

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



## November 2020 at a Glance

- CFSA Launches New REACH Support Line
- CFSA Celebrates National Adoption Awareness Day on November 21
- Four Fun Ways to Celebrate Thanksgiving
- News You Can Use
- Fostering Spotlight: Isaiah
- FAPAC News and Updates

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## Feature Stories

### CFSA Launches New REACH Support Line

CFSA's newly launched REACH Support Line (RSL) is a telephone-based intervention providing after-hours support to resource parents and youth experiencing behavioral, emotional, or family dynamic instability challenges. RSL staff are trained to help in an engaging, collaborative, and advocacy-based manner. Resource parents and youth can call the RSL at (833) 443-3775.

DC Child and Family Services Agency

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

**What is the RSL?**  
The RSL is a telephone-based intervention for resource parents and youth seeking support during challenging situations that occur after standard business hours.

**When should you call the RSL?**  
You should call the RSL when it is after business hours and you experience or observe behavioral, emotional or family dynamic instability.\*

**What can the RSL do for you?**  
By providing information and advice in crisis situations, the RSL's Resource Parent Support Workers can help avoid placement disruptions and improve family functioning.

**Hours of Operation**  
Monday – Friday  
5pm – 1am  
Saturday – Sunday  
9am – 1am  
Holidays  
9am – 1am

**For support after 1am call the CFSA Hotline (671-SAFE) and ask to speak to the supervisor on duty.**

\*Resource parents seeking assistance during business hours should contact their resource parent support worker. Youth seeking assistance during business hours should contact their social worker.

**REACH**  
RECRUIT ENGAGE ADVOCATE COLLAB HELP  
Building and Sustaining Our Resource Parent Community

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# CFSA Celebrates National Adoption Day on November 21

National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness of the children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the US. For 34 years, CFSA and the DC Superior Court have co-presented an annual National Adoption Day ceremony. This year's theme is "Changing Lives with Love."

To celebrate, the Courts and CFSA will premiere a video highlighting DC's adoptive families and their children. Hosted and produced by long-time adoption advocate Barbara Harrison, the segment will feature interviews with adoptive families and the civil servants working to bring them together. The video will be available for viewing on CFSA's social channels later this month, follow us now on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).



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## Four Fun Ways to Celebrate Thanksgiving

Give thanks this year by celebrating safely and continuing to protect your loved ones, your community, and yourself. Check out these low-risk alternatives to traditional Thanksgiving gatherings:

- Host a special meal for those only in your household;
- Hold a virtual dinner or cooking lesson with friends and family through video technology;
- Enjoy sporting events and parades from the comfort of your couch;
- Support local businesses through online shopping on Black Friday or Cyber Monday.



View DC's official [Guidance for Thanksgiving and Other Holiday Celebrations](#) for more safety tips.

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## CFSA to Attend AEA Virtual National Adoption Match Event

As an Adoption Exchange Association (AEA) member, CFSA's recruitment team will participate in AEA's Collaborate! Virtual National Adoption Match Event on November 12. This event will introduce 18 licensed prospective families interested in adopting teens, large sibling groups, and children with special medical needs. Good luck, recruitment team!

## News You Can Use

### Foster Parent Information Session

*November 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | [RSVP](#) required*

Members of the public are invited to attend an information session about foster parenting

in DC and the supports that CFSA provides. The session will feature 2020 Resource Parents of the Year, Ms. Edwards and Mr. Jones, who will discuss their experience of fostering and then adopting two older youth. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

## CFSA Family Match Night

*November 17 | 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | [RSVP](#) required*

Licensed resource parents are invited to learn about older youth looking for their forever family. The session will feature a presentation about older children who have the goal of adoption, the supports that CFSA has previously or is currently providing, and a Q&A session. [Click here](#) to RSVP and [here](#) for more information.

## Personal Movie Screening: *Closure*

*On-demand | no RSVP required*

Resource parents are invited to watch [Closure](#), a documentary about an adoptee who finds the birth family she didn't know existed. Experience a story about identity, the complexities of trans-racial adoption, and, most importantly, closure. To watch the documentary free of charge, [click here](#) and enter the password: **dcyf2020**.

## Fostering Spotlight

### Meet Isaiah

Isaiah is a lovable 11-year-old who brightens every room he enters! He enjoys being held, is easily engaged, and loves to smile and laugh. When you talk to Isaiah, he expresses interest by moving back and forth. Although he cannot verbalize his feelings, he has developed a unique form of communication and is a delight to be near.

Isaiah needs a forever family that can nurture and love him. He requires total care and adult support for his daily living activities. He will thrive in a family that is patient and dedicated. Medical knowledge and experience caring for children with special needs are ideal, but a family willing to learn how to care for Isaiah is most important. If you can picture welcoming Isaiah into your home, please contact Ms. Kim Walk at [Kim.Walk@dc.gov](mailto:Kim.Walk@dc.gov).



## FAPAC News and Updates



### Virtual Peer Support Groups

FAPAC offers virtual peer support groups (PSG) on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6 – 8 p.m. PSG's are open to all current resource parents and anyone who has achieved permanency through CFSA or its contracted agencies. For registration, visit [www.dcfapac.org](http://www.dcfapac.org).

### Training Sessions and Individual Assistance

Training sessions are offered on a varied schedule. FAPAC also welcomes individual calls for assistance about service needs, referrals, or for a listening ear. For support and information, call (202) 269-9441 or email [info@dcfapac.org](mailto:info@dcfapac.org).

## 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](mailto:cfsa.opi@dc.gov).

Follow CFSA on social media!

