



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



Inside this issue:

Former Youth-In-Care Gives Back for the Holidays 1

FAPAC News 2

News You Can Use 2

Upcoming Events

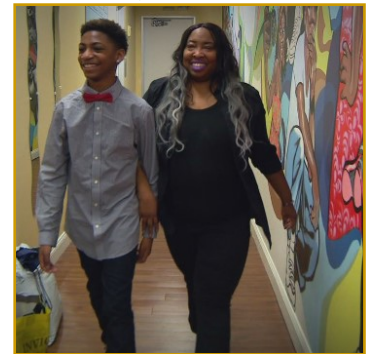
Wednesday, December 18
Office of Youth Empowerment's College Connect 4 Success Workshop
5pm — 7pm
CFSA Headquarters
200 I St., SE, WDC

Wednesday, December 18
Office of Youth Empowerment's Annual Youth Holiday Party
6pm — 8pm
CFSA Headquarters
200 I St., SE, WDC

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

Former Youth-In-Care Gives Back to Other Kids-In-Care for the Holidays

Youth philanthropist and former youth in foster-care, **Miguel Coppedge**, his adoptive mom, **Yolanda Coppedge** and CFSA's Partner's for Kids in Care Program Manager, **Beatrice Williar**, were featured in ABC-7 DC's latest "Inspire" segment highlighting Miguel's donation of "I Care Comfort Bags" to the agency to help kids transitioning into foster care. To donate items to kids and youth in care, contact Beatrice Williar at Beatrice.Williar@dc.gov.



CFSA Celebrates 10-Year Partnership, Collects Gifts for 35 Children-In-Care



This year, the CFSA Recruitment Team celebrated a 10-year holiday partnership with NASA and Grant Thornton LLP. CFSA Recruitment Team members, Dr. Regina Lawson, B. Michael Carr and Kathleen Stines attended the Annual NASA/Grant Thornton LLP Holiday Luncheon, and received gifts and toys for 35 children and youth in care. Over the past decade, donations from this joint effort have warmed the hearts of more than 350 children and youth-in-care.

OYE 'Jams' With Youth for the Holidays

'Tis the season for giving and celebrations! On December 18, 2019, the Office of Youth Empowerment will host its annual "Jingle Jam" Youth Holiday Party at CFSA Headquarters (200 I Street, SE, WDC - Second floor) from 6 pm – 8 pm. All youth-in-care and their resource parents are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, contact Nicole Broome at Nicole.Broome@dc.gov.

CFSA Recruitment Team Hosts Final Event of the Year

The CFSA Recruitment Team hosted their final Fireside Chat of the year at Brookland Pint on December 12, 2019. This information session provided an overview of the need for new foster parents in the District of Columbia. If you know someone who is interested in serving as a foster parent, please have them contact Kristin Barnes at Kristin.Barnes@dc.gov.



FAPAC News & Updates



Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) News

The January training, Neurobiology of Engagement and Connection with Children, Youth and Families is **FILLED**. To be placed on the waiting list, call 202-269-9441.

Coming soon!

January 2020: Dialogue between Foster Parents and Older Youth (in partnership with Best Kids). If you are interested in participating, contact info@dcfapac.org.

FAPAC is looking to build-back resource parent training opportunities. Please e-mail info@dcfapac.org with any ideas or suggestions.

Want to contact the FAPAC Team? They can be reached at 202-269-9441 or info@dcfapac.org.

News You Can Use

Give a Gift of Home for the Holidays

Do you know someone interested in fostering DC kids or youth? Send them our way by calling 202-671-LOVE (5683) or visit fosterdckids.org for more information. More than 800 District children and teens are living outside their birth homes under the care of DC's public child welfare system. They all deserve to grow up in a secure, supportive family. What's more, they deserve to know their community cares. Nearly half of all District children and youth in care are placed in Maryland. To keep these children in their own community, we need more foster homes in the District. If you would like to give a child the gift of a new home, contact CFSA today.

Training Opportunities for Resource Parents

Fostering and adopting a child can be both rewarding and challenging. Training can broaden your knowledge, enhance your skills, and refresh your capabilities as a resource parent. The Child Welfare Training Academy at CFSA has a number of trainings to help you succeed as a parent. Many courses are free of charge. You should be receiving a copy of the Winter Edition of theSource newsletter that highlights all training offerings from January 2020 through March 2020. [Click here](#) to access current and past issues of theSource.

Are you the Forever Holiday Home for Za'layia?

Two-year-old Za'layja enjoys listening to music and watching cartoons. She is medically fragile with cognitive and physical developmental delays. While she can roll from her back to her belly, grab objects and is learning how to crawl and stand, she just recently obtained a gait trainer that allows her to stand for 30 minutes for approximately two-to-three times a day. Za'layja is non-verbal and uses a G-tube for feeding, along with a feeding pump and feeding bags.

Za'layja has a physical therapist who works with her resource parent and nurses to support and improve her physical development. She receives these physical therapy services twice monthly from a facility in Prince George's County and has recently begun attending weekly outpatient physical therapy. Because she is not yet of school age, she is cared for by her nurse and resource parents full time.

If you can picture Za'layja being part of your forever family, please contact Kathleen Stines at Kathleen.Stines@dc.gov.



Have feedback, a tip or story idea?

We want to hear from you! Please send all inquiries, suggestions or story ideas to OPI.CFSA@dc.gov.

