

FOSTER ROSTER

Utah's Foster Family Magazine



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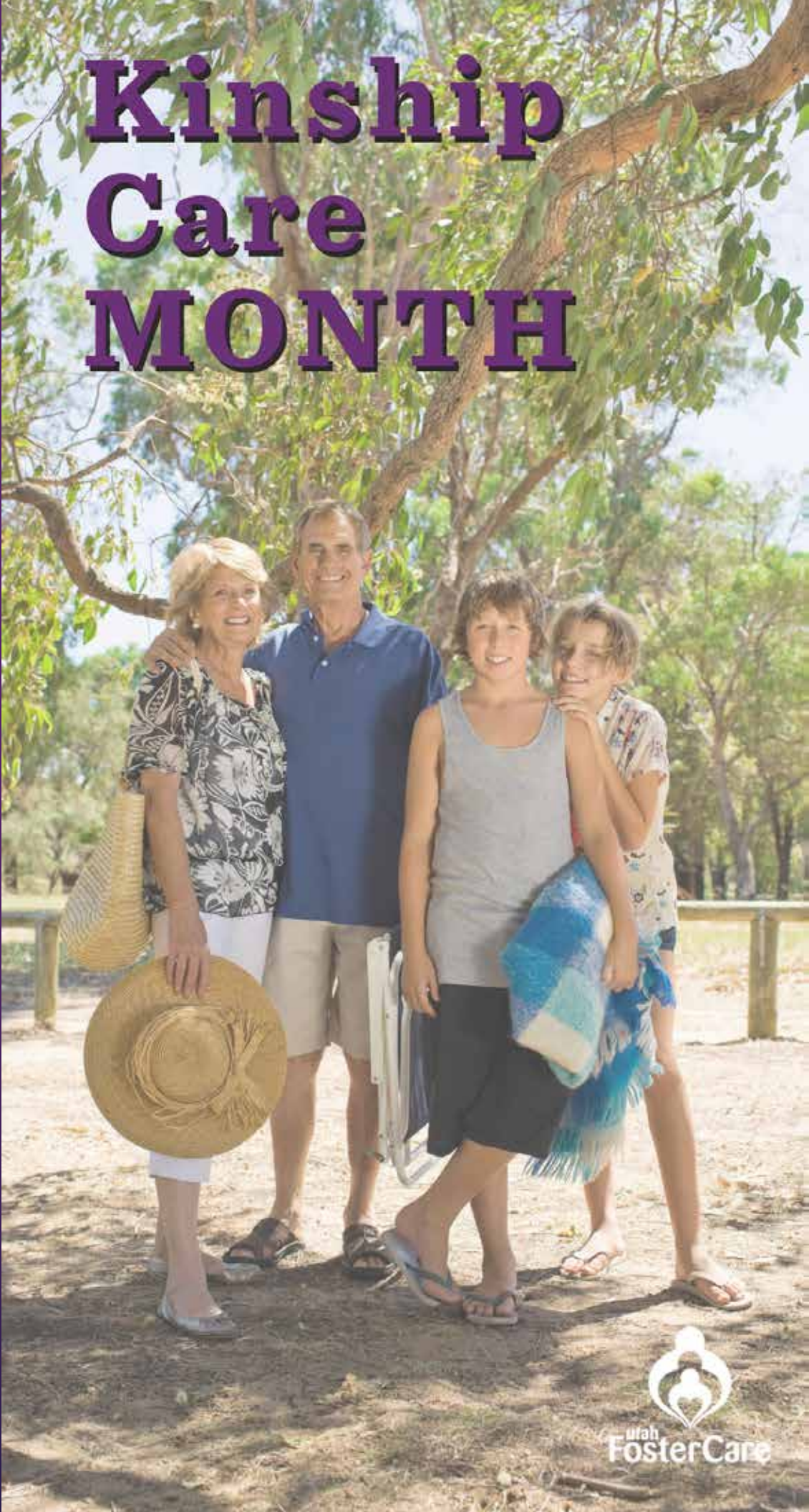
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Kinship Care MONTH



Utah
FosterCare

Entrata Presents | FREE Weezer Concert!



ENTRATA HAS INVITED YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO A WEEZER CONCERT AT THE DELTA CENTER!

Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00pm

Thank you to Entrata, yet again! We have been invited to an upcoming Weezer concert that is a part of Entrata's corporate weekend summit.

What a cool way to foster community, by including our foster care community and families! The concert will be family-friendly. Fun fact - Weezer's bassist is a foster dad. To see video of his story, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iY52I6UDDpY>

Watch Bridge and your email, for the link to attend the concert!

Weezer is an American rock band formed in Los Angeles, California, in 1992. Since 2001, the band has consisted of Rivers Cuomo, Patrick Wilson, Scott Shriner, and Brian Bell. After signing to Geffen Records in 1993, Weezer released their self-titled debut album, also known as the Blue Album, in May 1994.

Autumn Symposium 2023 | Making Visitation Work

September 28; 9:00am - Noon.

The Symposium will be on Zoom.

Watch Bridge for registration information!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

The Whys of Visitation; *Kyla Clark, LCSW*

10 Minutes Together, How to Make the Most of Limited Visit Time; *Alisa Van Langeveld, PhD*

Managing When Things Don't go as Planned; *Les Harris, LCSW*

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801-994-5205 Main
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877-505-5437 Toll-free

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Orem, UT 84057
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475 West Price River Dr
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435-636-0210 Main

Vernal

1680 W Highway 40
Suite 100
Vernal, UT 84078
435-315-2543 Main

Moab

125 West 200 South
Suite 121
Moab, UT 84532
435-261-2368 Main

St George

230 North 1680 East
W-113
St George, UT 84790
877-656-8065 Main

Richfield

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

Posting Pictures

Many foster parents wonder about posting pictures of children in care on their social media accounts. Recently, DCFS has given some reminders and clarification on this issue.

- DCFS Practice Guidelines are clear that no sharing of information or images can be done without written permission from the parent, if parental rights are retained, before the sharing.
- If the parent's whereabouts are unknown or contact can't be made, then the request needs to go to the child's caseworker and should also be a matter of a Child and Family Team meeting discussion, also to be documented.
- Technically, the guideline also states that if a child is over 8 yrs. old and has the capacity to understand what they're agreeing to, permission to use their picture or information should also be discussed with them before sharing it.
- If permission is obtained, the usual guidelines are to be followed: Only first names, no identification of them being a child in care, and only general, non-specific, or identifying information (the usual stuff).
- Lastly, the smiley face emoji over faces, nothing in the guideline suggests this is allowable. And I, like some of you, have been told that it's okay to do because it makes them non-identifiable. Don't worry if this is something you've done in the past, however, moving forward this will not be an option.

Thank you so much for the daily things you do. Please know, that even if you do not hear the gratitude, we do recognize who does the heavy lifting here.

Calling all Single Foster Parents!

SINGLE FOSTER PARENT CLUSTER

Every fourth Monday of each month, single foster parents from around the state meet online to discuss the unique challenges being a single parent brings.

Watch Bridge for the link and other information for the next meeting!

UPCOMINGS MEETINGS:

- August 28; 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
- September 25; 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

Cluster Facilitator | Shannon | (650) 804-43

Meet Lisa Clark: South Davis Cluster Facilitator

By Anna Gibson, Retention Services, Utah Foster Care



Hey, everyone! My name is Lisa Clark. I am excited to be the new South Davis Cluster Facilitator. I have big shoes to fill, as Jen Young was so amazing!

My husband Gary and I have been married for 24 years and have five beautiful children, three boys and two girls, ages 16 to 2. We have been foster parents for over 12 years and have experienced many ups and downs of the fostering life. The biggest and most important part of the journey has been the love. We love being foster parents! We love having the opportunity to meet, work with, and develop loving ties to families. It is my hope and desire to help you navigate this aspect of fostering.

A little about me, I have a degree in special education and taught for ten years. I loved teaching children with special needs, with my whole heart, and would only have traded that in for motherhood. I've had the privilege of staying home since our first child came to us almost 17 years ago. I love scrapbooking (but never have time for it), reading, swimming, adventuring, healthy living, learning about ways to help my kiddos, hanging out with my kids, travel, and serving in many different capacities.

I grew up in upstate New York and moved to Utah when Gary and I got married. My husband and I met 25 years ago and became fast best friends! Gary asked me to marry him before we even had a first date - 24 years later, I am grateful to be married to my best friend. The adventures we've have experienced both in the world and in our home have been amazing and sometimes nutty. However, I can't imagine anyone else being crazy enough to go on these adventures with me!

I am looking forward to this new adventure in foster care, making new friends, and helping as many as I can on your journey.

UTAH FOSTER CARE (UFC)

Northern Region UFC Staff

Amy Wicks

LEAD FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Sandy Holbrook

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Brian Young (801) 475 – 5537

TRAINER

Anna Gibson

RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST /

TRAINER

UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ (801) 538 – 4100

195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SLC

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 (435) 787 – 3400

115 WEST GOLF COURSE ROAD, #B

Ogden (801) 629 – 5800

950 EAST 25TH STREET, #C

FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

utahfostercare.org/northern

Support Groups

CLUSTERS, WHAT ARE THEY?

Clusters are peer groups for foster, adoptive, and kinship families who meet together on a monthly basis for support & required training.

Learn more, *online!*

CACHE VALLEY CLUSTER

Mysti (435) 232-5274

BOX ELDER CLUSTER

Brittany C (435) 553-5913

OGDEN CLUSTER

Cami (435) 757-3548

NORTH DAVIS CLUSTER

Shelena (801) 589-4202

WEBER WEST CLUSTER

Sandy

SOUTH CENTRAL DAVIS CLUSTER

Jennifer (801) 845-2260

Listening Sessions

WITH DIRECTOR TONYA MYRUP

DCFS Director Tonya Myrup, and state leadership, will be available to hear directly from you at local DCFS offices across the state.

OGDEN:

August 9th, 6-7 PM

LOGAN:

Monday, October 16th, 6-7 PM

115 W Golf Course Rd., Ste. B, Logan, UT 84321

CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE!

Northern Region In-Person Trainings

WEBER WEST & ODGEN CLUSTERS

Understanding Poverty

Kathy Searle, LCSW

August 10; 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Ogden DCFS | 950 E. 25th St.

Understanding the unique challenges low-income families have day to day can help us understand how to connect with and support them. RSVP to Cami: camiaba3@gmail.com

NORTH & SOUTH DAVIS CLUSTERS

Caring for the Caregiver

Maegen Bernardo, CSW

August 10; 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Clearfield DCFS | 1350 E 1450 S

Taking care of ourselves allows us to have the ability to take care of others. The opposite is also true. Text Lisa, 801-726-4121, by the 8th to RSVP. Limited childcare available, must RSVP.

WEBER WEST & ODGEN CLUSTERS

Senate Bill 56

Melonie Brown, DCFS Region Director

September 14; 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Ogden DCFS Office | 950 E. 25th St.

Specific to child welfare, DCFS and the Juvenile Court, SB 56 changed how some things are done. We will discuss how those changes may affect you. RSVP to Cami, camiaba3@gmail.com. No childcare.

NORTH POST-ADOPT CLUSTER

Post Adopt Services

Northern Region Post Adopt Team

September 14; 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Clearfield DCFS | 1350 E 1450 S

Learn about and have questions answered about Post-Adopt services that are available and how to access them. Text Lisa, 801-726-4121, by the 12th to RSVP. Limited childcare available, must RSVP.

Meet Meg Costantino: Ogden North Cluster Facilitator

By Anna Gibson, Retention Services, Utah Foster Care



Hi! My name is Meg. I am married to Marcus Costantino. About six years ago, we had this crazy idea that we should become foster parents. At the time, we had a three-month-old baby girl and a two-year-old little boy. As soon as Marcus was on board with the idea, we were licensed in three months. Our first placement was the most amazing teen boy, it was a great first step into foster care. The day after our first placement went home, we were contacted about a 20-month-old baby girl. At this point, our bio babies were two and one.

Our sweet girl had an ICPC to go live with her grandma in another state if the parents couldn't complete services, this was our first experience into the roller coaster of foster care. We did the whiplash for 11 months of bio parents doing well and then not doing very well.

Ultimately by the time we got to the 12-month mark Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) was asking for termination. We had our foster daughter packed and ready to fly out with grandma at the end of the week, and yet another roll to the rollercoaster, we were asked to adopt her instead. We got our trio of "E's" Elliot, Emma, and Elouise, and the beautiful coincidence, the E's were not intentional.

During Emma's case, we had an overlapping case for a baby who ultimately reunified after the hardest case we have ever done. After a couple months break, where I completely gutted and renovated our kitchen to work through the grief, we got the call for a 22-month-old little boy, Danny! We are now a family of seven with five kids: Elliot, Emma, Elouise, Danny, and Georgia, ages seven

and under. It's a PARTY at our house, and I absolutely LOVE it!

I have a passion for foster care, foster parents, and especially kids in foster care. If I could spend time with every child in foster care and tell them how important they are and that they are loved, I would. I am honored to be a Cluster Facilitator. I hope to get to know every foster family personally during my time spent in this role.

I have been a mentor since the mentoring program started and I have enjoyed being a part of many journeys and encouraging other foster families while also being a place to vent or cry about how unfair the system can be to these kids. Please always feel free to reach out to me and introduce yourself, especially if you want a safe place to talk and vent. Foster care life and post adopt life is not an easy one, but finding a community who understands makes a HUGE difference.

Thank you for all the work you do every second of every day as a foster parent, or a parent in general.

Wishing Well Funds

The Wishing Well is an additional service that Utah Foster Care provides that is outside the scope of our contract with DCFS. We hold several fundraising events throughout the year to raise these funds, and the donors are specific with how these funds can be distributed. Wishing well funds can be used for some of the following.

EXAMPLES:

- *Cerinity* is a 13-year-old girl. Who loves recreational softball. She's also left-handed and needs a left-handed glove. Wishing Well funds were able to help her with this request
- *Jesse* is an 11-year-old boy. Jesse started taking swim lessons and excelled to the point where he wanted to try out for the swim team. Jesse made the team and was awarded MVP at their banquet. This resource has done wonders for his self-esteem, coping with grief and loss, and has given Jesse a physical outlet for his emotions. Wishing Well funds were able to help make this happen.
- *Ali's* foster parents received funding to help pay for dance classes for her.
- *Charlie* is a 15-year-old young man who has never been to Disneyland. His foster parents received help so they could include him on their family vacation to Disneyland. Vacations are a once-in-a-lifetime help.
- *Jasmine* is as 17-year-old young woman who gained a great deal of confidence and healing through Equine therapy, Wishing Well Funds were used to help with this.

RULES:

- Family requesting funds must be a licensed foster family. They must check with their case worker first before requesting funds. This includes LICENSED kinship families.
- The funds must be used for the benefit of the child, not their foster or bio families. Which means we cannot purchase family passes to gyms, museums, or parks. It must be something that can go with the child if the child is moved or reunified.

- May request up to \$500 per year - this may vary depending on the funds available. For example, if you apply in September, you may apply again the next September, if the youth is still in care.
- May request up to \$300 to help with vacations ONCE in a lifetime.
- Funds can NOT be used for things that should be covered by Medicaid, their foster care payments, or material items like furniture; this includes clothing, and baby equipment.

DOUBLE CHECK:

- The information you submit is correct.
- You are entering for the correct child.
- Make sure the request falls within the rules.

Hopefully, this gives you a little more clarity on the Wishing Well and how the funds can be used. If you have additional questions contact the retention specialist in your region.

APPLICATION:

<https://utahfostercare.org/foster-parent-resources/wishing-well-fund/> Verify you have received an email confirmation that we received your application.

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES:

Reach 360 - www.reach360utah.org

Chalk It Up 2023 | A Huge Success

We were pleased to present awards to Utah's Foster Families of the Year, from every corner of the state, at this year's Chalk It Up festival. These families, and many others like them, open their hearts and homes to children who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in uncertain circumstances. Their dedication to fostering is a beautiful testament to the healing power of love and connection. Their commitment to the well-being of the children while advocating for a fairer system is truly inspiring.



Winners from the Festival



Best in Theme



Best in Show



People's Choice

August, 2023 & September, 2023

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

Anna Gibson
(801) 392 - 1114

Salt Lake Valley Region

Tina Porter
(801) 994 - 5205

Western Region

Amy Smith
(801) 373 - 3006

Eastern Region

Shannon Smith
shannon.smith@
utahfostercare.org

Southwest Region

Diane Fillmore
(877) 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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