

Summer 2023 

CFSF FAMILY CONNECTION



CFSF
Emergency Afterhours
360.443.2516

Twenty-three years ago this month, CFSF came into being. It seems like only yesterday, but the mirror reminds me that it has been a while. I look back and remember how much things have changed. From agencies that have come and gone, to the restructuring of DSHS to DCYF, and times when adoption and fostering was a high value compared to what we wrestle with today. Twenty-three years is a long time.

As I was reminiscing, I thought I would call one of our former foster parents. She is 82 years young and although her health caused her to retire from foster care, she told me she still misses the children. She has dreams about the children she cared for. She recently heard from one of her former foster children. He left her home to be adopted when he was 11 years old and is now 28. He calls her for advice. She has so many beautiful memories of the lives God put in her path through foster care.

As I look back at 40 years in the social services field, I can honestly say Foster Parents have made the biggest impact on me and continue to do so.

As we see many challenges in the foster care realm, I want you to know that CFSF will continue to support and sing the praises of the work you do day after day for His children.

Thank you for blessing me over the last 23 years.

Sincerely,

Mark Fullington



SUCCESS STORY

Mya has worked hard the past couple of years to catch up in her academics at school. She had fallen behind because of significant disruptions that took place before she came to her current foster home. Her foster parents have tirelessly advocated for Mya to be in the grade that aligns with her biological age. Mya is so excited to be with peers her same age. She understands and is willing to put in the work to catch up, especially in math, so that she will be ready for the fall. Her foster parents have coordinated with the school district and have a plan for her to be ready for the upcoming year!

The Respite Department is changing....

CFSF loves to promote from within whenever possible. With the recent departure of our wonderful Western WA Respite Director, we saw an opportunity to restructure. We are excited to announce the new model: Representatives from each office will now help make respite arrangements. They are familiar with the homes and know who has openings!

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WE'LL MISS YOU, MEHGAN! BEST OF LUCK!

Real life **HEROS** at work! Recently one of our foster parents said they would provide a week-long respite for one of their adopted children's siblings. Although, everyone does their best to keep siblings placed together, it's not always possible. It's an incredible thing to watch foster parents connect children with their siblings and support the sibling bonds which is important for their well-being. The Social Worker wrote about this respite:

"It really impresses me that the kids have a relationship that is on-going. And it is because of 4 awesome foster parents."

We could not agree more! Thank you foster parents for all you do and for investing in kids!

Thank you Ticket To Dream for donating 11 Mongoose Bicycles to our Eastern WA foster kids! Your generous gift will help to make some fantastic summer memories!

Congratulations Class of 2023!

Please let your Case Manager know if you have a graduating senior (currently or formerly in care)! CFSF & Ticket To Dream would like to help celebrate their success!

WAC 110-148-1375 requires all caregivers remain actively certified in CPR & First Aid. CPR must include all ages & physical skills must be assessed. To be accepted, trainings must be in accordance with nationally recognized standards. DCYF is now requiring all foster parents complete in person CPR & First Aid by **June 30th 2023** or their license renewal, whichever is sooner (regardless of when their online certification expires). *Caregivers with current & active medical licenses or certificates may submit verification to satisfy this requirement.



COMMUNITY & FAMILY SUMMER FAMILY Events

Moses Lake July 13TH 2pm - 6pm
Surf and Slide Water Park

Fife July 15TH 9am - 5pm
Farm Day at Old McDebbie's Farm
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Wishing Well Foundation

Port Orchard July 20TH 12 pm - 6pm
August 3RD 12pm - 6pm
Lake Days, Long Lake Community Building

Burlington August 11TH 11am - 2pm
Back to School Picnic, Kiwanis Spray Park

Spokane August 12TH 4pm - 6pm
Back to School Picnic, Manito Park

Vancouver August 17th 5:30 pm - 7:30pm
Back to School Picnic, Hillcrest Nazarene

Staff Departures:

Vancouver Case Mngnr *Steffinie Cunningham*
Family Support Specialist *Marchelle Lovinson*
Respite Director *Mehgan Castillo*

New Welcomes & Changes:

Family Support Specialist *Libbey Holloway*
Family Support Specialist *Danielle Howard*
FSS to FSS Coordinator *Brandy Johnston*
FSS to FSS/Respite Support *Catherine Wade*
Vancouver Case Manager *Alyse Gregorius*
FSS to FSS Dir/Fiscal Asst *Cassandra Crover*
Fife Licensor *Madison Barr*