



# FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



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### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 21  
Community Foster Parent Recruitment Event  
4:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 19  
Family Match Night  
Information Session  
6 p.m.  
CFSA Headquarters

DC Child & Family Agency

## SUPPORTING THE SUCCESS OF OUR RESOURCE PARENTS

### CFSA's Parent Resource Team — the support team behind resource parents

While holding children in a special place in your heart and making room in your home are some of the prerequisites for being a resource parent, at CFSA, we understand it takes that and many times a whole lot more.

When you need help to support your success as a resource parent, contact CFSA's Resource Parent Support Team — whether you need basic information and resources or that “whole lot more,” to support foster kids in your care.

“Our work is very similar to what our social workers do for children and families, but our focus is on the resource parent,” said Antoinette Harris-Edwards, Supervisory Resource Development Specialist. “We identify training opportunities and other ways to build their [resource parent] skillset.

“I am often times constantly coaching, directing, problem solving and communicating with families to build a rapport with the parent, so that they have trust in me as an advocate for them as I troubleshoot matters before they reach the social workers' desks,” said Tawna Cox, veteran Resource Development Specialist — Foster Parent Support. “The placement journey can sometimes be tough for the resource parent and the child, and we want to ensure the parents have a lifeline to support their needs in addition to the needs of the child.”

You can reach the Resource Parent Support Team, contact [Antoinette Harris Edwards](#) or [Leander Skeete](#).



Pictured here (from left to right)  
Antoinette Harris-Edwards,  
Tawna Cox and Leander Skeete

## Need vaccinations for foster kids in your care?



Resource parents, if you have a child who is entering or re-entering care and needs to receive vaccinations before school starts, the biological parent must provide consent. The assigned social worker will contact the biological parent for authorization. If consent is obtained, immunizations will be provided to children who are not yet up-to-date with their vaccinations during the comprehensive examination at CFSA's Healthy Horizons Assessment Center, 200 I Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. We want to help you

safeguard the health of kids in care and expedite placement in daycare and school. Ongoing immunizations should be administered by the child's primary care physician.

## Coming soon: new foster parent recruitment campaign

CFSA is embarking upon a new campaign to expand the array of foster homes for kids coming into care. Given the constant flux of available foster homes for a variety of reasons, recruitment is a continuous cycle and we are always recruiting new foster parents.

The goal of the campaign is to recruit new foster parents, deepen our community involvement and strengthen support for our foster care system.

While there's no quick-fix approach to placements, given the complexity of the needs of our children and the inter-relatedness of practice and systems issues, this new campaign will be instrumental in developing solutions to: increase first placements with kin; increase placement resources and refine our placement matching tool to ensure that the first placement is the best placement; and step up supports to our foster parents, including mental health and crisis stabilization services, better and more frequent communications, and more focused training to strengthen their capacity to care for our children.



Beginning in September, CFSA's campaign partner will begin reaching out to CFSA staff and resource parent to conduct interviews to determine: what motivates your work, what's working well, and the types of challenges faced by resource parents and CFSA staff. LINK will also convene focus group sessions to further understand public perception of CFSA and foster care. Details on how to participate are forthcoming. For more information, contact [Marcy Chell](#).

## Available now: Trainings available to new and experienced Resource Parents

The Child Welfare Training Academy (CWTA) provides both pre-service and in-service training for agency and private agency staff and Resource Parents. In an effort to ensure the unique training needs of new and experienced Resource Parents are met, CWTA has created the Resource Parent Learning and Development program that includes a tiered approach to training and a learning and development assessment called the family development plan.

Learning and Development for Resource Parents will occur in four tiers. Each tier of training is designed to build on previous learning and development to support the continued growth and competency of CFSA Resource Parents. These tiers of training are:

Tier 1: Pre-service Training

Tier 2: Core In-Service Training

Tier 3: Training for the Experienced Resource Parent, and

Tier 4: Specialized Training

The Family Development Plan (FDP) is intended to take potential resource parents beyond the pre-service preparation and assessment process. Professional development is ongoing and the Family Development Plan is used as a tool to guide the resource parents and the resource parent support worker in the process of identifying individual development needs and a plan to meet those needs. Some of the needs identified in the FDP may be related directly to training while others may involve support outside of CWTA (e. g. new resource parents attending support groups, seasoned resource parents having access to respite for the children who have joined their families, participation in town hall style discussions).

For more information, please reach out to your Resource Parent Support Worker.

## News You Can Use

### Are you a match for a foster child? Find out during an upcoming information session

Can you or someone you know open your heart, mind and home to foster or adopt a child or youth in the District? **CFSA is hosting monthly information sessions** to offer potential resource parents an opportunity to learn about the children and youth in need of an adoptive home. These information sessions will focus on children/youth that need loving, caring and invested forever parents. Join us on any of the following dates from 6 p.m. — 8 p.m. Mark your calendars for the upcoming sessions: **Thursday, September 19, 2019** and **Wednesday, October 16, 2019**. All sessions will be hosted at CFSA, 200 I Street, SE, WDC 20003. For more information, contact [Kristin Barnes](#).

## Fostering Spotlight: Youth in need of a home

### Meet Star: Could you be the home she needs?

Star is an 11-year-old with an amazing personality that lights up any room she enters. Initially, she may be a bit shy, but she is quite assertive, confident and talkative once she gets to know you. She loves participating in arts and crafts, and watching TV, particularly *Twilight*. Star is hopeful that one day she will meet a family who is willing to help her reach her fullest potential by being consistent, supportive and loving. If you would like to learn more about Star and want to consider being her forever family, contact [Sonique Nixon](#).



#### Editorial Staff

Lydia Sermons, writer/editor  
Nyerere Davidson, writer

Forward all feedback and story ideas to  
[nyerere.davidson@dc.gov](mailto:nyerere.davidson@dc.gov)