



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



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Upcoming Events

Monday, November 25

"Learn More About Being a Foster Parent" Information Session
5pm — 7pm
Busboys and Poets
2204 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., SE, WDC

Thursday, December 12

"Learn More About Being a Foster Parent" Information Session
6pm — 8pm
Brookland Pint
716 Monroe St., NW, WDC
RSVP: 202-737-5255

Wednesday, December 18

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

Wednesday, December 18

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

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

November is National Adoption Month 33rd Annual DC Adoption Day in Court Ceremony

November is National Adoption Month, a time set aside to celebrate our foster families and raise awareness about the ongoing need for more families to provide a child or youth in care with a forever home. This has been an exciting year for our foster families because of the children who have achieved permanence through adoption. To celebrate the final adoption of kids in care in the District, CFSA in partnership with the DC Superior Court last week hosted the 33rd Annual DC Adoption Day in Court Celebration. During the ceremony 47 children, several of whom are biological siblings, were formally joined with their forever families. Check out moments from the 33rd Annual DC Adoption Day in Court.



Meet a Few of Our Adoptive Super Parents



[pictured above] Adoptive parent William Miles

William Miles and his partner formalized the adoption of their soon to be six-month-old daughter Farrah Exodus Miles-Proctor, during the 33rd Annual DC Adoption Day Celebration on November 16. CFSA applauds Mr. Miles, a resident of Upper Marlboro, MD., who is currently an adoptive parent of four other children, three of whom are biological siblings of Farrah Exodus. Thanks to Mr. Miles, these siblings will now grow up together in their forever home!

Veris McNeil, the aunt and kinship foster parent of two-year old Madeline Roberson, has been extremely diligent in ensuring that her extensive medical needs are met. Madeline, who was born premature and spent the first year of her life in a hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), has made tremendous progress and some of her medical devices and around the clock nursing care are no longer required. Now that Madeline's adoption was formalized at this year's Annual DC Adoption Day Celebration, she can now live with her brother since her aunt who lives in the home has guardianship of him.

Dr. Arif Griffin was matched as a forever home for Nasir Todd in April 2019. Nasir, who has been in foster care for nearly three years, celebrated his adoption during the DC Adoption Day celebration. Since being in his adoptive home Nasir has been stable and extremely happy.

CFSA Provides 'Spooks' to Kids, Youth in Care

Last month, CFSA hosted Spookfest, an evening of Halloween costumes, food, fun and games for DC children and youth in care and their families.



FAPAC News & Updates



Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy (FAPAC) News

FAPAC announces a new, exciting foster parent training opportunity!

Neurobiology of Engagement and Connection with Children, Youth and Families on January 11, 2020 from 9:30am - 3:30pm. Location is to be announced. Childcare available until filled. Registration is required. Please register at www.dcfapac.org or call 202-269-9441.

News You Can Use

CFSA Sets Youth Up for Collegiate Success with Annual Workshop

On December 18, 2019, CFSA's Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) will host the annual OYE College Connect 4 Success Workshop to provide youth in care, specifically first-year college students and those on academic probation, with the tools they need to ensure their academic success. For more information, contact Nicole Broome at Nicole.Broome@dc.gov. This workshop is geared toward first-year students and those on academic probation.

CFSA Rounds Out 2019 with Two Resource Parent Information Sessions

Do you know someone interested in becoming a foster parent? CFSA is hosting two information sessions to prepare and inform potential resource parents on the process of becoming a resource parent. Mark your calendars for the upcoming sessions: **Monday, November 25, 2019 at Busboys and Poets** (2204 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., SE) **from 5pm – 7pm** and **Thursday, December 12, 2019 at Brookland Pint** (716 Monroe St., NW) **from 6pm – 8pm**. Registration is required to attend. RSVP by calling 202-727-5255 or visit www.fosterdckids.org.

Fostering Spotlight

Could You Be A New Home for Za'layja?

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.