

FOSTER ROSTER

Utah's Foster Family Magazine

WELCOMING NEW FACES!

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TRAINING

Find upcoming training
info on Pages 6 & 7

WE HAVE A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!

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UTAH FOSTER CARE Symposium



**Paths to Connection;
Embracing Resilience, and
Amplifying Adoptee Perspectives**



Paths to Connection; Embracing Resilience and Amplifying Adoptee Perspectives
April 25th, 2024 Park City, Utah

AGENDA

8:30 am - 9:00 am

Registration and Light Breakfast - *Breakfast will begin at 8:30am*

9:00 am - 9:10 am

Welcome and Presentation of Fostering Community Award

9:10 am - 12:00 pm

Keynote Speaker: Cinda Morgan, LCSW, Director of Handful of Hope



Cinda Morgan, LCSW, is the founder and executive director of Handful of Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing resilience in children through partnering with parents. Cinda is passionate about improving the lives of children and families. She has worked with foster and adoptive families throughout her more than 25 years as a child and family therapist and is currently the clinical director of Wellspring Child and Family Counseling Center. Cinda has also been a full-time and adjunct instructor at Westminster University and has served on various boards and committees, including the Governor's Commission for Women and Families.

12 pm - 1 pm

Lunch buffet provided

1:10 pm - 4:00 pm (10 min break at 2:30pm)

Panel Discussion Facilitated by Lanette and Shaun Nelson of the Open Adoption Project —
Shifting the Focus to the Adoptee



Lanette Nelson is the producer and co-host of Open Adoption Project. Lanette has a Master of Public Administration degree from BYU and is currently working on a research project studying adoptee experiences with openness. Lanette grew up in Oregon, and enjoys hiking and reading.

Shaun Nelson is the editor and co-host of Open Adoption Project. Shaun has a Master of Public Administration degree from BYU and works in nonprofit administration. Shaun is from Colorado. He loves running and music, and conducts the Spanish Fork Chorale.



Lanette and Shaun created the top open adoption podcast, Open Adoption Project, in 2021. Open Adoption Project focuses on improving adoptee experiences by encouraging open communication between all members of the adoption constellation, nurturing ongoing open adoption relationships, and promoting ethical adoption practices. Open Adoption Project is available on all major streaming platforms and shares a broad spectrum of experiences and perspectives, particularly from adoptees. The show also features interviews with first-parents, adoption scholars, and others in the adoption community. As adoptive parents of four children, all experiencing open adoptions, Lanette and Shaun seek to create an environment of adoptee-focused listening on the podcast. In addition to a library of over 100 podcast episodes, openadoptionproject.org also features educational content and ebooks for prospective adoptive parents. Lanette and Shaun live in Utah County. Their family enjoys very open adoption relationships with first parents, grandparents, siblings, and more. The Nelsons feel strongly that open adoption offers more love for their children, and are passionate about advocating for child-centered openness.

5.5 credit hours for foster parents
5.5 NASW approved CEUs

IT COUNTS!

UTAH FOSTER CARE OFFICES

Murray

5296 South Commerce Dr.
Suite 400 Murray, UT 84107
Main: 801-994-5205
Fax: 801-994-5206
Toll-Free: 877-505-5437

Ogden

3340 South Harrison Blvd. Suite 110
Ogden, UT 84403
Main: 801-392-1114

Orem

274 West Center Street
Orem, UT 84057
Main: 801-373-3006

Price

475 West Price River Dr. Suite 152
Price, UT 84501
Main: 435-269-5978

Vernal

1680 West Highway 40 Suite 100
Vernal, UT 84078
Main: 801-743-7336

Moab

125 West 200 South Suite 121
Moab, UT 84532
Main: 801-514-7692

St. George

230 North 1680 East W-113
St. George, UT 84790
Main: 385-758-3661

Richfield

201 East 500 North
Richfield, UT 84701
Main: 435-979-2233

BONNIE & DEVIN

Utah Foster Parents



Soon after Bonnie and Devin married, they knew that fostering would be part of their story when they were contacted about a possible kinship placement. That placement never happened, but it got the wheels turning for future placements. They officially were licensed in November 2018 and got their first placement the following January. They ended up with a different kinship placement of three a few months later... and were indeed an instant family!

MEET THE VILLAGE



THANK YOU!

Over the past five years, they have welcomed nine placements, with four children becoming permanent members of their family through adoption.

Presently, they are in the midst of a home expansion project aimed to adding more rooms to accommodate additional children. Additionally, Bonnie plays a crucial role as the cluster facilitator in Sanpete County.

Thank you, Bonnie and Devin, for sharing your hearts and home with Utah's vulnerable children.





Meet Your Village: South Davis County RFC Amber Sory

By Anna Gibson, Retention Services, UFC

There's a new Resource Family Consultant in the Northern Region. Some of you may ask, "Who left the RFC team?" No one has left the team, but we are growing, and we need a NEW consultant! South Davis County will be her area; join me in welcoming Amber Sory to our village.

"Hello! My name is Amber Sory. I was born and raised in Roy, Utah. I grew up in a large family, which taught me how to care for children and get along with others. I have stayed in the general area but have moved around Layton/Clearfield as I have grown my own family. I have been married for three years, and I have five children. I enjoy reading, hiking, playing games with my family, watching movies, and camping, and I am open to trying most things at least once.

"I completed my Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a minor in child development at Weber State University in December 2018. When I started at Weber State, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I took a Social Work class and immediately felt at home. I knew I wanted to do something with a Social Work degree but wasn't sure what. As I continued in my classes, the feeling grew that I needed to be in the social work field. I applied to work at the Division of Child and Family Services and, again, felt at home. I loved the thought of trying to keep families together and working to support families and children safe. I began my time at the division working with Children in foster care on the foster care team. I worked in this position for about four years. This is what led me to be grateful for all that foster parents do and respect for how much love they had to share. When I saw the position open for a resource family consultant, I jumped at the opportunity and immensely enjoyed my experience with those I work with. I have been on the RFC team for about three months now, and I look forward to continuing my time with such amazing families."

Welcome, Amber; we are excited to have you on the team!

NORTHERN REGION UFC STAFF

Sandy Holbrook

LEAD FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Tracey Allred

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Anna Gibson

RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST / TRAINER

Brain Young

TRAINER

UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ

195 North 1950 West,
Salt Lake City, UT

Northern Region DCFS Offices

NEED TO REACH YOUR RFC?
CALL YOUR LOCAL DCFS OFFICE

Bountiful (801) 397-7640

57 West 200 North

Brigham City (435) 734-4075

1050 South Medical Drive, #B

Clearfield (801) 776-7300

1350 East 1450 South

Logan (801) 787-3400

115 West Golf Course Road, #B

CLUSTERS



Support groups for foster, adoptive, and kinship families who meet monthly for support & training.

CACHE CLUSTER

Mysti Anderson (435) 232-5274
mysti.jordan@yahoo.com

BOX ELDER CLUSTER

Melissa Rasmussen (801) 941-8933
presto_77@yahoo.com

OGDEN NORTH CLUSTER

Meg Costantino (801) 837-0180
megcostantino@gmail.com

OGDEN CLUSTER

Cami Anderson (435) 757-3548
camiaba3@gmail.com

WEBER WEST CLUSTER

Thomas Holbrook (801) 643-3957
thomasholbrook58@gmail.com

DAVIS NORTH CLUSTER

Shelena Crowton (801) 589-4202
beautiesnbows@yahoo.com

DAVIS SOUTH CLUSTER

Lisa Clark (801) 726-4121
cebllove1999@gmail.com

RSVP FOR TRAININGS:

Please register for all classes on Bridge. If you need help, please contact your regional trainer.

CACHE & BOX ELDER CLUSTERS

It's Movie Time!

April 2, 6:30 pm
Utah Theater | 18 W. Center St., Logan
Join us for a fun evening at the movies.

STATEWIDE

Human Trafficking

Denice Beacham
April 3, 10:00 am - Noon
Online!
We will discuss the dynamics of human trafficking.

WEBER WEST & OGDEN CLUSTERS

It's Spring Fling Time!

April 6, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Burch Creek Park:
4300 Madison Ave., Ogden
There will be fun family activities, lunch, and a scavenger hunt.

STATEWIDE

Celebrate Child Abuse Awareness

Denice Beacham
April 10, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Online!
We will examine the historical changes and decisions made to protect children and discuss our role in prevention and intervention.

NORTH DAVIS & SOUTH DAVIS CLUSTERS

Navigating Allegations

Brian Young & Maegen Bernardo
April 11, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Clearfield DCFS | 1350 E. 1450 S.
Easy to say, hard to do.
Let's talk about the process.
Dinner provided.

NORTHERN REGION

Establishing Healthy Boundaries

Maegen Bernardo, LCSW
April 16, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Ogden UFC | 3340 S. Harrison Blvd
Sometimes being willing to do anything to help others... can turn out to hurt us.

STATEWIDE

Single Foster Parent Cluster

April 22, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Online!
We meet every fourth Monday! Watch the Bridge app for the link and other info.

STATEWIDE

Combating Stigma & Mental Health Tips

Denice Beacham
May 8, 10:00 am - Noon
Online!
Celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month

*"Learn to calm down the winds of your mind,
and you will enjoy great inner peace." - Remez Sasson*

STATEWIDE

Accommodating Religious Differences

Arkin Hill MDiv Ministerial Leadership
May 11, 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Online!
Accommodating religious differences
for children in foster care.

BOX ELDER

Secondary Trauma & Self-care

Ruth Taylor, LCSW
May 14, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Perry FS Center | 2360 Hwy 89, Ste 2
We must take care of ourselves before
we can help others do the same.
Snacks provided.

WEBER WEST & OGDEN CLUSTERS

ADHD & ADD

Anson Counseling
May 14, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
UFC Ogden | 3340 Harrison Blvd
Understanding these challenges helps
us be better advocates,
whether an adult or a child.

NORTHERN REGION

Tips for Supporting Teens

Maegen Bernardo, LCSW
May 15, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Ogden DCFS | 950 E 25th St.
The Parent/Teen relationship. Sometimes
challenging, always exciting.

STATEWIDE

Sexual Boundaries

Amy Bates M.S.Ed
May 15, 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Online!
Helping your children with special
needs understand appropriate sexual
behaviors.

NORTH DAVIS & SOUTH DAVIS CLUSTERS

TBRI & Sensory Integration

Anna Gibson, SSW
May 17, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Clearfield DCFS | 1350 E. 1450 S.
How does it help? Join in the
discussion. Snacks provided.

CACHE CLUSTER

Navigating Allegations

Brian Young & Maegen Bernardo
May 17, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Logan DCFS | 1350 E. 1450 S.
Easy to say, hard to do.
Let's talk about the process.

STATEWIDE

Single Foster Parent Cluster

May 20, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Online!
We meet every fourth Monday!
Watch the Bridge app for the link and
other info.

TRAINING



To register for in-person classes,
please contact the Cluster Facilitator
sponsoring the training or your
region trainer.

You are welcome to attend
any class being offered.

When you've completed the training,
please complete the class
assignment in the Training Portal.

Brian Young, Northern Region
brian.young@utahfostercare.org

Terumi Sagers, Salt Lake Region
terumi.sagers@utahfostercare.org

Terri Rowley, Western Region
terri.rowley@utahfostercare.org

McKay Esplin, Eastern Region
mckay.esplin@utahfostercare.org

Denice Beacham, Southwest Region
denice.beacham@utahfostercare.org

Liz Rivera, Director of Education
liz.rivera@utahfostercare.org

TRAINING KEY

Online

In-Person

Both

INTRODUCING SAVANNAH SMITH

By Anna Gibson, Retention Services, UFC



Over the years, Utah Foster Care (UFC) has had the pleasure of having interns temporarily join our team while completing their bachelor's degrees. Some of those interns have permanently joined the UFC family, like our very own Director of Operations, Dan Webster. Interns offer a unique perspective and energy to our work. They take on tasks to help us grow and meet the needs of foster parents and the children they care for.

"Greetings, everyone! I am Savannah Smith, a committed Marriage and Family Studies student at Brigham Young University-Idaho. My academic journey has been enriched by a year and a half in South Carolina, a period of immense learning. I am back in Utah and ready to contribute to Utah Foster Care as an intern this semester.

My graduation is on the horizon, and I am excited to step into a career where I can positively impact the lives of children and families facing adversity."

Outside of my professional and academic commitments, I have been a wife to Travis for the past four years and a mother to a 3-year-old son, with a daughter on the way in April.

I am a full-time real-time analyst at Wayfair, a role that keeps me engaged. When I am not working, studying, or chasing my energetic toddler, I find solace in reading, experimenting with new recipes, taking walks, and indulging in reality TV and popular shows (currently, I am hooked on *Gilmore Girls*). I aspire to work with children and families navigating challenging circumstances. I have always felt a connection with these individuals and am driven to make a difference. While unsure about the exact path, I am confident I will discover it soon.

"Allow me to share some unique aspects about myself. I have a passion for playing the violin, a skill I have diligently cultivated over the years. My Native American heritage, being a quarter Native American, is a source of pride for me. Additionally, I am your go-to person if you ever need a beautifully handwritten note. I have been practicing calligraphy since childhood, and you will often find me doodling on any available paper."

Welcome, Savannah; we are excited to have you here at UFC!

TRAINING FROM RAISE THE FUTURE

APRIL

Parent Night Specialized Training
Transracial Adoption
April 19, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Virtual via Zoom
[REGISTER HERE](#)



MAY

Parent Night Specialized Training
Raising Teens with FASD
May 17, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Virtual via Zoom
[REGISTER HERE](#)





FOSTER FAMILY CAMP IS BACK!

WE HAVE AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

2015 was the last time we held Foster Family Camp at Aspen Grove – we have missed them, and it turns out they missed us! We are thrilled to announce that Aspen Grove has invited Utah Foster Care back to host Foster Family Camp once again.

Super Car Ron's fundraiser last December raised the money needed to provide this fun camp to foster families. We are grateful to him for his continued support.

If you and your family have been in the past, you know why we are excited about this opportunity – and if you haven't, it is a fantastic opportunity for connection.

Connection to your family, other foster families, and the beautiful mountains.

There will be family entertainment – kids groups for all ages – and parents; this is an opportunity to catch up on some in-service hours while your kids are cared for.



DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

We asked families what they liked best about camp, and here are a few responses shared with us:

“Well-organized family activities, delicious meals, comfortable accommodations...but the very best part was hearing from our adopted, foster, and biological children their happiness in sharing time with kids who "know what it's like!" When speaking to other parents, one could see it was the same way around the retreat. Many kids make positive connections and know they'll be okay. They're not alone.”

“We loved the ability to meet other foster families from around the state and enjoy a family weekend where everyone there understands some of the extreme behaviors we face with our kids rather than judging us for them.”

“I loved how relaxing the weekend was—no laundry, no cooking, no dishes, just a fun time with my cute little ones.”

There will be more information coming in the June/July Foster Roster as well as on Bridge.

Please check your calendars and save the date for September 27th -September 29th.



WELCOME TO BINTI: REDUCING THE STRESS OF RELICENSING

BY JOHN THILL, STATEWIDE SYSTEMS ANALYST, UFC

While considerably easier than getting your initial license, foster care relicensing can cause distress in a family's already chaotic (but rewarding) lifestyle.

That is where Binti comes in to reduce that stress. Binti is a new (to us) licensing platform that allows users to complete licensing paperwork and upload important documents all from their smartphone, tablet, or computer (you can even do so while lying in bed binging Netflix!). It really doesn't get much easier, folks.

Best of all, Binti will send reminders to keep you engaged. There is no need to try to remember what you have already submitted because it is all right at your fingertips.

Binti is a breath of fresh air in the licensing process; no one loves it more than the Office of Licensing. When asked about Binti's impact on his statewide workload, David Dinger, Central Intake Specialist with the Office of Licensing, said, "YES, I love Binti, and I hope the providers do too!"

HERE IS A REMINDER ABOUT THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

For couples who need 16 hours total, with each having at least 4 hours:

- 4 hours/year/couple need to be done in person
- 3 hours/individual can be done through asynchronous training (recorded training, approved books or movies)
- The remainder can be completed by live remote and/or in-person
- (Single providers need only 12 hours using the same requirements listed above)

Are you ready to start your relicensing process? Contact me at john.thill@utahfostercare.org, and I will send you a Binti welcome email. If you have questions about training, your regional trainer is ready to answer them. We are here to help relieve one stressor in your busy day.

Keep up the great work; you are making a difference!

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

By Aysha E. Schomburg, Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau

www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/

National Foster Care Month (NFCM) in May is a significant opportunity to spread the word about the needs of more than 391,000 children and young people in foster care. This year's NFCM theme—"Engaging Youth. Building Supports. Strengthening Opportunities."—shines a light on how we can best support young people and help them successfully transition to adulthood. This theme mirrors one of the Children's Bureau's highest priorities: ensuring young people leave care with strengthened relationships, holistic support, and opportunities.

Nearly 20,000 young people transition out of the foster care system each year without a permanent family. In talking with young people who have experienced the foster care system firsthand, I've heard consistently how challenging it is to transition out of foster care, especially without the appropriate support. Giving young people the resources they need to succeed as adults begins during their time in care. It is crucial that we use that time to engage young people in case planning, help them build and nurture meaningful relationships, and gain equitable access to the opportunities that all young people deserve.

Thank you, foster families, for being there for youth in foster care. For being there for the young adults, you raised long after they no longer live with you. You make a difference. You are essential to helping them live a whole life and not become a statistic. Happy Foster Care Month!

- Darcey Wiseman, Utah Foster Care

DO YOU KNOW A "FOSTER FAMILY OF THE YEAR"?

Utah Foster Care knows that a successful foster family takes dedication and hard work from ALL members of a family – mom, dad, children, and even pets! We will be recognizing five Foster Families of the Year, one from every region of Utah.

Now is the time to nominate a family who represents the heart and soul of foster families in your region. We start accepting nominations on April 1 at <http://www.utahfostercare.org/forms/foster-family-of-the-year>.

We will present the awards on Saturday, July 13, at our annual Chalk Art Festival at Electric Park at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi. Families who travel more than 100 miles will have one complimentary night's stay at a hotel on Friday, July 12.

Please note: The nomination form will only be accessible from April 1 – May 15.



UFC limited funds available to meet special needs of children in care when DCFS is unable to.

QUESTIONS?

Northern Region

Anna Gibson - (801) 392-1114

Salt Lake Valley Region

Tina Porter -

tina.porter@utahfostercare.org

Western Region

Amy Smith - (801) 462-0745

Eastern Region

Shannon Smith -

shannon.smith@utahfostercare.org

Southwest Region

Diane Fillmore - (877) 656-8065

REMINDER:

- 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 1x 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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