



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



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Upcoming Events

Monday, June 3:

Parent Advocacy Meeting (PAC),

4p.m.— 6p.m.

at CFSA Headquarters

DC Child & Family Agency
200 I Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

CFSA kicks off National Foster Care Month with Mayor Bowser



May is National Foster Care Month, and we're relaunching our *Fostering Connections* newsletter during this special time when we turn up the spotlight on the work that our Resource Parents and partners in care are doing to enhance the lives of DC children and youth in foster care. **Thanks to DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, our month-long celebration began on a high note with a "[Mayor's Tea](#)" on May 4th at the Mayor's home.** As an adoptive mom, Mayor Bowser and CFSA Director Brenda Donald, used the occasion to express appreciation to DC parents who foster and to encourage more individuals to do the same. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see our shot-outs to all Resource Parents.

Congratulations to the District's 2018 Foster Parent of the Year

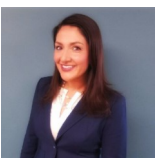
Each year, during National Foster Care Month, the Washington Metro Area Council of Governments recognizes Resource Parents for their your commitment to being a trusted partner in the continuum of care that abused and neglected children in the District of Columbia need and deserve. Congratulations to Ms. Aletha Cain, who last week received the award for being the *District of Columbia 2018 Foster Parent of the Year*. View Ms. Cain's video [here](#).

Recent leadership changes for CFSA Program Operations Team

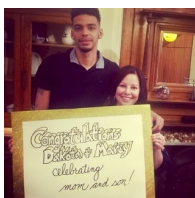
Here are some important updates from our Program Operations team:



Ann Reilly, who served as the Child Protective Services Hotline and Support Services Administrator, has been appointed the new Deputy Director for Program Operations. With more than 10 years of experience with CFSA, Ann brings a breadth of experience and knowledge to Program Operations team.



Tanya Trice, who served as the Office of Youth Empowerment Administrator and with CFSA for 10 years, has been appointed as the new Assistant Deputy Director for Program Operations. In this role, Tanya will oversee the Placement, Family Resources and Kinship Divisions.



Marcy Chell is CFSA's new Program Manager over Placement and Foster Family Support. Coming to us from DC Public Schools and with more than 13 years of experience, she began her career as a front-line social worker and supervisor at CFSA. Marcy, an adoptive parent pictured here with her son, was the Regional Director in New York City at Graham Windham, overseeing the agency's Harlem Traditional Foster Care Program and Treatment Family Foster Care Program.

Ransom Washington, Jr., who served as the Assistant Deputy Director for Program Operations and with CFSA for eight years, has been appointed as the new Senior Advisor in the Office of the Director.

News You Can Use

Foster parents to receive incentive payments for 12 straight months of care

While we can't thank Resource Parents enough for all that you do to support kids in care, we've found a tangible way to show appreciation for your long-term commitment to fostering our children and youth. Starting next month, CFSA will offer placement stability incentives to both CFSA and National Center for Children and Families Institute (NCCF) Resource Parents in the amount of \$1,100.00, when a child or youth has maintained placement with a single resource family for 365 days. This year, CFSA had 91 District foster parents and 69 NCCF parents who provided stable placement to a total of 206 youth. Under the conditions of respite, hospital stay or runaway/absence, CFSA will allow for breaks in placement when the child or youth returns to the same provider. Resource parents who have youth placed in their home for 12 consecutive months will be eligible to receive placement stability incentive on an annual basis in the month following the 12th consecutive month. To learn more about the Placement Stability Incentive Payment Process, contact ransom.washingtonjr@dc.gov.

Ways Resource Parents receive reimbursements for damages

For some Resource Parents, damages and property loss can occur while housing a child in CFSA's custody. Under some circumstances CFSA will provide reasonable compensation to parents. However, CFSA does not provide reimbursement for damages resulted from normal wear and tear or gradual deterioration of real property or the Resource Parent's action, inaction, or negligence contributed substantially to the damage. For more details on reimbursable allowances or to access the CFSA Resource Parent Reimbursement Request Form, [visit here](#).



To claim or not to claim? CFSA sheds light on tax filings

While the 2019 tax filing deadline has passed here's important information for Resource Parents who may have filed for an extension. This information is also important for all Resource Parents in preparation for future tax filings.

For Resource Parents, payments received from CFSA are excluded from income and should not be reported on a tax return — this also includes certain difficulty of care payments. Foster parents may be able to claim a foster child if he or she meets several tests – which include the Citizen or Resident Test, Qualifying Child Test, Qualifying Relative Test and Taxpayer Identification Test. Additionally, parents can deduct expenses that are unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses to feed, clothe and care for the foster child that are incurred to benefit the qualified organization. To find out more information or to see if you qualify for any of these exemptions, [visit here](#).

Fostering Spotlight: Meet Ronica



In each edition of *Fostering Connections* we will feature a child or youth who needs placement. This month we highlight Ronica.

Ronica is a pleasant and engaging teen who loves spending time with her friends. She enjoys going to the mall and/or going to the movies with her friends. Ronica would like a family that would allow her some independence, but is there for her to provide guidance and structure. If you can envision Ronica in your family, contact Michael Carr at (202) 727-7365 to speak with us. We'd love to find her a home.

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