

# FOSTER ROSTER

Utah's Foster Family Magazine





**SENIOR STAFF**

Nikki MacKay  
CEO

Dan Webster  
OPERATIONS

Jennie Sheperd  
RECRUITMENT

Liz Rivera  
EDUCATION

Heidi Naylor  
RETENTION

Amanda Walker  
COMMUNICATIONS

Nikki MacKay  
DEVELOPMENT

**BOARD**

Jeannine Timothy  
CHAIR

VICE CHAIR

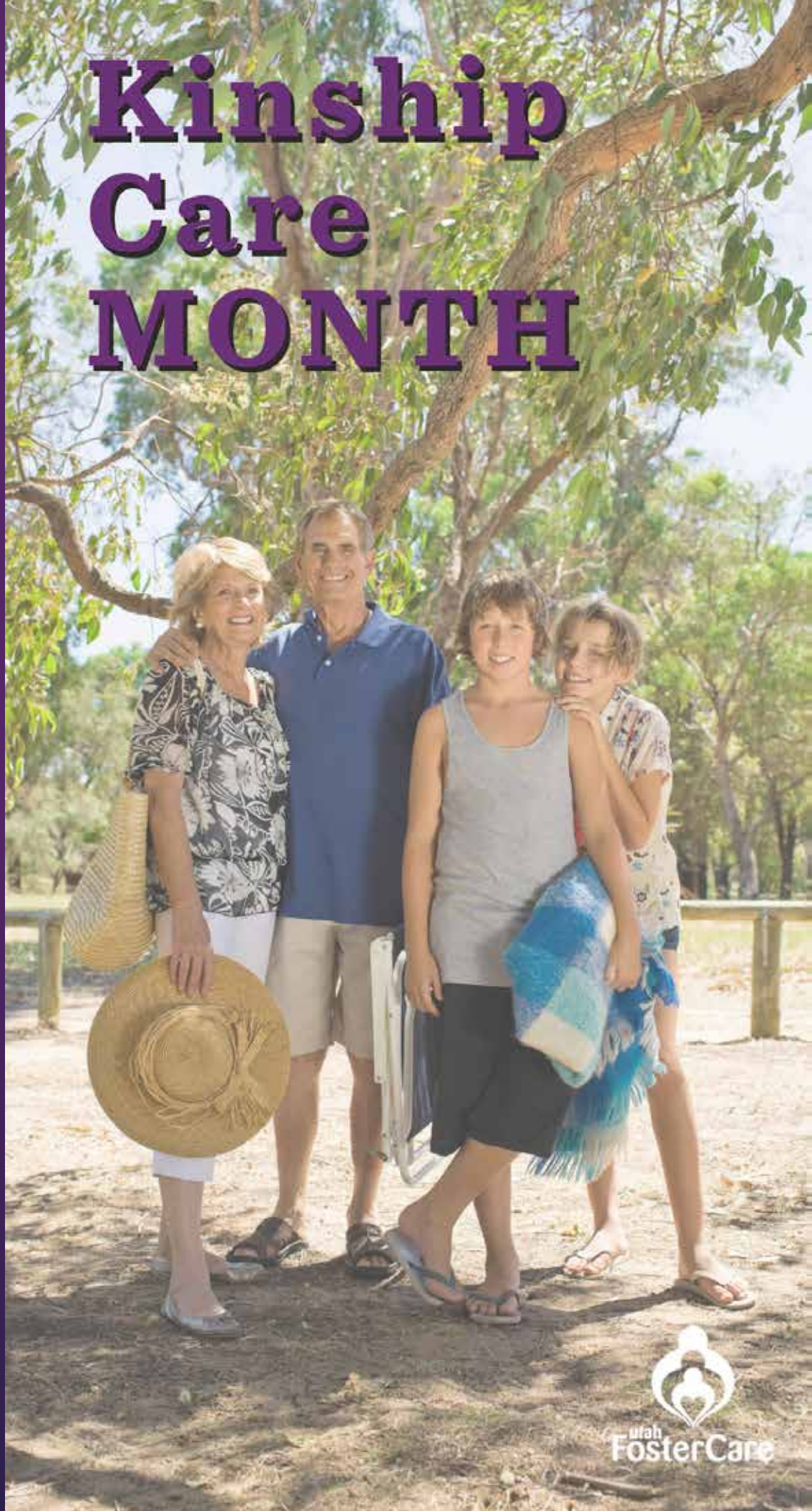
Jacee E Ballard  
Kenneth Boggs  
Jonathan Foulk  
Parker Hadley-Hone  
Trigena Halley  
Matt Moore  
Belia Paz  
Heather Roxburgh  
Melissa Warnock

**FOSTERROSTER**

Darcey Wiseman  
EDITOR

PrestoPrint  
PRINT & FULFILMENT SERVICES

# 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*



## 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 110  
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

### 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

# Southwest Foster Family Campout 2023

By Diane Callister Fillmore, SW Retention Specialist, UFC



We had another wonderful weekend in June with families getting together at Duck Creek Campground! Hiking with Ben Friday evening, gathering around the campfire Friday and Saturday night, roasting marshmallows, and making smores. We enjoyed chatting and getting to know one another while the kids were able to meet other kids just like them.

Saturday morning, Ben took families to an ice cave, after we all met at camp for family games. There was a scavenger hunt with a prize at the end, a plunger game, ping pong game, potato sack races, and a three-legged race. The whole family participated in the games! Lunch was provided for everyone, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, Dutch oven potatoes, and baked beans, along with cookies for dessert. The rest of the time everyone was on their own, to relax, visit, take a nap, or whatever was to their liking.

Next year, we have planned two campouts - mark your calendars! We will have one at Pine Valley Campground, close to Cedar and St George on Friday, June 7th - Saturday, June 8th (free camping both nights) with games and free lunch Saturday, June 8th.

The other campout will be at Maple Grove Campground, close to Manti/ Richfield area Friday, June 21st - Saturday, June 22nd, 2024 (free camping Friday and Saturday night) with free lunch Saturday and family games. At both campouts, you are welcome to just come for the day on Saturday. Ben will be our hiking guide for whoever would like to join us on a couple of hikes. This is a great opportunity to meet other foster families and kids that are in care. Lexi, the St. George facilitator, will perform a drum circle for us. A fun and unique experience that the kids loved at previous campouts. We may have supplies for kids to make their own drums as well. You don't need to have a placement at the time of the activity to join us.

If this sounds fun to you, mark your calendar!

## UTAH FOSTER CARE (UFC)

### Southwest Region UFC Staff

Ben Ashcraft

LEAD FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT

Amy Bates

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT /  
TRAINER

Marissa Douglas

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE CONSULTANT /  
RETENTION SPECIALIST

Denice Becham

TRAINER

Diane Callister

RETENTION SERVICES SPECIALIST

## UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

DCFS HQ (801) 538 - 4100

195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SLC

### Southwest Region DCFS Offices

NEED TO REACH YOUR RFC?

CALL YOUR LOCAL DCFS OFFICE ...

Beaver (435) 438 - 3400

875 NORTH MAIN STREET

Cedar City (435) 865 - 5600

106 NORTH 100 EAST

Manti (435) 835 - 0780

55 SOUTH MAIN STREET, #24

Panguitch (435) 676 - 1400

665 NORTH MAIN STREET

Richfield (435) 896 - 1250

201 EAST 500 NORTH

St George (435) 652 - 2960

178 NORTH 200 EAST

### FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

[utahfostercare.org/southwest](https://utahfostercare.org/southwest)

# 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!*

### CEDAR CITY CLUSTER

Kim

### MANTI CLUSTER

Bonnie (435) 851-0719

### RICHFIELD CLUSTER

Holly (801) 360-1967

### ST GEORGE CLUSTER

Lexi

## Listening Sessions

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

### ST. GEORGE:

Tuesday, September 5th, 1:30-2:30 PM

178 N 200 E, St. George, UT 84770

### CEDAR CITY:

Wednesday, September 6th, 6-7 PM

106 N 100 E, Cedar City, UT 84720

### CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

# Southwest Region In-Person Trainings

## CEDAR CITY CLUSTER

Evening with the Director

DCFS | UFC

August 2; 6:00pm - 8:00pm

*Heritage Festival / 105 N 100 E Cedar City*

## CEDAR CITY CLUSTER

Family Swim Night

August 7; 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Aquatic Center | 2090 W Royal  
Hunte Dr, Cedar City

## ST GEORGE CLUSTER

Support Group | Topic TBA

Ben Ashcraft, LCSW

August 15; Noon - 1:00pm

*St. George UFC / 230 N 1680 E Ste W113*

Bring your own lunch.

## CEDAR CITY CLUSTER

Support Group | Topic TBA

Ben Ashcraft, LCSW

August 17; Noon - 1:00pm

*Family Support Center / 535 S. Main St. #5*

Bring your own lunch.

## ST GEORGE CLUSTER

Evening with the Director

DCFS | UFC

August 30; 6:00pm - 8:00pm

*Look on Bridge for location.*

## ST GEORGE CLUSTER

Support Group | Topic TBA

Ben Ashcraft, LCSW

September 19; Noon - 1:00pm

*St. George UFC / 230 N 1680 E Ste W113*

Bring your own lunch.

## CEDAR CITY CLUSTER

Support Group | Topic TBA

Ben Ashcraft, LCSW

September 21; Noon - 1:00pm

*Family Support Center / 535 S. Main St. #5*

Bring your own lunch.

# Tips for Starting the New School Year

By Marissa Douglas, SW Retention Specialist, UFC

*I love the start of summer without the school schedule to tie us down, the freedom to schedule our day as I'd like, no dance, piano, gymnastics, sports practice, or ballgames to get my kids on time too. However, as fun as the freedom is, I begin to wane at the start of August and crave a consistent routine, and schedule again! How do we ease everyone back into the swing of things? Here are some tips to get you started:*

## RE-ESTABLISH SCHOOL ROUTINES

Begin a week or two before school starts. If your kids typically go to bed at 9:00 pm and are up at 7:00 am, get them back into those habits. Role play by leaving your house at the same time you need to be out the door on school days, loading into the car or walking to the bus stop.

## INDEPENDENCE

Have your kids set out the clothes they choose to wear the night before, or better yet, work together and plan out a week of outfits. You can do this by hanging clothes on the hanger for each day of the week or putting them into individual Ziplock bags. Do what works best for your family while saving you time on those crazy school mornings! Set up and/or re-stock the homework area. Having a designated location for kids to complete their homework will help launch the routine once again. Allow those good habits to be put back into place!

## AFTER SCHOOL

Outline what your kids' day will look like when they arrive home from school. If your child needs to complete 20 minutes of reading, chores, or other duties, have them

begin practicing these activities to help them get back into a routine. If your child will be taking a home lunch to school, have them help make a lunch menu that you can implement and rotate once school starts. Allowing your child to give input will help them be more likely to eat what's been packed in their lunch.

## MAKE IT A FAMILY AFFAIR

Have a conversation with your kids about what worked well for you, as a family, during the last school year. What changes need to be made? For my family, too many activities fell on Tuesday. It became a dreaded day for all of us. We ran from the time the kids got home from school until bedtime. It was too much for all of us! Ask your children if there is anything they are worried about, so you can help alleviate any fears or find solutions together before school begins.

## SET GOALS

What does your child want to accomplish this year? Maybe it's passing off their multiplication facts. Ask them how they would like your involvement in helping to achieve their goal. If your child is comfortable with it, you may even want to share their goal with their teacher so they can have extra support in the classroom.

## CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

Plan one last hurrah with your kids before they head off to school.



# 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](http://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](http://utahfostercare.org)

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage **PAID**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**PERMIT N<sup>o</sup>. 750**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES