

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



October 2020 at a Glance

- Mayor Bowser Launches Ten New Family Success Centers
- CFSA Recognizes National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- National Kinship Care Month
- News You Can Use
- Fostering Spotlight: Gabby

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Feature Stories

Mayor Bowser Launches Ten New Family Success Centers

This month marks the official opening of the ten new Families First DC Family Success Centers located in Wards 7 and 8. The goals for the Family Success Centers are simple: meet families where they are to help them navigate the District's many resources and connect to critical prevention resources.

From employment and education to food security, childcare, and healthcare, including mental health, each center's priorities were determined by its surrounding community to identify where there are gaps in serving families and customize support to fit their needs.

Last week, when Mayor Bowser and Director Donald officially launched all ten centers at a [small press event](#) on the terrace of Ward 8 grantee Martha's Table at the Commons, they agreed "... when we put families first and support children and parents, the whole community benefits."



This bold new initiative underscores CFSA's commitment to prevention. Read the [Mayor's press release](#) or [watch this clip](#) to learn what the Family Success Centers mean to the community.

CFSA Recognizes National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence (DV), also known as Intimate partner violence (IPV), is a serious, preventable public health problem that affects millions of Americans.



Domestic Violence by the Numbers

- An estimated 15.5 million children in the U.S. live in families that experience partner violence
- One in four women experience intimate partner abuse
- 99 percent of victims also experience financial abuse
- One in three high school students report physical or sexual abuse (or both) by a teen dating partner

The Office of Well Being has put together events and information to help us all do our part to address domestic violence. [Click here](#) to view the calendar.

National Kinship Care Month



This September, for the fifth year in a row, CFSA celebrated National Kinship Care Month by honoring all of our kinship caregivers. These include formal kinship foster parents and informal kinship caregivers like clients from the Grandparent Caregivers Program and the Close Relative Caregivers Pilot Program.

Huge shoutout to the Kinship Team for keeping the tradition strong this year and rallying to host a Kinship Caregivers Zoom House Party with interactive games and distribute a celebratory feast to kinship caregivers from 200 I St SE.

Kinship caregivers play a critical role in keeping children safe, stable, and well. Last year, approximately 30 percent of CFSA foster youth were placed in care of kin. The love and stability these families provide is supported by the engagement and connections built by our dedicated Kinship Team.

News You Can Use

Explore Safe Alternatives to Trick-or-Treating

This Halloween, there are so many safe alternatives to trick-or-treating that will help to protect you, your family, and the community. Decorate your yard in a Halloween theme and coordinate with your neighbors for a driven display experience. Have a trick-or-treat "candy hunt" inside your own household (like an Easter egg hunt!). Host an online costume party or contest with friends and family. [Click here](#) for more information from DC Health about how to safely celebrate. Keep it safe, and keep it spooky!

CWTA Hosts Training on Transracial Caregiving (10/19 and 10/26)

This training is designed to help both child welfare professionals and resource parents better understand the children and youth with whom we work and interact. No matter who you are, this two-day, four-hour training will increase your empathy for all in the adoption constellation – especially children in foster care. Register at <https://cwta.coursestorm.com>.

Attend a Resource Parent Orientation Information Session

Join the CFSA Recruitment Team for an online orientation and information session on Saturday, November 14, or Saturday, December 16. Both sessions will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. via WebEx. To register, please email cfsa.fosterdckids@dc.gov or call 202-671-LOVE (5683) and provide your name, phone number, email address, and the date of the session you want to attend.

Check Out the Office of Youth Empowerment's Calendar of Events

The Office of Youth Empowerment is offering several upcoming events for older CFSA youth. Click here to view event details. Contact Asante Laing at asante.laing@dc.gov for more information.

Save the Date: National Adoption Day

In conjunction with the DC Superior Court, CFSA will celebrate its Annual Adoption Day celebration on Saturday, November 21, 2020 (time TBD). The Annual Adoption Day celebrates DC children and families who have achieved permanency through adoption in FY20, as well as those who are in the process of being adopted through the month of November 2020. The program this year will be virtual and feature personal interviews with families, children, CFSA staff and leadership, and the Chief Judge. Stay tuned for more information.

Fostering Spotlight



Could You Be Gabby's New Forever Family?

Gabby is a thirteen-year-old girl who is curious, funny, caring, and imaginative. She is also friendly, outgoing, and loves to socialize. Her favorite activities are traveling, trying new foods, creating stories, getting her nails done, and anything involving hair and dolls!

Gabby very much wants a forever family - especially one that is patient and can help with learning challenges, excited to empower her as she explores her identity, listens as she shares her thoughts, and provides her with the structure and support she needs to reach her aspirations. If you can imagine welcoming Gabby into your heart and your home, please reach out to Mr. Brian "Michael" Carr at brian.carr@dc.gov.

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.

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