

DC CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



WE ARE
GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



May 2022 at a Glance

- Celebrate Foster Care Month
- 2022 DC Foster Parents of the Year!
- Resource Parent Shout-outs
- News You Can Use
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- Upcoming Events

Feature Stories

Celebrate Foster Care Month

All children deserve to grow up in a stable, loving home. National Foster Care Month comes once a year, but we appreciate our resource parents year-round for loving and supporting our children and youth every day. CFSA's work isn't possible without you. Thank you for ensuring a brighter future for people like **DMV Radio/TV Personality Poet Taylor**, who grew up in foster care. We are so grateful for Poet stopping by to share her journey to permanency. Click the image below to watch a public service announcement dedicated to older youth:



2022 DC Foster Parents of the Year!

Congratulations to the 2022 DC Foster Parents of the Year, Kevin McGilly and John Corea! They are among the foster parents from 10 jurisdictions across DC, Maryland, and Virginia [honored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments \(COG\)](#). Kevin and John became licensed foster care providers in 2018. They accepted a leadership role within the resource parent community three years later. We are so fortunate to have resource parents like them who model quality, compassion, and partnership while working with our staff to support what's in the best interest of the children in their care. **Click the image below to watch their story.**



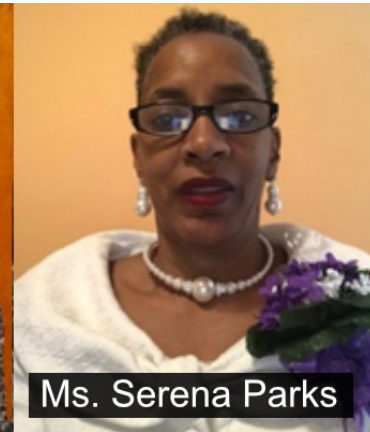
Kudos Corner



Ms. Mary Gaydos



Ms. Sarah Bax



Ms. Serena Parks

Resource Parent Shout-Out:

Thank you, Ms. Mary Gaydos, Ms. Sarah Bax, Ms. Serena Parks, and Ms. Gwendolyn Valentine, for going above and beyond in their love and support of our children and youth in foster care. We are so grateful for their selflessness as they love and engage youth with extensive trauma. [Learn more about them.](#)

CFSA on WPGC 95.5

Don't miss our 2022 Foster Parents of the Year this Sunday at 7 a.m., when [WPGC 95.5](#) will feature them in a radio segment for National Foster Care Month. They will join Roland Turner of the Greater Washington urban Alliance for a discussion on CFSA's mission, the need for [#DCFamiliesforDCKids](#), and the value in this year's theme: "Relative and Kin Connections: Keeping Families Strong."

The Importance of Shared Parenting

Shared parenting is a best practice for children in

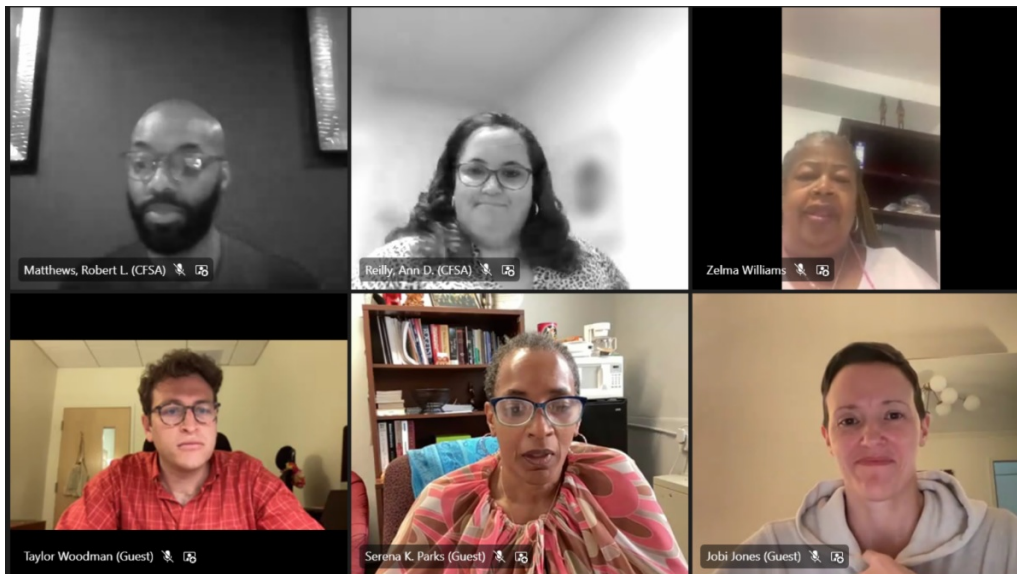
care. When the adults in children's lives are on the same page, they thrive! Birth and resource parents are not expected to be best friends right away. A gradually developed relationship is best and provides everyone a level of comfort. Research proves that frequent contact between birth and resource parents improves a child's behavior and adjustment to being in care. CFSA supports shared parenting practices. Birth and resource parents are encouraged to work together in helping children during their foster care experience and beyond. If you have questions about shared parenting, please contact your Resource Parent Support Worker.



Highlights



At the end of April, the Placement Unit hosted the first BOND Lead Parent Recognition Gathering in person! Our Bond lead parents felt our appreciation and gratitude as we celebrated them with great food and music.



Our Deputy Director of Out-of-Home Support **Ann Reilly** chatted with four dedicated and diverse resource parents as they shared insight into their fostering highs and lows during our monthly Management Team Meeting in honor of National Foster Parent Month. In a panel-style discussion, **Ms. Jobi Jones**, **Mr. Taylor Woodman**, **Ms. Serena Parks**, and **Ms. Zelma Williams** explained the lessons learned from their experiences and provided pertinent feedback to CFSA's foster care programming and support. We are so grateful for their contribution to our mission.

"I'm an educator, and I believe in the power of children, in the power of youth. So, I wanted to show up for DC." —Mr. Taylor Woodman on why he became a CFSA Resource Parent.



We honored our 2022 Foster Parents of the Year (FPOY) at a gathering where Ms. Valencia Harvey, our 2021 Foster Parent of the Year, passed the torch to her successors! Click [here](#) to see additional photos.

News You Can Use

Did You Miss the My School DC Lottery Application Deadline?

You can submit a [post-lottery application](#) today to add your child to school waitlists. Questions? Contact the My School DC Hotline, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at (202) 888-6336 or at info.myschooldc@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 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.



Department Parks and Recreation and Private Summer Camp Registration is Open!

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 the pandemic. Check DPR's page on summer camps for more information. We also wanted to share [a list of private summer camps](#).

Youth Internships

The CFSA Office of Youth Empowerment internship programs offer youth ages 16 – 21 hands-on experience and professional mentors. Internship opportunities span a variety of sectors such as healthcare, education, construction, real estate, advertising/media, psychology, small businesses, community-based organizations, etc. OYE interns may work up to 30 hours a week at \$15.20 per hour. For additional information, please reach out to **Afrilasia Joseph** at Afrilasia.Joseph@dc.gov or **Sharlene Sawyer** at Sharlene.Sawyer@dc.gov.

Department of Parks and Recreation Is Hiring for Summer Jobs

Want to have fun and earn money as a lifeguard, camp counselor, or warehouse assistant? Those are among the more than 500 summer jobs available through the Department of Parks and Recreation. [Learn more and apply today!](#)

Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Youth Career and Hiring Fair

Here's your chance to get in front of over 40 companies, businesses, and organizations! Bring your resume and come professionally dressed to the Office of Workforce Development's Career and Hiring Fair on June 22 at the R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center, located at 2730 Martin Luther King Avenue SE. [Registration is required.](#)

Are You Interested in Becoming a Professional Parent?

We are actively recruiting **two** new Professional Parents, who will be paid to provide intensive culturally informed support and services to children/youth who have additional needs. If you're interested or want to learn more about the program, please email **Dr. Regina Lawson** at Regina.Lawson@dc.gov.

Activities for All Ages

- [Dairy Days: Ice Cream and Butter Making](#) | May 22 (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.) | Chantilly, VA | \$8
- [Washington Folk Festival](#) | June 4 & 5 | Glen Echo, MD | free
- [World Heritage Festival](#) | June 5, 1 – 7 p.m. | Silver Spring, MD | free
- [Let's Skate DC at The Wharf](#) | June 11 & 12 (Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. and Sundays: 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.), July 9 & 10, and August 13 & 14 | Transit Pier at The Wharf | \$10 skate rentals for children (adults must bring their skates)
- [Portside in Old Town Summer Festival](#) | June 17 & 18 | Alexandria, VA | free
- [Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#) | June 22 – 27, June 30 – July 4 | Washington, DC | free
- [Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle](#) | June 25 & 26 | Washington, DC (Pennsylvania Avenue NW) | Check the website for ticket prices
- [Silver Spring Arts & Crafts Summer Fair](#) | July 10, 1 – 7 p.m. | Silver Spring, MD (Veterans Plaza) | free
- [Purcellville Wine & Food Festival](#) | July 16, 2 – 8 p.m. | Purcellville, VA | Check the site for ticket prices
- [Loudoun County Fair](#) | July 26 – 30 | Leesburg, VA | Check the site for varying ticket prices
- [Frying Pan Farm Park 4-H Fair and Carnival](#) | August 4 – 7 | Herndon, VA | Check this site frequently for updates
- [DC Water Lantern Festival](#) | August 6 | Washington, DC | Check the site for varying ticket prices
- [Prince William County Fair](#) | August 12 – 20 | Manassas, VA | Check the site for price updates
- [Greenbelt Labor Day Festival](#) | September 2 – 5 | Greenbelt, MD | free

- [Prince George's County Fair](#) | September 8 – 11 | Upper Marlboro, MD (Show Place Arena) | Check the site for varying ticket prices

Seeking My Forever Family

Nygee D.

Nygee is an exceptionally well-rounded 12-year-old who loves sharing his interest in video games and outdoor activities with anyone. His comedic timing often has his classmates and adults doubled over with laughter. The 7th grader enjoys arts and crafts and maintains a B average in most of his classes. He is destined for success and needs a family whose love and support will provide him the stability and belonging he deserves. If you can see Nygee as part of your forever family, please contact Mr. Brian "Mike" Carr at Brian.Carr@dc.gov.



It Takes a Village

We all know the best recruiters are you, our awesome resource parents! Do you know some great people who have the heart, patience, and time to foster our children and youth? If you have someone in mind, send them our way! [Here's how](#).

Are you interested in talking about your foster parent experience with prospective families? We would love to hear from you. [Learn more](#).

Here to Help

Don't Forget to Check Out the FOSTERDCKIDS Website

Check out our "Current Resource Parents" page on FosterDCKids.org. Hover over "Resources," click on "Current Resource Parents," then enter the password: resourcelove.



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” services.

Healthy Horizons Assessment Center
On-Call Service

(202) 498-8456

CWTA Courses

Want to learn about ethical child welfare practices? Want to better understand the laws of Human trafficking in relation to the child welfare system? Or maybe you want to dive deeper into clinical documentation. [Check the course descriptions and offerings](#) and register today!

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**.



Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials Available

The Office for Victims of Crime developed these resources to support children and youth who are frequently victims of, or witnesses to, violence and abuse that results in them encountering or navigating the justice system. [Access materials here](#).



Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Description
Information Sessions	Sat, 6/11, 7/9, & 8/13	10 – 11 a.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.
Community Resource Parent Information Session	Sun, 5/29	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Community Church of Washington, DC 5201 Ames Street NE	The Recruitment Team is partnering with the Community Church of Washington DC to host an Information Session for the church's LGBTQ+ members, stakeholders, and community partners

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!

