

DC CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



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June 2021 at a Glance

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Feature Stories

CFSA Remembers Resource Parent Clark Ray

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of resource parent Clark Ray. Mr. Ray and his husband, Mr. Aubrey Dubra, worked with CFSA to provide temporary safe haven—and later a forever family—to four children.

During his eight-year tenure, Mr. Ray recruited other resource parents so they, too, could help provide temporary care for the District's children when home was not safe. His example of all that a resource parent could be has left an indelible impact on our work, and it will continue to be realized for years to come. Our deepest condolences to all who knew and loved Mr. Ray.

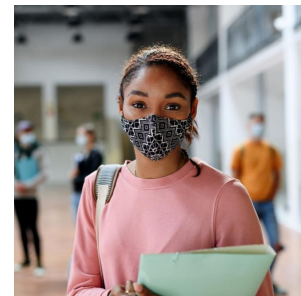
Last year, Mayor Bowser [highlighted the Ray-Dubra family during National Adoption Month](#). Click the image below to remember and celebrate the legacy of love that Mr. Ray leaves behind.



School Enrollment for SY 2021-2022

Get ready for SY 2021-2022! Consult with your child's Social Worker and service team to confirm your family's enrollment plan, which should cover the following:

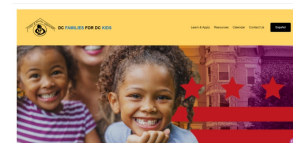
- Agreement on where the child will attend school;
- Submission of all required enrollment forms to the school or school district (can be completed online, on the school district's website, or in-person);
- Submission of residency verification forms (online or in-person); and
- Submission of health records and immunization forms (online or in-person).



Submit all enrollment documents by August 2, 2021 to allow time for schools to process your documents. Visit [DC Enroll](#) for step-by-step directions on enrolling in a [DCPS](#) or DC Charter School. Contact Megan Dho at 202-445-6920 or Megan.Dho@dc.gov with questions.

FosterDCKids.org Recognized by Hermes Creative Awards

At the start of 2021, CFSA's Resource Parent Recruitment and Retention Team renovated and relaunched [FosterDCKids.org](#) with the support of LINK Strategic Partners. Together, they reimagined the website to provide support and educational information to current resource parents while engaging potential ones. The project was a labor of love that required input from many stakeholders.



In addition to improving user engagement, the new site was recently recognized with a Hermes Creative Award! The Hermes Creative Awards celebrate projects from around the world that exhibit outstanding concepts, writing, and design. As we continue partnering together to serve the children and families of the District of Columbia, please join us in recognizing this first-in-class website!

CFSA Presents "Passing the Torch: Our

Community, Our Youth, Our Parents"

Take a few minutes to [hear from the DC 2020 and 2021 Foster Parents of the year](#) (fast forward to 11:54). You're in for a treat!



News You Can Use

Consider Becoming a Professional Parent

Have a knack for supporting and building confidence in children ages 8 and up? CFSA seeks resource parents to serve in full-time, salaried positions who can provide foster care services to youth, many of whom would thrive with extra care and attention. The Professional Resource Parent Program supports CFSA's broader effort to improve placement stability through increased supports. For additional information, or to register for an upcoming information session, email CFSA.Recruitment-Retention@dc.gov.

Important Information for Summer Trips

Planning a trip and wondering what the guidance is for taking your child or youth with you? Review the [Travel and Overnight Stays Involving Children in Foster Care Administrative Issuance](#) (AI). This AI outlines the circumstances in which kinship and traditional foster parents may allow children to participate in overnight stays or travel. Reach out to your Resource Parent Support Worker and the child's Social Worker for additional guidance.

Healthy Horizons Assessment Center 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) between 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. on weekends and holidays. During the day, resource parents should consult their pediatrician for medical inquiries. Please note that the HHAC does not provide "sick visit" services, routine wellness visits, physicals, or services to children who have open in-home cases with CFSA.

Are You Eligible for a Stability Incentive?

CFSA issues incentive payments to licensed resource parents who have provided kids in care a safe and stable placement in their home for 12 consecutive months. To qualify, you must maintain a foster youth in your home for 12 consecutive months from the date of placement. Incentive payments are released on a rolling quarterly schedule, following the annual anniversary placement date. For more information, contact your Resource Parent Support Worker.

Earn \$500 via the Resource Parent Referral Program

Licensed CFSA resource parents can receive an incentive for referring people who complete the foster care licensing and placement processes. The referring resource parent will receive \$300 when the referral becomes licensed and \$200 once the newly licensed resource parent has a child placed in their home. Review the [Financial Incentive Administrative Issuance](#) for more information.

DC Public Library and DPR Learning Hubs

To support continued learning, Mayor Bowser launched the Learning Hubs program with

support from DPR and DCPL. Kindergarteners through 5th graders, ages 6 to 12, can enjoy safe, structured learning environments at select DPR locations. Registration is free and includes access to the internet and devices. For more information visit dpr.dc.gov/page/dpr-learning-hubs.

Free COVID-19 Vaccinations (No Appointment Needed)

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.

Family Success Centers Offer Free Programming in Wards 7 & 8

The District's Families First DC Family Success Centers offer free programming in Wards 7 and 8. View the [June events list](#) to explore available options and contact Octavia.Shaw1@dc.gov with any questions.

Activities for All Ages

- [Ride for Pride](#) | Saturday, June 27, 9 – 11 a.m. | Rock Creek Park (Lot 6) | free
- [DISdance, Pride Edition](#) | June 18 & 25 at 6:30 p.m. | Virtual | free
- [The Great Inka Road: Engineering an Empire exhibit](#) | open through June 27 | National Museum of the American Indian | free
- [Outdoor performances at the REACH](#) | multiple dates | Kennedy Center | free
- [Visit a splash park](#) | multiple dates | multiple locations | free - \$20
- [Summer Sunday Concert series](#) | McLean, VA | multiple dates | free
- [Animationland](#) at Port Discovery | Baltimore, MD | multiple dates | \$20

Seeking My Forever Family

Meet Antonio

Antonio, or "AJ," is an energetic and compassionate twelve-year-old who loves exploring parks, riding his bike, and helping care for others. He is humorous and engages easily with adults, children, and pets. AJ especially loves cats and dogs and is always happy to help take care of them. He is inquisitive and never shies away from asking questions about topics he finds interesting.



AJ is looking for a patient and loving family that is committed to his growth, active in their community, and can provide a consistent structure. If you can envision AJ as a part of your forever family, email Kim.Walk@dc.gov.

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

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.



Policy Change: Family Team Meetings

The Family Team Meeting (FTM) policy was updated this May



to reflect that attorneys are now invited to attend meetings. If an attorney is interested in participating in an FTM, all other attorneys connected to the case are required to be notified by the FTM coordinator. Additionally, the attorney participating in the FTM has an obligation to contact all represented parties' attorneys. For more information about this policy, please visit [Program - Family Team Meetings | cfsc.dc.gov](https://www.cfsc.dc.gov/Program-Family-Team-Meetings).

New Tool: CFSA Policy Index

CFSA POLICY PRESS

The Policy team has redesigned the Policy Index to improve searchability. You can access the new Policy Index on CFSA's public website by clicking [here](#). New enhancements make it easier to locate [Program Policies](#), [General Administrative Policies](#), [Administrative Issuances](#), and [Quick Reference Guides](#). To access HIPAA policies, please sign in to the [CFSA internal website](#) and click the tab entitled "Policies and Practice." If you have any questions about CFSA policy or how to use the Policy Index, email CFSA.Policies@dc.gov.

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Description
Resource Parent Information Session 1	Thu, 6/24	6 – 7 p.m.	Virtual, RSVP required (link below)	Know someone interested in becoming a resource parent? Invite them to an upcoming information session to get an overview of the process, hear licensing qualifications, and engage with a youth in care or resource parent. Registration is required. Registration required.
Fellowship & Feedback: CPS Process	Fri, 7/9	12 – 1 p.m.	Webex (link below), or Dial-in: 202-860-2110 (access code: 160 548 3928)	Gather in community with other resource parents and hear from CFSA leadership. This month we'll highlight the CPS process. Have a question you would like to discuss? Submit questions ahead of time to ReachCFSA@dc.gov . Registration not required.
Resource Parent Information Session 2	Sat, 7/10	10 – 11 a.m.	Virtual, RSVP required (link below)	Know someone interested in becoming a resource parent? Invite them to an upcoming information session to get an overview of the process, hear licensing qualifications, and engage with a youth in care or resource parent. Registration is required. Registration required.
Save the Date: Youth Recognition Ceremony	Wed, 7/14	6 p.m.	Virtual, RSVP not required, link to come via email	Join CFSA's 33rd annual Youth Recognition Ceremony to honor the class of 2021 and their many accomplishments. This year's theme is "Cap. Gown. It's Going Down!" Help CFSA send our graduates off in style and celebration. More details to come.

Upcoming Event Links

- Resource Parent Information Session 1: [Registration link](#)
- Fellowship & Feedback: [Webex access link](#), (password: children1234)
- Resource Parent Information Session 2: [Registration link](#)

FAPAC Updates



Read the latest edition of the Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) newsletter at bit.ly/FAPAC_Spring2021.

For more information about FAPAC, visit DCFAPAC.org, email info@dcfapac.org, or call 202-269-9441.

Have feedback, a tip, or a story?

We want to hear from you! Please send all inquiries, suggestions, or story ideas to cfsc.opi@dc.gov.

Follow CFSA on social media!



