

APRIL 8, 2021

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



April 2021 at a Glance

- Child Abuse Prevention Month: Prevention With Purpose
- DPR Opens Summer Camp Registration
- Get Ready for National Foster Care Month
- CFSA to Increase Safe, In-Person Visits
- News You Can Use
- Fostering Spotlight: Treasure

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Feature Stories

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Prevention With Purpose

This year's theme is "**Thriving Children and Families: Prevention With Purpose.**" To shift the dialogue from awareness to intentional action, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (MACCAN) is sharing a [calendar of virtual events](#) promoting steps all District residents can take to help prevent maltreatment.

Save the date for the **MACCAN Protecting Our Children and Their Future Virtual Town Hall** on Tuesday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., featuring CFSA Director Brenda Donald. Panelists will discuss the impact of the pandemic and answer questions about resources for families and children in DC. Join via Webex at tiny.cc/MACCAN.

**April Is
National
Child Abuse
Prevention
Month**



FIND TOOLS, TIPS, AND RESOURCES AT
WWW.CHILDWELFARE.GOV/PREVENTIONMONTH

Child Welfare
Information Gateway

Children's
Bureau

DPR Opens Summer Camp Registration

Register today for DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) summer camp! DPR is offering [90+ camps](#) across all eight wards with social distancing safeguards in place. Look out for the 2021 version of [DPR Camp-at-Home](#), a virtual summer camp experience that comes with a programming and activity guide as well as a free fun pack filled with toys, games, and arts and crafts.



Get Ready for National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month, and the 2021 theme is **"Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents."** This time of year brings one of our favorite traditions: the naming of DC's Foster Parent of the Year. We look forward to announcing and honoring 2021's awardee.



Your commitment to the children of Washington, DC is invaluable. We appreciate everything you do, and we hope you know that. Take a trip down memory lane and check out the videos below that highlight recent awardees. Grab your popcorn and your tissues!

- [2020 DC Foster Parents of the Year: Barbara Edwards and Tim Jones](#) (Vimeo)
- [2019 DC Foster Parent of the Year: Aletha Cain](#) (Vimeo)
- [2018 DC Foster Parent of the Year: Melissa and Daniel Cummins](#) (YouTube)
- [2017 DC Foster Parent of the Year: Phyllis McKeiver](#) (Vimeo)

CFSA to Increase Safe, In-Person Visits

Beginning April 15, CFSA will increase the number of in-person visits with children, birth families, and resource parents. With a close eye on the District's evolving public health environment, we continue to prioritize everyone's safety while providing the support and interventions that will best serve our families. To help manage the public health emergency with everyone's comfort level, the agency will continue to be flexible. The CFSA staff members with whom you work and their managers stand ready to support you and resolve any issues.

Please see the tips sheets below for more details and information on facilitating safe in-person visits:

- [In-Person Visiting Between Children in Foster Care and Their Birth Parents](#)
- [In-Person Visiting During COVID-19](#)
- [In-Person Visits by CFSA Staff Members to Resource Homes](#)

News You Can Use

Tax Tips: File by May 17, Information for Resource Parents

The IRS has extended the deadline for individual filing and payment to May 17, 2021. Payments from CFSA are excluded from income and should not be reported on a tax return. Resource parents may claim a foster child if they pass certain eligibility tests. Additionally, parents may deduct expenses that are unreimbursed, out-of-pocket costs to care for the foster child. Review this [FAQ Sheet](#) for more information.

Resource Parent Portal: Document Spotlight Coming Soon

In case you missed it, we refreshed [FosterDCKids.org](https://www.fosterdckids.org). Current resource parents now have access to a [private portal](#) with guides, one-pagers, and other helpful information. Please contact your Resource Parent Social Worker for your password. Check out the new [FosterDCKids.org](https://www.fosterdckids.org) today and share it with anyone looking to welcome a DC child into their hearts.

There's more—each month, we'll highlight a different private portal resource for you in *Fostering Connections*. Stay tuned for more tips.

DC Public Library Updates: 18 Sites Reopened, Free Books for Young Children

DC Public Library (DCPL) has reopened 18 sites for limited indoor services, e.g. access to public computers, printing and book pick-up, and library card registration. To learn more, visit DCPL's [Returning to the Library](#) webpage.

Families with young children can receive books through DCPL's [Books from Birth](#) program, which mails all enrolled children in DC one free book each month from birth until they turn five. [Register today](#). Please contact BooksFromBirth@dc.gov with any questions.

Discounts Available to Resource Families

Did you know that different companies and organizations offer discounts to resource families? Explore these [freebies and discounts](#), including reduced prices on Amazon Prime accounts and other great deals.

REACH Support Hotline

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.

Activities for All Ages

- [Spring Break Soccer Camp](#) | April 12 - 16 | Capitol Hill | Different pricing options
- [Movie at the Drive-In](#) | Various dates | Alexandria, VA | \$40 per car

Fellowship & Feedback

May 7 | 12 – 1:30 p.m. | RSVP not required

Join Fellowship & Feedback on Friday, May 7, from 12 to 1:30 p.m., when we'll highlight Healthy Horizons, CFSA's on-site medical clinic. Connect with CFSA leaders, meet other resource parents, and share your thoughts. Submit questions to ReachCFSA@dc.gov. Access information to come.

Family Match Night: Older Youth

April 20 | 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | [RSVP](#) required

Ready to open your heart, home, and mind to adoption? This Family Match Night is your opportunity to learn about older youth who need you in their life as a loving, caring, and invested forever parent. Register via [Eventbrite](#).

Resource Parent Information Sessions

Two April sessions | [RSVP](#) required

There are two upcoming sessions: Saturday, April 10, from 10 to 11 a.m., and Thursday, April 29, from 6 to 7 p.m. Attendees will learn about fostering and child-specific adoption, children currently in care, and the supports CFSA provides. Register via [Eventbrite](#).

Computer Training Classes for Adults

Various Times | [RSVP](#) required

The United Planning Organization invites adults looking to improve their computer skills to attend one of eight free "[Getting Comfortable with Your Computer](#)" training sessions. [Click here](#) for more information and register by calling 202-610-5825.

Fostering Spotlight

Meet Treasure

Treasure is an expressive 11th grader looking for a forever family that is active, can support her health and mental well-being efforts, and will love and treat her as their own. She enjoys gymnastics, modeling, and writing poetry about her life experiences and goals. Although quiet when first meeting new people, Treasure is warm, easygoing, and likes to talk.

She wants a family that can focus on helping her achieve her goal of attending and graduating from college. Treasure is excited about the possibility of being adopted and hopes to find the right family soon. If you can envision welcoming Treasure into your heart and home, please contact Kim.Walk@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.

Follow CFSA on social media!



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