



# FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



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### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 16

Family Match Night  
6pm — 8pm  
CFSA Headquarters

Wednesday, October 16

Foster Parent Information Session  
4:30pm — 6:30pm  
Cinder BBQ  
800 Upshur St., NW

Saturday, November 16

DC 33rd Annual Adoption Day  
10am — 12pm  
Moultrie Courthouse  
Third Floor  
500 Indiana Ave., NW

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

## National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Meet the CFSA Domestic Violence Team



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) are devastating social problems that affect every segment of our society, including children and youth. In some cases, DV and IPV can result in children and youth being placed in foster care.

“Many of the children and families that come to the attention of child welfare staff are experiencing issues of DV and IPV,” said Tiffany N. Williams, Clinical Supervisor for the Office of Well-Being at the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA). “Having a DV team in place provides more targeted and immediate support with resources, education, and long-term planning on behalf of the family.”

The CFSA DV team provides tools and resources for resource parents and assist with identifying best practices for managing the ongoing needs of children in care. Additionally, the CFSA DV team is working to raise awareness of the devastating impact and effects DV has on children and youth.

“Children in care may experience exaggerated states of fear, anxiety, self-blame, and may blame themselves for being removed from the care of their parents,” added Williams. “Resource parents who are unaware of how to manage these symptoms, may find it challenging to stabilize and care for children who have been placed with them. We want them to know, we are here to help.”

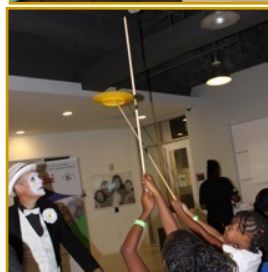
If you experience incidents of DV or IPV, contact the DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants at 844-4HELPC or call the DC Safe Victim Hotline at 844-443-5732.

## We Are Family: Kinship Care Month Celebration

Last month, CFSA celebrated DC's kinship care (kin-care) families during National Kinship Care Month. Hosted at the CFSA Headquarters, the "We Are Family: Kinship Care Month Celebration" brought kin-care families together for an afternoon of food, fun and games.

With more than 229 DC kids and youth currently placed with kin, CFSA's Kinship Support Care Team is at the forefront of ensuring kids in care remain connected to their families. National Kinship Care Month provided a great opportunity for CFSA to celebrate kin families (photos below).

Relatives who are interested in caring for kin in foster care should contact CFSA at 202-442-6100 to speak with a social worker about becoming a licensed kinship foster parent.



## News You Can Use

### Register Now for the CFSA Local College Tour

The CFSA Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) is hosting their annual local college tour on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. This year, the tour will include Virginia Union University and Virginia Commonwealth University. For tour registration, contact Jai-Ahmal Mitchell at [Jai-ahmal.Mitchell2@dc.gov](mailto:Jai-ahmal.Mitchell2@dc.gov); 202-727-2426 or Dr. Kimyatta Divinity at [Kimyatta.Divinity@dc.gov](mailto:Kimyatta.Divinity@dc.gov); 202-727-6709.

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

Each year, more than 23,000 youth transition out of the foster care system across the country. Receiving financial education and guidance, as they learn how to earn and manage money, can help with their transition. For older DC youth in care, CFSA's Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) administers the Making Money Grow program, a financial literacy program used by child welfare agencies across the country to help youth in care ages 15 to 20, learn how to manage their finances and save for the future. Under this program older youth can exit out of care with up to \$12,000 in savings. For more information, contact Nicole Broome at [Nicole.Broome@dc.gov](mailto:Nicole.Broome@dc.gov).

### YVLifeSet Program Offers Transition Support to Older Youth in Care

The CFSA Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) also administers the YVLifeSet, which is designed to help youth successfully transition to independence. The intensity of services provided through YVLifeSet ensure that these youth have the support necessary to transition successfully. A successful transition includes maintaining safe and stable housing, participating in an educational/vocational program, developing employment skills, acquiring the life skills necessary to become a productive citizen, and remaining free from legal involvement. YVLifeSet Specialists develop specialized treatment plans tailored to the strengths and needs of each youth and meets with them weekly to work on their identified goals.

Social workers must refer youth in care to the YVLifeSet program. For more information, contact Krista Shaw at [Krista.Shaw@dc.gov](mailto:Krista.Shaw@dc.gov).

### CFSA Hosts Information Sessions on Becoming a Foster Parent

Do you know someone who may be interested in becoming a foster parent? Every second Saturday of the month, CFSA hosts an information session to prepare and inform individuals on the process of becoming a resource parent. Upcoming sessions will take place on Saturday, November 9, 2019, and Saturday, December 14, 2019. All sessions are hosted at the CFSA Headquarters (200 I Street, SE) from 10am – 12pm. For more information, contact Kristin Barnes at [Kristin.Barnes@dc.gov](mailto:Kristin.Barnes@dc.gov).

### Are You A Match? CFSA Offers Information Session to Find Homes for Specific Youth

CFSA is hosting an **information session to offer current resource parents** an opportunity to learn about children and youth in need of an **adoptive home**. Join us on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, from 6pm – 8pm at the CFSA Headquarters (200 I Street SE). For more information, contact Kristin Barnes at [Kristin.Barnes@dc.gov](mailto:Kristin.Barnes@dc.gov).

## Fostering Spotlight



Darius



Deron

### Could You be the New Home for Deron and Darius?

Deron and Darius, siblings ages 13 and 11, need a loving and supportive adoptive family. While Deron has difficulty with verbal and physical communication skills, he is very affectionate. Darius, who loves to play basketball and enjoys playing pickup games at the playground, likes playing video games and watching YouTube videos. If you can see Deron and Darius being part of your forever family, contact Sonique Nixon at [Sonique.Nixon@dc.gov](mailto:Sonique.Nixon@dc.gov).

Submit story ideas to [CFSA.OPI@dc.gov](mailto:CFSA.OPI@dc.gov).