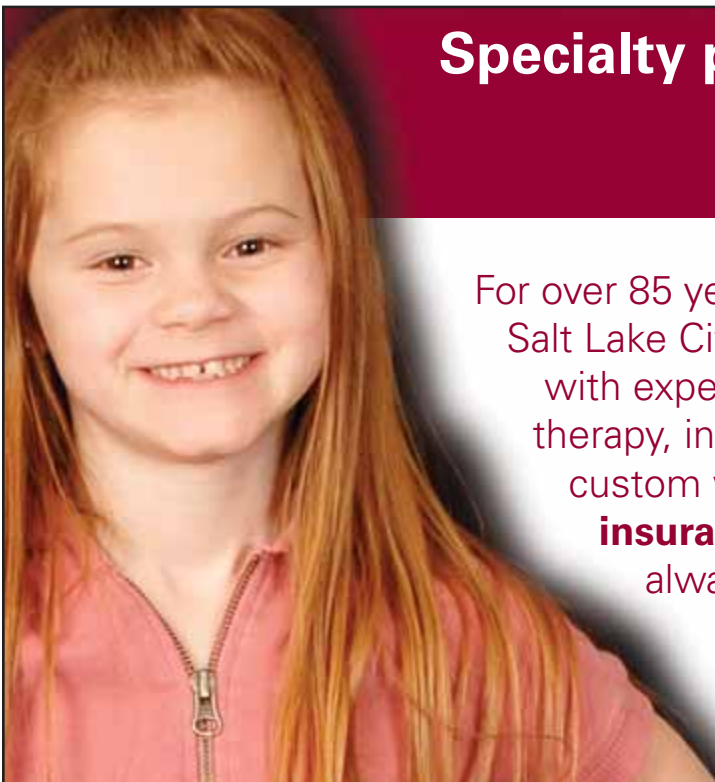
National Adoption Awareness Month with

Saturday, November 5th, 2011
11am – 2pm



(Draper & Kaysville locations)
The cost is \$5.00 for adults
\$3.00 for kids

For more information go to: utahadoptioncouncil.com
Pre-Registration Required.



Specialty pediatric orthopaedic care is just a phone call away.

For over 85 years Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Salt Lake City has been helping kids defy the odds with expert orthopaedic surgery, compassionate therapy, innovative prosthetics and orthotics, and custom wheelchairs. While **we now accept all insurance and Medicaid plans**, services are always provided regardless of insurance or the patients' ability to pay.



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

Our board-certified orthopaedic surgeons are currently accepting new patients. We've set up a toll free provider referral line to make it easier to refer a child for care.

Call **800.314.4283** to speak with our referral coordinator.

NOVEMBER IS ADOPTION MONTH

Celebrating Families

By Darcey Hirst, Retention Coordinator, Utah Foster Care Foundation



Heidi and Tim Naylor discovered the importance of keeping brothers and sisters in the same family. They now refer to their family as "The Naylor Nine," after adopting two sibling groups.

Utah Foster Care Foundation has had the privilege of serving the foster/adoptive families in Utah for 12 years. In that time, we have heard the stories of your families and we are humbled to "rub shoulders" with you.

Some of you foster to adopt in order to become first time parents, even if it is to a 16-year-old! Others wish to add to your family and some of you do it just because there is a need.

No matter the reason, we wish to salute you during Adoption Month in November.

Children come into your homes; you work with them and their birth families hoping to reunite the children and biological parents. The children always have a place in your hearts. When reunification is not possible, then you move to the next step and provide the children a home and a forever family.

Whether the children go home to their parents or are adopted, many of you maintain contact with members of the child's family.

We observe your families playing together and having fun at appreciation events such as Cowabunga Bay and Aspen Grove. We know that for some of the children these events are the first time they have been to a water park or on a family vacation. Those events remind us why we do the work we do.

So, as we celebrate adoptive families in November, let us know if you are finalizing an adoption in court. We love to post the photos of our families on our Facebook page and website. We are here to support you as you provide a family for children, if it is for a month or forever. ♥

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Utah Foster Care Foundation Offices

Murray

5296 S. Commerce Dr. #400
Murray, UT 84107
Phone: 801.994.5205
Fax: 801.994.5206
Toll Free: 877.505.KIDS

Ogden

3340 S. Harrison Blvd. #200
Ogden, UT 84403
Phone: 801.392.1114

Orem

252 N. Orem Blvd.
Orem, UT 84057
Phone: 801.373.3006

Price

475 W. Price River Dr. #152
Price, UT 84501
Phone: 435.636.0210

Roosevelt

RR 3 Box 8008
Roosevelt, UT 84066
Phone: 435.724.0959

Vernal

1052 W. Market Dr.
Vernal, UT 84078
Phone: 435.781.4224

Moab

180 S. 300 E., Suite C
Moab, UT 84532
Phone: 435.259.3345

St. George

321 N. Mall Dr. #B102
St. George, UT 84790
Phone: 435.656.8065

Richfield

201 E. 500 N.
Richfield, UT 84701
Phone: 435.896.1232



Scott Winterton, Deseret News

Utah Foster/Adoptive Families Association Update

By Happie Larson, President UFAPA

Utah Foster/Adoptive Families Association (UFAPA) would like to announce plans for an Open House in December. We hope this will allow all our foster, adoptive and kinship families to get to know our presidency, share ideas and offer suggestions for improvements.

UFAPA has engaged our DCFS and Utah Foster Care Foundation partners in meaningful and productive dialogue to help identify trouble areas and reach solutions to support our families and the children we serve.

We have also been able to share your many successes and have heard the message that Utah Foster/Adoptive Families is recognized and appreciated for the vital role we serve. It does take many partners to join together with solid goals, as we each serve children and families in crisis.

One area that has received much needed attention has been the services and support to our families post-adoption. We are working to rebuild an adoption support network, identify resources and develop mentors. Our partners recognize the need for these services, and have pledged to assist us in our post-adoption goals.

Please join our efforts on Facebook, or visit our website at MYUFAPA.COM.


We will post the date of the Open House soon on both sites! ♥

Thank you,
Happie

Got a Teen With College Aspirations?

The Olene S. Walker Scholarship Fund can help them fulfill their college dreams! Applications for spring semester are due in November. For details, go to <http://www.justforyouth.utah.gov/scholarship.htm> or contact Patti VanWagoner at 801-652-2173 or pwestern@utah.gov.





On Monday, August 1st, foster families from across the state came together to splash and splash at Cowabunga Bay Water Park! We would like to thank Cowabunga Bay for hosting this fun evening of pizza, drinks, popsicles, and of course waterslides!

Cowabunga Bay Foster Parent Appreciation Event

Wishing Well Funds

Utah Foster Care Foundation has funds available to meet the special needs of children in foster care when DCFS is unable to meet these needs for any reason. *Funds are limited.*

Requests **MUST** include the following:

- Child's first name, last initial and age
- Foster parent's name and home address
- Caseworker's name and contact information
- The item being requested and the associated costs
- Brief description of how the child will benefit

Request should come in writing by a foster parent, the child in care or the caseworker.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Dispersal of funds can take up to 4 weeks
- Checks are mailed to the foster parent's home address
- Funds are for children in foster care ONLY
- Items covered by the foster care reimbursement or by Medicaid are not eligible

VACATIONS:

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

SUBMIT REQUESTS TO YOUR RETENTION SPECIALIST:

Northern Region

McKenzie Palmer
Utah Foster Care Foundation
3340 S. Harrison Blvd. #200
Ogden, UT 84403 | 801.392.1114
mckenzie.palmer@utahfostercare.org

Salt Lake Valley Retention Specialist

Tina Porter
Utah Foster Care Foundation
5296 So. Commerce Dr. #400
Murray, UT 84107 | 801.994.5205
tina.porter@utahfostercare.org

Western Region Retention Specialist

Jessica Hannemann
Utah Foster Care Foundation
252 N. Orem Blvd.
Orem, UT 84057 | 801.373.3006
jessica.hannemann@utahfostercare.org

Eastern Region Retention Specialist

Faith Spencer
Utah Foster Care Foundation
RR Box 8008
Roosevelt, UT 84066 | 435.724.0959
faith.spencer@utahfostercare.org

Southwest Region Retention Specialist

Diane Callister
Utah Foster Care Foundation
321 N. Mall Dr. #B102
St. George, UT 84790 | 435.656.8065
diane.callister@utahfostercare.org



Utah Foster Care
FOUNDATION



Editor's Note: Foster parent Dawn Meehan of South Jordan, Utah realized her dream last summer...living on an island for six weeks and competing in the CBS show "Survivor: South

Pacific." In describing her family of eight, she hopes other Utah families will consider becoming foster parents and adopting through foster care.

By Dawn Meehan, Foster & Adoptive Parent, "Survivor: South Pacific" contestant

We're the Meehan family and we have 6 beautiful children — all through the miracle of adoption. Our family consists of four girls and two boys, ranging in ages 16 to 7. And our most recent additions, Ray and Elle, were a sibling group that we adopted here in Utah through the foster care process almost two years ago.

When we first began our adoption journey, I'm not sure Dave or I ever imagined we'd be the parents of six children! But with each adoption we became very close with our children's birth families--and we felt a bond with them very much like the bond we feel for our own families. As a result, we realized: fostering is something we can do.

Now, when most people hear the words "foster family," it sounds so overwhelming. But in reality, being a foster family is really nothing more than being a support or a resource to a family going through a crisis. And when a sister, brother or neighbor needs our help in the middle of a crisis, most people are more than willing to help. So, why wouldn't we do the same for another neighbor or friend in our community? (You would!)

Becoming a foster family just made sense to us. Particularly when we considered all of the training, education and support services we would have available to us as we brought children into our home. We knew we wouldn't be alone. We would have a community of support. Literally.

We know that many situations and circumstances with foster care are, in

fact, difficult. But, what we try to teach our children is that life can be difficult. That's okay. Life doesn't have to be easy — in fact, it may be hard. And that's okay, too: we can do hard.

We are so thankful we've been able to foster and eventually adopt our children. They have given our lives joy, purpose... and lots of reasons to grow! And I think they would agree, this life experience of foster care and adoption has given their lives joy, purpose... and lots of reasons to grow! ♥

Keep up with Dawn's adventures at www.facebook.com/UtahFosterCareFoundation. Invite family and friends to "LIKE" us too!

"The great breakthrough in your life comes when you realize that you can learn anything you need to learn to accomplish any goal that you set for yourself. This means there are no limits on what you can be, have or do."

—BRIAN TRACY



Training Opportunity:

Presented by Sam Bracken, author of *My Orange Duffel Duffel Bag: A Journey to Radical Change*

Wednesday, October 26th 8:00am – 3:00pm
Old Methodist Church
607 26th St. Ogden, UT 84401

To register go to: <http://sambracken.eventbrite.com/> or
Call Brenda Durtschi at 801-392-1114, ext. 11

Registration is free and lunch will be provided.

***This conference is for caregivers of youth in foster care. Including Caseworkers, Foster Parents, Proctor Parents and Guardians ad Litem. You will receive 6 hours of training for attending. Child care will be provided by Family Support Center of Ogden. Call 801-393-3113 to reserve your spot.

Sponsored by Northern Region Quality Improvement Committee (QIC).

Hello Everyone!



My name is McKenzie Palmer and I am your new Northern Region Retention Specialist for Utah Foster Care Foundation. I realize that I have some really big shoes to fill, but I promise to do my best. I have heard so much about what great foster parents we have in our region and can't wait to meet everyone!

Just so you know a little about me, I am from Farmington, Utah and have lived there most of my life. I graduated from Davis High School, and then went on to BYU where I graduated in Marriage, Family, and Human Development last December. I have always wanted to work for Utah Foster Care Foundation and was so excited when I got the opportunity. This is something I am truly passionate about. I am so excited to get started and get to know you. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email me any time. See you soon. ♥

McKenzie Palmer, N. Region Retention Specialist
Phone: 801-392-1114 ext. 12
Email: mckenzie.palmer@utahfostercare.org

Party on the Boulevard

By Brenda Durtschi, Northern Region Area Representative
Utah Foster Care Foundation

Utah Foster Care Foundation was recently invited to set up a recruitment table at the “Party on the Boulevard” on Wednesday, August 24th. Four local restaurants closed down Heritage Park Boulevard in Layton and threw a big street party! Roosters Brewing Company, Corbin’s Grille, MacCool’s Public House and Holy Smoke BBQ began hosting this annual event 5 years ago. Musicians and local artists, children’s activities and classic car show, and many eateries packed the street for a free summer celebration.

As an event created by the community for the community, it was a wonderful surprise when Home 2 Suites by Hilton announced they were having a drawing and offered opportunities to make donations to the Foundation. We also had our very own Doug Young, foster father, with his two sons art chalking on the street in front of our recruitment table. Not only was I visited by families interested in foster care and adoption, I had current and former licensed families coming by to chat. We have some really amazing families in our community. ♥



Northern Region

www.utahfostercare.org

Northern Region Office
3340 S. Harrison Blvd. #200
Ogden, UT 84403
Phone: 801.392.1114
Fax: 801.392.1112
Toll Free: 877.392.1114

Area Representative
Brenda Durtschi

Foster/Adoptive Family Recruiter
Maryanne McFarland

Trainer
Brian Young | 801.475.5537

Retention Specialist
McKenzie Palmer

Division of Child and Family Services

Resource Family Consultant (RFC)
Contact Information

Teri Erickson 435.787.3427
(Cache County)
terickso@utah.gov

Kathy Espinoza 801.629.5883
kespinoz@utah.gov

Karen Fronk 801.395.5967
kfronk@utah.gov

Linda Rickenbach 801.395.5967
lrickenb@utah.gov

Sherrin Weiss 801.395.5986
sweiss@utah.gov

Maegen Bernardo 801.395.5986
(Supervisor)
mbernard@utah.gov



SO. CENTRAL DAVIS

Making Holidays Magic

Presented by Amanda Burke

We'll talk about planning for the holidays, understanding different cultural perspectives and traditions and possible ways to involve birth parents in their children's holiday activities.

October 11 • 6 pm – 8 pm
Bountiful DCFS
57 W. 200 N.

SO. CENTRAL DAVIS

2nd Annual Davis Cluster Family Ice Skating Party

Presented by Amanda Burke

Please call Amanda 801-298-6381 for more information, and watch for an upcoming flier with date and time.

So. Davis Recreation Center

No meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your families.

NORTH OGDEN

Peaceful Parenting

Presented by Kathy Searle

Parenting is a challenge. Peaceful parenting is a skill. Knowing the reality of your own limits, perceptions and expectations helps you know how to set those to create more of a sense of control and peace in your home for all members of the family.

October 12 • 6 pm – 9 pm
Ogden DCFS
950 E. 25th St.

NORTH OGDEN

Combined Cluster Family Movie Night

Enjoy a family-friendly movie with popcorn and soda pop! Movie will be determined by what is available in the theatre at the time of showing and will begin at 6:30pm. Come at 6pm to pick up your popcorn, get seated for the movie, and have fun!

November 7 • 6 pm
Cinepoint 6
151 12th St. Ogden

No meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your families.

JOIN THE PEER PARENT TEAM!

Presented by Pam Takos, Northern Region Peer Parent Coordinator

Peer parents teach parenting, home management, and life skills while providing a support system to families receiving DCFS intervention. If you are interested, please plan on attending the next Basic Peer Parent Training. Contact Pam Takos, 801-397-1363 or grystone@burgoyne.com to register for the training. This training also counts towards foster care in-service training hours.

*Are you more interested in working with youth? The Youth Advocate Program might be just what you're looking for! Call Pam Takos for more information.

October 8 • 9 am – 1 pm • Clearfield DCFS, 1350 E. 1450 S. (Enter on the south side)



Weber West
Facilitator: Suzy
Phone: 801.882.9460
suzys56@yahoo.com



Cache Valley
Facilitator: Laura
Phone: 435.753.7232
laura.nelson@digis.net



Level III
Facilitator: Rachel
Phone:
ewewilson76@yahoo.com



North Davis
Facilitator: Danyelle
Phone: 801.510.1960
dany3113@comcast.net



Box Elder
Facilitator: Jenn
Phone: 801.643.0630 talk or text
boxeldercluster@yahoo.com



South Central Davis
Facilitator: Amanda
Phone: 801.298.6381
david@davidburkemusic.com



Ogden
Facilitator: Amber
Phone: 801.814.5693
tsprague3686@msn.com



Utah Foster Care
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LLEVEL III**Being Involved in Your Child's Therapy**

Presented by Don Sutton, LCSW

Knowing how you can be the most effective in helping your child with the therapeutic process will be the focus of this training.

October 18 • 10 am – 12 pm
Ogden DCFS
950 E. 25th St.

Meeting in November to be announced.

LEVEL III**Cluster Holiday Luncheon**

Watch your email for further information.

December 20 • 10 am – 12 pm
Ogden DCFS
950 E. 25th St.

BOX ELDER**Networking Night**

Presented by Jennifer Gardner

Come prepared to discuss ideas and strategies on behavior modification, dealing with respite care issues, successes and challenges to providing foster care, and other issues. As always, an RSVP will get you entered in the \$25 gift card drawing.

Light refreshments served.

October 21 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Brigham DCFS
1050 N. Medical Drive

BOX ELDER**Combined Cluster Family Movie Night**

Enjoy a family-friendly movie with popcorn and soda pop! Movie will be determined by what is available in the theatre at the time of showing and will begin at 6:30pm. Come at 6pm to pick up your popcorn, get seated for the movie, and have fun!

Please RSVP to Jenn Gardner
boxeldercluster@gmail.com or talk/text
801-643-0630 so we know how many to plan for

November 7 • 6 pm
Cinepoint 6
151 12th St. Ogden

No meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your families.

CACHE**The Effects of Domestic Violence**

Presented by Connie May, DCFS

Connie, from the Logan DCFS office, will talk about Domestic Violence and the effects on the kids we take care of each day. Her experience will help to us know what we can do to deal with this growing problem. Childcare will be provided if you RSVP Laura Nelson 435-753-7232.

October 21 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Logan DCFS
115 West Golf Course Road

CACHE**CANS Assessment Training**

Presented by Jennifer Larson, DCFS Trainer

DCFS has a new assessment tool to help determine the level of care for children in state custody. Foster parent input is a valuable part of this assessment. Learn about the assessment and how you can help!

November 18 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Logan DCFS
115 West Golf Course Road

No meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your families.

N. DAVIS/WEBER W.**An Evening with the Director**

Presented by Carol Baumann, DCFS Northern Region Director

Take advantage of this opportunity to talk with the Director about current issues facing the Division, as well as having a chance to ask and be asked questions about how to improve our working relationship.

October 12 • 6 pm – 8 pm
Clearfield DCFS
1350 E. 1450 S.

N. DAVIS/WEBER W.**Combined Cluster Family Movie Night**

Enjoy a family-friendly movie with popcorn and soda pop! Movie will be determined by what is available in the theatre at the time of showing and will begin at 6:30pm. Come at 6pm to pick up your popcorn, get seated for the movie, and have fun!

Please RSVP to Danyelle
dany3113@comcast.net

November 7 • 6 pm
Cinepoint 6
151 12th St. Ogden

No meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your families.

ALL KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**A Tradition of Caring: Supporting Kinship Caregivers**

Presented by Brian Young, SSW

The experiences of kinship caregivers involved formally with the child welfare system differ from those who provide care informally. This program helps families with general kinship issues, addressing changes in family dynamics and helps promote the children's needs for lifelong connections.

November 18, 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Ogden DCFS, 950 E. 25th St.

Native American Culture Kits

By Jacci Yeager, Child Welfare Administrator, Regional Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Specialist

Why not stay in for dinner and a movie? Check out Northern Region's Native American Culture Kits and experiment with Native recipes from Beverly Cox's and Martin Jacobs' *Spirit of the Harvest* cookbook. Game, fish, squash, fruit and nuts are featured ingredients, with tribal food preparation information included – it's more than a cook book – it's a history lesson! For relaxing entertainment put *Tales of Wonder I and II* in your DVD player, and watch master storyteller, Gregg Howard, tell traditional children's stories that have been passed down through generations of Native Americans.

The goal of the kits is to maintain or facilitate a child's identity to their

Native roots in accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, and provide educational and cultural information to caregivers. The kits contain a variety of children's books with Native American themes with some books specific to tribes that reside in Utah, activity books, 2 CDs of American Indian Music, and interactive activity cards. Whether you are currently fostering a Native American child or not, the kits can provide hours of entertainment and education for the whole family.

There are 3 kits available in our region. The kits are maintained by Stephanie Stuart, 801.776.7441, for the Clearfield/Bountiful offices, Chuck Berglund, 801.395.5988, for the Ogden office

and Jacci Yeager, 435.787.3417, for the Brigham City/Logan offices. Call or ask your caseworker about the kits and have your worker drop it off on their next home visit. Keep the kit until the next home visit and return to the worker for another family to use.

Tune into 90.9 KRCL, *Circle of Life* program, on Sunday mornings from 7 – 10 a.m. to hear Native American music and learn of local events. Try the Utah Division of Indian Affairs website to find additional resources and learn of future activities. The Indian Walk-In Center, 120 West 1300 South, SLC, 801.486.4877, is another great resource.

As the procurer of the Native American Culture Kits, I am very interested in hearing if families find the kits useful. Please feel free to give me a call and let me know your thoughts on the kits. Jacci Yeager – 435.787.3417. ♥

The Giving Tree Program

It might seem way too early to be talking about Christmas, school just started after all, but it is time for Utah Foster Care Foundation to begin our annual Giving Tree Program. The U.S. Air Force has requested to continue their participation in joining with us and Santa for Christmas 2011, bringing their special military delivery to each of your homes.

The Giving Tree Program allows children in foster care to request specific gifts they would like to receive. The child's first name, age and wish will be written on an ornament which is placed on a tree. Members of our respective neighborhoods sponsor the trees at their places of employment, churches, etc... Please keep in mind that the Giving Tree Project is donor-driven and it is up to them to fill your requests. Due to the increasing number of children in care, our seasonal project will be serving only those children who are in foster care. If you need additional support, you may contact the Foundation after the completion of our project for extra donations that may have been dropped off.

To be included in the Giving Tree Program, each foster parent must submit the request form before October 28. Watch your mailbox for more information. Each child may make 3 wishes,

up to \$25 per wish. Gift cards have been a popular request, especially from teens, but keep in mind that many donors commented that they prefer picking out a gift. We cannot guarantee that a donor will not make a substitution for gift cards.

If a child is moved after you submit your form or if a child comes into care after the deadline, please notify us ASAP.

Gifts will be delivered to your homes on December 15. Please be prepared with a note of thanks to the Airmen that arrive with your delivery. This is a perfect time to recognize their dedication to serving our country as well as the Foundation. They will be using their personal vacation time and gas to keep you out of the cold to run another December errand.

Thank you for being a part of our Foundation and our Christmas endeavors! Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the project or your specific wishes. ♥

McKenzie Palmer, N. Region Retention Specialist
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mckenzie.palmer@utahfostercare.org



A Message from Molar Man

Burg Pediatric Dentistry, www.burgpediatricdentistry.com

Dental Emergencies

As the fall sports season starts up, there will be upwards of 3 million teeth knocked out, and hundreds of thousands of sports-related accidents. Most doctors and dentists marvel at the fact that we attend years of university training to learn what most Moms can often determine by simply looking at her child's eyes, and gently feeling swelling ankles...

However, even the most proficient Dr. Mom needs a few reminders now and then. So, to shore up all the Dr. Moms in our practice, here they are – which we like to call and so we do, **The Burg Dental Emergency Primer:**

Toothache:

Clean the area of the affected tooth thoroughly. Rinse the mouth vigorously with warm water or use dental floss to dislodge impacted food or debris. If the pain still exists, contact our office. **DO NOT** place aspirin on the gum or on the aching tooth. If the face is swollen apply cold compresses and again contact our office immediately.

Cut or Bitten Tongue, Lip or Cheek:

Apply ice to bruised areas. If there is bleeding apply firm but gentle pressure with a gauze or cloth. If bleeding does not stop after 15 minutes or it cannot be controlled by simple pressure, take your child to the hospital emergency room.

Knocked Out Permanent Tooth:

Find the tooth. Handle the tooth by the crown, not the root portion. You may rinse the tooth but **DO NOT** clean or handle the tooth unnecessarily. Inspect the tooth for fractures. If it is sound, try to reinsert it in the socket. Have the patient hold the tooth in place by biting on gauze. If you cannot reinsert the tooth, transport the tooth in a cup containing the patient's saliva or milk. If the patient is old enough, the tooth may also be carried in the patient's mouth. The patient must see a dentist **IMMEDIATELY!** Time is a critical factor in saving the tooth. ♥

www.burgpediatricdentistry.com



When in doubt, find out. Call us.

Emergency dental care is actually a specialty of ours – so, keep our name, phone and address handy: in your car, at home and make sure that your child's school records are up to date with our office contact information as well. To make this easier, below is a listing of our offices. ♥

Cottonwood Office

7050 S. 2000 E., Ste. 110
SLC, UT 84121 | **801-943-3233**

Vine Street Office

678 E. Vine St., Ste. 12
Murray, UT 84107 | **801-268-1135**

Eastgate Office

1580 E. 3900 S., Ste. 110
SLC, UT 84124 | **801-272-8555**

Lone Peak Office

1030 E. 11400 S., Ste. 101
Sandy, UT 84094 | **801-553-8882**

Park City Office

1901 Prospector Ave.
Park City, UT 84060 | **435-649-5001**

Oquirrh Park Office

6973 South 4800
West Jordan, UT 84084 | **801-438-8607**

Stansbury Park Office

220 Millpond Dr., Ste. 107
Stansbury Park, UT 84074 |
435-843-5437





Andrew

Birthday: 11/1995
Grade in School: 10th
Heritage: Caucasian

Becoming a chef at a five-star restaurant might be in the future for Andrew! Cooking is one of his favorite activities and something he absolutely loves to do! In addition to whipping up a new culinary creation, Andrew enjoys helping others and spending time with adults. A dream he has is to graduate from high school and continue his education at college. Spending time outdoors is something else Andrew finds exciting. Ready to make someone laugh, Andrew is funny and has a good sense of humor.

For more information, please contact:

The Adoption Exchange
(801) 265-0444
www.utdcfsadopt.org



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

Unique Wheelchair Program Gives Kids Mobility

By Mike Babcock, Director of Public Relations, Shriners Hospital for Children, Salt Lake City

Children come in all shapes and sizes; that's why one-size-fits all is not a good practice when it comes to providing wheelchairs to kids. At Shriners Hospitals for Children—Salt Lake City, customization is the name of the game. The hospital has developed a unique wheelchair seating and mobility program that meets the individual needs of patients with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, arthrogryposis and other pediatric orthopaedic conditions.



Each year approximately 400 patients receive their first wheelchairs and nearly 800 more get adjustments on existing chairs. Most patients who receive wheelchairs go through a three-step process.

Evaluation. Every child undergoes a thorough evaluation with a physical therapist to assess their environment, mobility, strength and coordination. Hospital staff work side-by-side with parents to make sure the wheelchair is right for the child's abilities and goals. Patients sit on a state-of-the-art computerized pressure mapping system to identify pressure points, and only the best cushioning materials are used to prevent pressure sores. A seating simulator ensures foot rests, arm rests, trunk supports and headrests meet each child's exact measurements.

Fitting. Once the evaluation is complete and the wheelchair is ready, patients are put through a comprehensive fitting process to ensure everything is in working order before they leave the hospital. For some, using a wheelchair is a new experience. Staff can utilize the hospital's spacious second-floor playroom as a proving ground where kids can freely explore open space and navigate obstacles with their new controls.

Growth & Repairs. Children grow up and machines break down. That's why the seating and mobility program offers repairs and adjustments as a child develops. Whenever possible, previously used wheelchairs in good working order are passed on to another child in need.

If current demand is any indicator of success, the wheelchair seating and positioning program at Shriners Hospitals for Children—Salt Lake City is providing an important resource and helping children with pediatric orthopaedic conditions live happy, healthy, productive lives. To refer a child for a wheelchair evaluation, call 800-314-4283. ♥

At Shriners Hospitals for Children, no child under the age of 18 with a treatable orthopaedic condition will be denied service. For more information or to refer a child for care call (800) 314-4283.

Sticks and Stones

By Allison R. Librett, Attorney, Van Cott, Bagley Cornwall & McCarthy, P.C.

Why Bullies Target Children in Foster Care

Bullies look for those who are different and who seem weak. Children in foster care are often a perfect target: They may be strikingly different, might be new to the area, and don't have strong roots. Add the fact that they may have been previously subjected to abuse or trauma, and chances are good that these children don't have the calm self-confidence so essential when dealing with bullies.

Signs of Bullying

It's rare for any child to complain about bullying to an adult; it becomes less likely when you are just starting to build trust with a child. However, you might be able to see some signs that indicate trouble:

- Monitor cell phone and computer use, and keep any home computers in a public area of the home. Cyberbullying is on the rise, but if you are monitoring closely, you may be able to discover a problem early.
- It may be harder with a child who is in foster care to know whether depression, withdrawn social behavior, underperformance in class, or reluctance to go to school are a result of previous trauma or not, but if you see any of these behaviors, be aware that bullying may be at the root.
- Listen to your child. Does the child show fear when talking about one or more students? Is your child's self-talk healthy or disparaging?
- Do you see bruises and scrapes? If so, is the explanation straightforward, or does it just not completely make sense? Are the injuries frequent? Maybe some physical abuse is involved.

If your child is being bullied, it is important that you take care of the problem before it reaches extreme levels. Bullying is dangerous to the physical well-being of your child. It is also damaging to self-esteem and confidence, which will negatively impact the child for years to come.

What to Do

Bullying is abuse. It should never be tolerated. There are several ways to approach bullying:

- Work on building a good relationship, and encourage your child to talk to you.
- Make sure you know the school's rules, and if necessary, advocate for your child's safety by talking with administrators and teachers about the problem.
- Meet with the bully's parents so you can all address the problems. After you do this, keep a close eye on your child — talking can either end the problem or aggravate it.
- Teach your child how to be more confident.
- Encourage hanging out with a group where possible.
- Role-play how to handle problem scenarios; acting out constructive behaviors can be very effective.
- You could provide your child with a good counselor or therapist.

Sometimes children in foster care have difficulty establishing good, protective boundaries. Some people use something called a cover story — they provide an explanation that presents part of the situation in a way that sounds ordinary, but withhold private details. Teach your child that just because people ask a question, that doesn't mean they are entitled to get an answer. A child can memorize noncommittal responses, answer a question minimally, or even refuse to respond at all. ♥

ALLISON R. LIBRETT is a member of Van Cott's Family Law Practice Group. Ms. Librett assists clients with divorce, pre/post nuptial agreements, custody, paternity, divorce modifications, enforcement of decrees, adoption, grandparent rights, guardianship and protective orders. Before joining Van Cott, Ms. Librett worked five years as an associate with Corporon & Williams, P.C., and also worked as a contract lawyer in Atlanta, Georgia. In recent months, there has been legislation addressing bullying in Utah schools. This new legislation is currently in the interpretive review process by the administration of various schools boards here in Utah. The Family Law Practice Group at Van Cott is at the forefront of this new legislation and how the law will interpret the responsibilities of the educational system.

This article should not be taken as legal advice, but as general information only. If you believe that you require the services of an attorney, we strongly encourage you to seek legal counsel regarding your specific circumstances. Ms. Librett can be reached at 801.532.3333.



Jennarae

Birthday: 05/1997
Grade in School: 10th
Heritage: Caucasian

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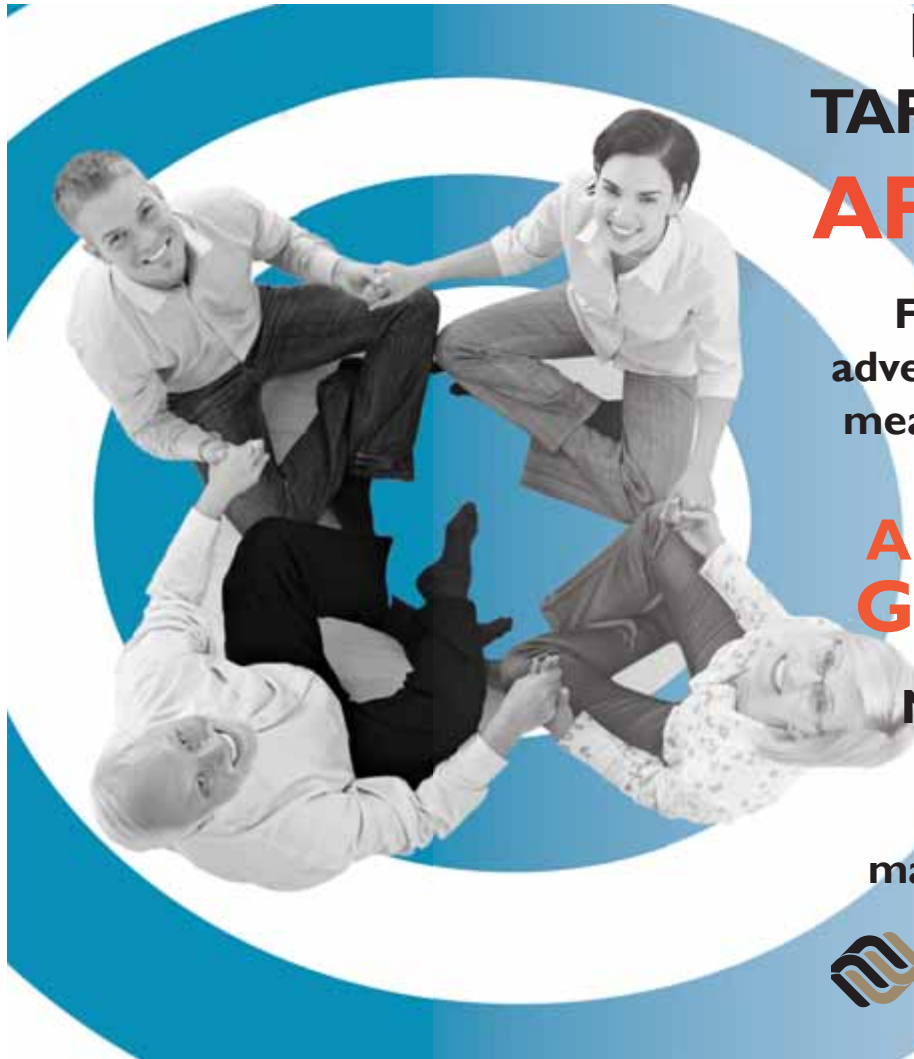
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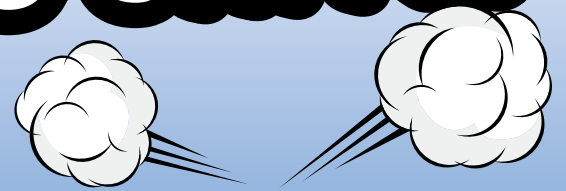
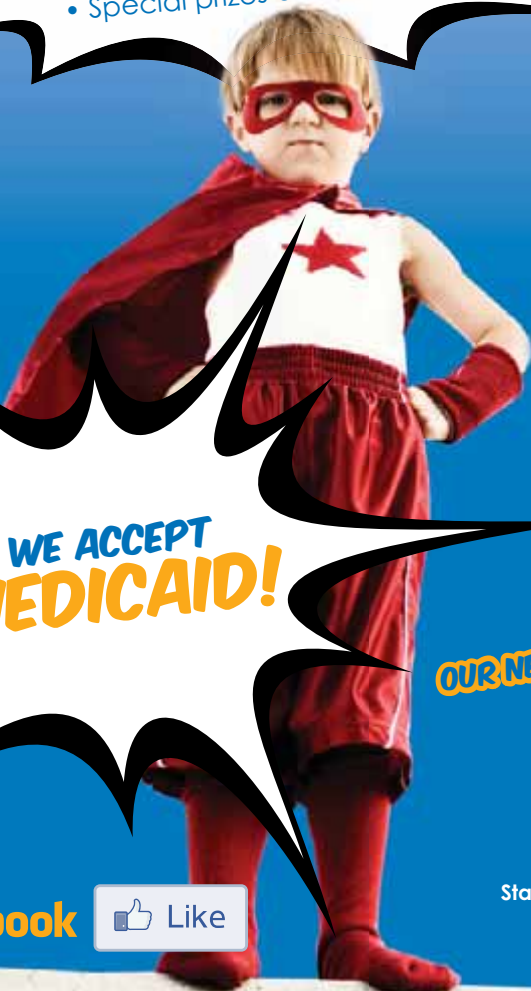
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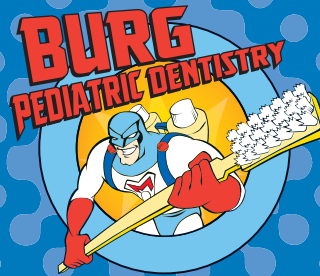
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