

July 8, 2021

DC CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

# FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

A monthly newsletter for CFSA's resource parents in the District of Columbia



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



## July 2021 at a Glance

- Ann's Anecdote
- Kudos Corner (BOND Lead Parent and Resource Parent Shout-Outs)
- News You Can Use
- Seeking My Forever Family: Meet Deron
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- FAPAC Updates

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## Feature Stories

### Ann's Anecdote

Good day, resource parents!

I recently received some feedback that it would be helpful to our community if I shared my thoughts directly with you, and I'm excited to have that opportunity through our *Fostering Connections* newsletter. For this inaugural message, I want to start with a simple and sincere "thank you." Caring for our kids requires an enormous amount of sacrifice and fortitude on an easy day. Then came 2020. You survived a year without in-person school, summer camps, daycare, or vacations. And I know those moments to "get a break" from the challenging but vital responsibility of serving as a resource parent were few and far between, if they happened at all. Your dedication is seen and so very appreciated, and I hope you know that our team is here to support you.



My wish is that each of you can enjoy some well-deserved rest and fun this summer. Thank you for everything you are and everything you do!

Truly,

Ann Reilly  
Deputy Director of Program Operations

## Kudos Corner

### **BOND Lead Parent Shout-Out: Kevin McGilly and John Corea**

Kevin McGilly and John Corea have supported DC children in many ways—as resource parents, SEE Network Leads, and BOND Lead Parents. Through unwavering commitment and clear communication, they have ensured the success of the children in their care. We have learned so much from this pair's willingness to listen and problem-solve to support the well-being, happiness, and permanence of children in their home. Kudos to you, Kevin and John!



### **Resource Parent Shout-Out: Carlos and Carolyn Johnson-Williams**

Carlos and Carolyn Johnson-Williams have a 15-year track record of impacting the lives of over 20 children for the better. They have worked hard to support the successful reunification of numerous children with their birth parents or kin, and they have adopted and provided guardianship for those who needed a permanent family. Their success working with birth and kinship families stems from the belief that when birth parents know their child is safe and in good hands, reunifications can occur more smoothly. The Johnson-Williams have also served as long-time mentors and respite providers for other resource parents. Carlos and Carolyn, you two are an inspiration to us all!



## News You Can Use

### **Travel Administrative Issuance**

Dreaming of all the trips you had to postpone and can now resume? Making plans and curious what the guidance is for bringing the child in your care on vacation? Review the [Travel and Overnight Stays Involving Children in Foster Care Administrative Issuance](#) and then consult your Support Worker and your child's Social Worker.

### **Spread the Word: DC Families for DC Kids**

Listen to this special segment of the Greater Washington Urban League's "On Track Radio" featuring 2021 DC Foster Parent of the Year Ms. Valencia Harvey and CFSA Placement Services Administration Program Manager Marcy Chell. Their interview aired on WPGC 95.5 on Sunday, July 4, but you can listen to the full segment at [bit.ly/CFSAonWPGC](https://bit.ly/CFSAonWPGC). Share the link with friends!

### **School Enrollment Reminders**

School will be here before you know it! Remember to communicate with your child's Social Worker and service team to plan for next year and ensure you complete the enrollment process. Enrollment documents are due by **August 2, 2021**. Visit [DC Enroll](#) for additional information. Please contact Megan Dho at 202-445-6920 or [Megan.Dho@dc.gov](mailto:Megan.Dho@dc.gov) with any questions.

### **Youth Villages LifeSet Program Offers Transition Support to Older Youth in Care**

The CFSA Office of Youth Empowerment administers the YVLifeSet program. This program helps young adults ages 17 and over successfully transition to independence. YVLifeSet Specialists develop individualized plans tailored to the strengths and needs of each youth and meet with participants once a week to work on their identified goals. Social workers must refer youth to the program. For more information, email [Samantha.King@dc.gov](mailto:Samantha.King@dc.gov).

### **Youth Can Save Big Bucks with the Making Money Grow Program**

Every year, more than 23,000 youth transition out of foster care nationwide. The CFSA Office of Youth Empowerment directs the Making Money Grow program, a financial literacy initiative to help youth ages 15 to 20 learn how to manage their finances and save for the future. Older youth enrolled in the program can exit care with up to \$12,000 in savings. For more information, contact [CFSA.OYE@dc.gov](mailto:CFSA.OYE@dc.gov).

## Child Victims and Witness Support Materials: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers

A child's experience facing or witnessing violence and abuse could result in them having to encounter or navigate the justice system. The U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime has released a [guide for parents and caregivers](#). This resource contains developmentally appropriate learning resources that can be used to support children during their involvement with the justice system.

## Activities for All Ages

- [National Building Museum Summer Block Party](#) | multiple dates | downtown DC | prices vary
- [Outdoor movies in the DMV](#) | multiple dates | multiple locations | prices vary
- [Outdoor performances at the REACH](#) | multiple dates | Kennedy Center, DC | free
- [Visit a splash park](#) | multiple dates | multiple locations | \$0 - \$20
- [UniverSoul Circus](#) | Jul. 1 – Aug. 8 | National Harbor, MD | \$27 +
- [Wolf Trap Children's Performances](#) | multiple dates | Vienna, VA | \$12 +

## Seeking My Forever Family

### Meet Deron

15-year-old Deron is looking for a forever family that is caring, patient, and can provide stability for the remainder of his teenage years. Deron seeks a home where he can rely on his family to support him as he continues to develop critical verbal and physical communication skills. When Deron feels safe and loved, his capacity for affection toward his caretakers blossoms. If you can envision Deron as part of your forever family, please email [Sonique.Nixon@dc.gov](mailto:Sonique.Nixon@dc.gov).



## Here to Help

### REACH Support Hotline for After-Hours Help

Don't forget about the REACH Support Line! Should a challenging situation occur after regular business hours, please call 833-443-3775 for assistance. View the [REACH Support Line flyer](#) for more information.

REACH Support Line (RSL)  
**(833) 443-3775**

### Healthy Horizons Assessment On-Call Service

Have a medical question about the child in your care during non-standard business hours? You can call the Healthy Horizons Assessment Center (HHAC) on-call number (202-498-8456) on weekends and holidays from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Please note that HHAC does not provide "sick visit" services.

Healthy Horizons Assessment Center  
On-Call Service  
**(202) 498-8456**

### Stability Incentives Available to Eligible Resource Parents

CFSA issues stability incentives to licensed CFSA resource parents who have provided kids in care a safe and stable placement in their home for 12 consecutive months. Contact your Resource Parent Support Worker for more information.

### Earn \$500 via the Resource Parent Referral Program

The Resource Parent Referral Program provides currently licensed CFSA resource

parents up to \$500 when a referred parent becomes licensed and a child is placed in their home. Click [here](#) for more information.

### *theSource* Newsletter

In case you missed it, check out [theSource](#), the Child Welfare Training Academy's (CWTA) newsletter for resource parents. Each issue provides class updates, special offerings, and information you need to get the most out of CWTA's training opportunities. Email [CWTA.Training@dc.gov](mailto:CWTA.Training@dc.gov) with ideas for training or topics.



### Family Success Centers Offer Free Programming in Wards 7 and 8

The District's Families First DC Family Success Centers offer free programming in Wards 7 and 8. View the [July events list](#) to explore available options and contact [Octavia.Shaw1@dc.gov](mailto:Octavia.Shaw1@dc.gov) with any questions.



### Weekly DBH Parent Support Group

The DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) [Wellness Wednesday parent support group](#) provides DC parents, including CFSA resource parents, with a space to connect, care for themselves, and help foster resiliency in the children in their care. Join via [Webex](#) Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and use password **WW20**.



### Free COVID-19 Vaccinations (No Appointment Needed) DC | **HEALTH**

Visit one of DC Health's walk-up vaccination sites for a free COVID-19 vaccination. Learn more at [coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated). Can't leave your home? Call 855-363-0333 for assistance.

## Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Description
Fellowship & Feedback: The CPS Process	Fri, 7/9	12 – 1 p.m.	Webex (link below), or Dial-in: 202-860-2110 (access code: 160 548 3928)	Gather in community with other resource parents and hear from CFSA leadership. This month we'll highlight the CPS process. Have a question you would like to discuss? Submit questions ahead of time to <a href="mailto:ReachCFSA@dc.gov">ReachCFSA@dc.gov</a> . Registration not required.
Resource Parent Information Session 1	Sat, 7/10	10 – 11 a.m.	Virtual, RSVP required (link below)	Know someone interested in becoming a resource parent? Invite them to an upcoming information session to get an overview of the process, hear licensing qualifications, and engage with a youth in care or resource parent. Registration is required. <b>Registration required.</b>
Resource Parent Information Session 2	Thu, 7/29	10 – 11 a.m.	Virtual, RSVP required (link below)	Know someone interested in becoming a resource parent? Invite them to an upcoming information session to get an overview of the process, hear licensing qualifications, and engage with a youth in care or resource parent. Registration is required. <b>Registration required.</b>
Fellowship & Feedback: Back to School	Thu, 8/5	7:30 p.m.	Webex (link to come via email)	Gather in community with other resource parents and hear from CFSA leadership. This month we'll highlight education and childcare. Have a question you would like to discuss? Submit questions ahead of time to <a href="mailto:ReachCFSA@dc.gov">ReachCFSA@dc.gov</a> . Registration not required.
33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Recognition Ceremony	Wed, 8/18	6 p.m.	Webex (link below)	Join CFSA's 33rd annual Youth Recognition Ceremony to honor the class of 2021 and their many accomplishments. This year's theme is "Cap. Gown. It's Going Down!" Help CFSA send our graduates off in style and celebration. More details to come.

#### Upcoming Event Links

- Fellowship & Feedback: CPS Process: [Webex link](#), password: **children1234**
- Resource Parent Information Session 1: [Registration link](#)
- Resource Parent Information Session 2: [Registration link](#)
- 33rd Annual Youth Recognition Ceremony: [Webex link](#), password: **2021Grads**



Read the latest edition of the Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) newsletter at [bit.ly/FAPAC\\_Spring2021](https://bit.ly/FAPAC_Spring2021).

For more information about FAPAC, visit [DCFAPAC.org](https://DCFAPAC.org), email [info@dcfapac.org](mailto:info@dcfapac.org), or call 202-269-9441.

## Have feedback, a tip, or a story?

We want to hear from you! Please send all inquiries, suggestions, or story ideas to [cfsa.opi@dc.gov](mailto:cfsa.opi@dc.gov).

## Follow CFSA on social media!

