

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



February 2022 at a Glance

- A Message from Director Matthews
- New Professional Parent Program
- Kudos Corner (BOND Lead Parent and Resource Parent Shoutouts)
- News You Can Use
- Seeking My Forever Family: Meet Dasaray, Kemontay, and Deron
- Upcoming Events

Feature Stories

A Message from Director Matthews

It is no exaggeration to say I have the best job in the world: leading the District's child welfare agency is a privilege I do not take lightly. And as an agency, CFSA is fortunate to partner with resource parents who support our mission and help keep children safe and stable. What you do for children in care each day does not go unnoticed. I recognize the tremendous sacrifice you make to provide the District's youngest and most vulnerable citizens with loving homes, and we are all thankful. Thank you for your contribution and commitment to this vital work.



Our Newest Professional Parent Program is Finally Here!

There's a James Baldwin quote about change "not on the surface but in the depth—change in the sense of renewal." A new intensive training series profoundly changes how Trauma-Informed Professional Parents (TIPPs) recognize, understand, and respond to children and youth with extensive trauma. This four-week training series, coordinated by CFSA's Child Welfare Training Academy (CWTA), has prepared our new caregivers to step up to care for youth in foster care. Our Resource Parent Support Worker, Mr. Antonio Carter, is excited to support our TIPPs, and we are so grateful that these families are welcoming youth into their homes!

"I speak of change not on the surface but in the depth—change in the sense of renewal."

JAMES BALDWIN

BOND Lead Parent Shoutout:

Mrs. Tracey Walker-Marshall and Ms. Elaine Farley

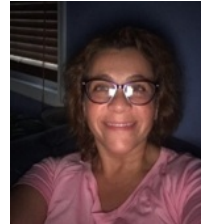
Mrs. Tracey Walker-Marshall and Ms. Elaine Farley joined our team toward the end of 2021. Mrs. Walker-Marshall, a resource parent since July 2015, fostered several youths of all ages. Ms. Elaine Farley is a seasoned resource parent with 28 years of experience fostering children of all ages. [Learn more about them.](#)



Resource Parent Shout-Out:

Ms. Izabella Miller

Ms. Izabella Miller is a champion for children. Her superpowers are on display as a reading specialist for DCPS and a licensed resource parent with CFSA. Ms. Miller has fostered more than 16 youth while fervently advocating for educational, therapeutic, and holistic services for young people. She is the mother of one adult son, whom she adopted when he was 11. She is currently pursuing permanent guardianship for two unrelated children and is providing a home for a third child. [Learn more about Ms. Miller.](#)



It's So Hard to Say Farewell

After 30 years of service as a resource parent, **Ms. Catherine Foreman** is retiring from foster care. Ms. Foreman, one of our most seasoned resource parents who recently celebrated her 84th birthday, has left such an impact on both CFSA and the lives of many children in the District. She adopted three children from care and fostered and provided respite for more than 40 children. She mentored her fellow resource parents as a Mockingbird Hub Parent, starting in 2009 before she transitioned into the role of BOND Lead Parent for the Love Squad!



New Series on Shared Parenting

“Did You Know?” is a new feature that will offer tips, data, and opportunities to encourage Resource Parents to participate in shared parenting. The series will also highlight the importance of shared parenting for the bio-families and the children/youth in care through written and video vignettes from our PEER team on how or why they got into shared parenting. If you have questions about shared parenting, please contact your Resource Parent Support Worker.

News You Can Use

The My School DC Lottery Application Deadline for PK3 – Grade 8 is **March 1**

The program provides families with additional school options for the next school year (SY22-23). This year, DC is implementing a new Equitable Access Preference to increase foster youth’s access to school choice and pre-K programs. Schools could elect to prioritize youth in foster care. [Learn more.](#)

Now Open: Applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program

The 2022 Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) is a six-week program that gives District youth ages 14 to 24 an opportunity to earn money, learn and develop new skills, and gain exposure to various exciting career industries. Applications will be processed on a first-

come, first-served basis. The submission deadline is **Monday, February 28**. Young people are encouraged to apply at summerjobs.dc.gov.

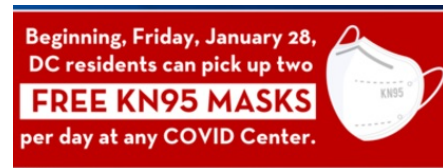


Are You Thinking About Traveling This Summer? Make Sure You Read This!

If you are making travel plans and wondering the guidance for taking your child(ren) with you, check out CFSA's [Administrative Issuance](#) on travel. Please use this information and be sure to communicate with your Support Worker and your child's Social Worker.

Free KN95 Masks at COVID Centers

District residents can now pick up two free KN95 masks each day at the new COVID Centers. Seven COVID Centers are open across DC. And in addition to free KN95 masks, they offer free vaccinations, boosters, rapid tests, and PCR tests. No appointment is needed. All services and supplies are free. [Click here](#) to find the days and hours of the COVID Center locations.



Need a Few Training Hours?

Consider attending a Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Wellness Wednesday session. This month, they are promoting family wellness. If you miss a session, you can check out the recording on the DBG website in the on-demand video library. [Learn more](#).



DPR and Private Summer Camp Registration is Opening!

Get a jump on summer and check out this list of summer camps that the Department of Parks and Recreation has for children and youth, **ages 3-13**. These include programs previously on hiatus due to COVID. [Check DPR's page on summer camps](#) for more information. [Here's a list of private summer camps](#).

Urban Ed's STEM Academy is Accepting Applications!

Applications are open for young adults ages 18-24 to participate in their **paid** IT training internship. Participants must be a resident of the District to receive the bi-weekly pay. **The first cohort starts on February 14 at 11 a.m.; the second cohort begins on March 14, 2022.** [Learn more and sign up today!](#)

Resource Parent Survey

The Resource Parent voice is a valued and important one. While we realize nothing is perfect, we regularly review our practices and adjust to better support our families and children/youth. [Please take a 9-minute survey](#) to give us your feedback. The survey is electronic, user-friendly, and anonymous. You should have received an email with the survey, but you can also access it by [clicking here](#).

Activities for All Ages

- [The DC Public Libraries](#) | [Check the locations for days and times of operation](#) |

- Citywide | free
- [Hike the Underground Railroad Experience Trail](#) | Open Year-Round, dawn to dusk | Sandy Spring, MD | free
- [Smithsonian Summer Camps](#) | In-Person: June 21 – August 19 (Virtual: July 5 – August 12) | S. Dillon Ripley Center | Members: \$100 – \$415 and Non-Members: \$100 – \$480
- [Transient: Impermanent Paintings](#) | Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. | ARTECHOUSE | \$24
- [Ice It: Ice skating rinks around the DC area](#) | Days and times vary | DC/MD/VA | \$10 – \$22
- [P.Nokio: A Hip-Hop Musical](#) | February 25 – March 29, 1:30 p.m. | Bethesda, MD | \$28
- [NSO Music for Young Audiences: I Dream of the Moon & Xavier's New Friends](#) | March 5 – 6 | The Kennedy Center | \$20
- [St. Patrick's Parade of Washington, DC](#) | March 13, 12 p.m. | Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets NW | Free
- [Teens Behind the Scenes at The National Theatre](#) | March 26 – May 14 | The National Theatre | Free

Seeking My Forever Family

Meet Dasaray, Kemontay, and Deron

Dasaray is an intelligent and artistic ten-year-old who is always ready to discuss her favorite books. Kemontay is a kindhearted 9-year-old with an infectious smile. Deron is a soon-to-be 16-year-old with a big heart ready to love anyone willing to be patient with him. These young people are looking for forever families.

[Learn more about them.](#)



Here to Help

REACH Support Hotline for After-Hours Help

Don't forget about the REACH Support Line! Should a challenging situation occur after regular business hours, please call (833) 443-3775 for assistance. View the [REACH Support Line flyer](#) for more information.

REACH Support Line (RSL)
(833) 443-3775

Free COVID-19 Vaccinations (No Appointment Needed) DC | **HEALTH**

Visit one of DC Health's walk-up vaccination sites for a free COVID-19 vaccination. Learn more at coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated. Can't leave your home? Call (855) 363-0333 for assistance.

Stability Incentives Available to Eligible Resource Parents

CFSA issues stability incentives to licensed CFSA resource parents who have provided kids in care a safe and stable placement in their home for 12 consecutive months. Contact your Resource Parent Support Worker for more information.

Earn \$500 via the Resource Parent Referral Program

The Resource Parent Referral Program provides currently licensed CFSA resource parents up to \$500 when a referred parent becomes licensed and a child is placed in their home. Click [here](#) for more information.

Healthy Horizons Assessment On-Call Service

Have a medical question about the child in your care during non-standard business hours? You can call the Healthy Horizons Assessment Center (HHAC) on-call number (202) 498-8456 on weekends and holidays from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Please note that HHAC does not provide "sick visit"

Healthy Horizons Assessment Center
On-Call Service

(202) 498-8456

services.

Weekly DBH Parent Support Group

The DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) [Wellness Wednesday parent support group](#) provides DC parents, including CFSA resource parents, with a space to connect, care for themselves, and help foster resiliency in the children in their care. Join via [Webex](#) Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and use password **WW20**.



theSource Newsletter

In case you missed it, check out [theSource](#), the Child Welfare Training Academy's (CWTA) newsletter for resource parents. Each issue provides class updates, special offerings, and information you need to get the most out of CWTA's training opportunities. Email CWTA.Training@dc.gov with ideas for training or topics.



Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Description
Information Sessions	Thu, 3/31	6 – 7 p.m.	Virtual	Know someone interested in becoming a resource parent? Invite them to one of our Information Sessions. They'll get an overview of the process, hear licensing qualifications, and engage with foster youth or resource parents. Registration required.
	Sat, 3/12 & 4/9	10 – 11 a.m.		
Fellowship & Feedback	Thu, 4/21	6:30 p.m.	Webex (link to come via email)	Want to hear from the CFSA administration? Have questions for CFSA leadership? Or maybe you want to gather with other resource parents. Whatever your motivation, join us for our monthly F&F session.
	Fri, 3/18 & 5/20	Noon.		

Upcoming Event Links

- Resource Parent Information Sessions: [Registration link](#)

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.

Follow CFSA on social media!

