

VOLUME

09

AUGUST
2010

A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER FOR
FOSTER & ADOPTIVE
PARENTS IN UTAH



fosterroster

Utah Foster Care Foundation Offices

Murray

5296 S. Commerce Dr. #400
Murray, UT 84107
Phone: 801.994.5205
Fax: 801.994.5206
Toll Free: 877.505.KIDS

Ogden

3340 S. Harrison Blvd. #200
Ogden, UT 84403
Phone: 801.392.1114

Orem

252 N. Orem Blvd.
Orem, UT 84057
Phone: 801.373.3006

Price

475 W. Price River Dr. #152
Price, UT 84501
Phone: 435.636.0210

Roosevelt

Phone: 435.724.0959

Vernal

1052 W. Market Dr.
Vernal, UT 84078
Phone: 435.781.4224

Moab

180 S. 300 E., Ste. C
Moab, UT 84532
Phone: 435.259.3345

St. George

321 N. Mall Dr. #B102
St. George, UT 84790
Phone: 435.656.8065

Richfield

201 E. 500 N.
Richfield, UT 84701
Phone: 435.896.1232



STATEWIDE UPDATE

in this issue

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Festival Not Just About Art



By Deborah Lindner
UFCF Community Relations Mgr.

Those of us at the Utah Foster Care Foundation (UFCF) never forget that the Chalk Art Festival has an important message. Across the state, you will see the five devoted Foster/Adoptive Dads of the Year tell their stories in your local newspapers (check your regional Roster too). Every time they relate what it's like to be a foster or adoptive parent, chances increase that another family will listen and decide that they, too, can help a child in foster care.

The Deseret News captured that message on June 19, 2010:

Kayla Farnsworth, 14, was one artist crouched over the once blank pavement, with elbows, knees and hands shaded in blues and greens. She was helping to create a mermaid.

But Farnsworth wasn't just an artist in the festival. She learned about Utah Foster Care Foundation when she was 6, as a foster child. Farnsworth came from a home

troubled by alcoholism. She had been beaten. Now happily adopted by her foster family, she will be starting eighth grade next year. Farnsworth recalled, "but now I feel safe, like no one is going to hurt me."

Thanks to all of the foster/adoptive parents who volunteered at the festival. Families can hear it from us, but they REALLY want to hear it straight from you.

Remember, each time you talk about foster parenting, you may be influencing someone's thoughts and feelings about helping children in your neighborhood who deserve all the help they can get.

What Every Child Needs

Fun Take time to laugh and play and share the wonders of life with me.

Affection Warm hugs will nurture me and make this world a friendlier place.

Respect Treat me like an important and valuable person and I will learn to respect and honor myself and others.

Praise Tell me all the things you appreciate about me so I know how wonderful I really am.

Security Give me boundaries that will allow me to grow safely, feel secure and overcome my fears.

Honesty Share your real feelings and admit your mistakes to me, so I will learn what it means to be a real person.

Patience Be understanding when I make my own mistakes: remember, even when it does not seem like it, I am trying to do my best.

Love If you care for me in all these ways, you will be giving me the best life has to offer.



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PALMER DEPAULIS
Executive Director

Division of Child and Family Services

BRENT PLATT
Director

July 13, 2010

RE: Follow Up to Notice of Provider Rate Reductions

Dear Resource Family,

The Division of Child and Family Services is sending this letter as a follow up to the letter you received regarding provider rate reductions. To begin with, we apologize for any confusion the previous letter may have caused. Any miscommunication regarding rate reductions was unintentional. Please understand that we truly do value our partnership with each of you, and realize that you are working hard everyday to serve the children in our care. We appreciate your dedication, and we acknowledge that your care and devotion are invaluable.

The last five years have seen a number of changes to the provider rates and specifically to the Foster Care rates. In Fiscal Years (FY) 2008 and 2009, Foster Care rates increased. This was long awaited and well deserved. However, in dealing with the recent challenging economic times, the Utah State Legislature reviewed all programs and services within the Department of Human Services. One of several areas identified for potential savings was the Provider Rates for all services within the Department of Human Services and unfortunately, the Foster Parent Reimbursement Rates were included. There is really no area in the Department that was spared from the Legislative reductions.

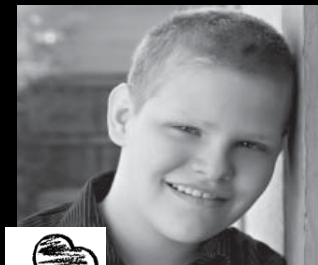
To implement the cuts, the Legislature directed the Department to take the first of two cuts, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 which started on July 1, 2009. The second cut took effect during Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 which began on July 1, 2010. The result is that the rates were "rolled back" to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 rates. The cumulative effect of these two cuts was offset last year with one-time monies from the Legislature. These one-time monies were not available this year, which means that the full brunt of the cuts is being felt this year. **Please be aware that mileage rates have not been included in the roll back and remain the same for this year.**

We realize this rollback to 2007 rates is painful. We hope that you will continue to work with the children in state custody and partner with us in this effort. The Division of Child and Family Services is working to improve the relationship with our foster parent partners. We have received valued feedback from foster parents and are currently focusing on ideas that will help foster parents be a more valued part of our child welfare system. Please feel free to email me, or your foster parent consultant with ideas or suggestions you may have!

Sincerely,

Brent Platt
Director, Division of Child and Family Services

Division of Child and Family Services, 195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
telephone (801) 538-4100 • facsimile (801) 538-4420 • www.hs.utah.gov



Steven S.

Birthday: 08/1996
Grade in School: 7th
Heritage: Caucasian

With an enormous and creative imagination, it is no wonder Steven has such a love for reading, especially about Star Wars and science.

Between his ingenuity and intelligence, this kiddo can achieve just about anything he sets his mind to. His dream, however, is to someday become a helicopter pilot. He currently has two fish as his pets and enjoys caring for them.

If your family can provide Steven with the love and support he needs, we urge you to inquire.

For more information, please contact:
The Adoption Exchange
801.265.0444
www.utdcfsadopt.org

Take Your Kids to a Soccer Match!

Don't miss out on the chance to see Major League Soccer with your family! Thanks to a generous donor, foster families are being given the opportunity to attend a Real Salt Lake match.... for free!

The Real Salt Lake players are the reigning Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup champions, clinching the title in 2009. Three of their players were named to the MLS All-Star First XI team.

There are a limited number of match vouchers available, on a first come, first served basis. Please limit your request to your immediate family living in your home. If your family is interested in attending a Real Salt Lake match,

please contact: darcey.hirst@utahfostercare.org. You must include the following information:

1. Family name
2. Number of vouchers needed for your immediate family living in your home (parents & children under age 18 only, NO EXCEPTIONS!). This includes children in foster care, biological and adopted children.
3. Name of your Resource Family Consultant (RFC)

Vouchers can be used for any of the regular season home matches listed below:

- Saturday, August 14th (Real vs. Columbus Crew)

- Saturday, September 4th (Real vs. New York Red Bulls)
- Saturday, September 18th (Real vs. Chicago Fire)
- Saturday, September 25th (Real vs. Colorado Rapids)
- Saturday, October 16th (Real vs. FC Dallas)

All home matches are played at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy.

For more information about Real Salt Lake, visit RealSaltLake.com.

Special thanks to:



Utah Foster/Adoptive Families Association Update

UFAFA Executive Committee

President: Jennifer Gardner
1st VP: Renee Calkins
2nd VP: Cayce Thill
Secretary: Michelle Ostmark
Treasurer: Beth Hardman

www.myufafa.com

Between a Rock and a "Soft" Place

By Jennifer Gardner, President
Utah Foster/Adoptive Families Assn. (UFAFA)

Like the title? Ultimately, that is where foster parents are caught. The soft place is our heart, our foster baby's smile, our foster teen's late night confiding sessions, our foster "tween's" first reference to us as Mom or Dad, and the sadness mixed with joy as a family is reunited. The rock is the insurmountable boulder that is resources, or the lack of them.

Last month, all foster families received a letter from the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), informing us that our daily reimbursement rates would be "rolled back" to the levels of July 2006. However, OUR utility bills, house payments, car insurance, and food costs do not magically "roll back."

Sometimes it feels like the rock gets bigger each day, as we hear the foster care system is essential, yet undervalued. It's a program that seems basic. But few people take the time to really study the internal workings and the repercussions of shortcuts. It seems to be the place that cuts can be made without a huge uproar or protest. Caseworkers and other DCFS staff grumble, but can't speak up because of their positions.

Why? Where is the public outcry that happens when there is the threat to cut public education or public safety? You won't see picket lines, protest marches or "the blue flu." We can either quit when the financial cost is too high or go into debt. If foster parents walk off the job, where would that leave the children to whom we have dedicated our lives to protect?

The number of children in care is the highest we've seen in years; the caseworkers and DCFS staff numbers are the lowest. The needs of "our kids" keep rising and the budget to meet those needs sinks lower and lower. Please join us and unite the voices of the 1400+ families who have made caring for foster kids their lives and their passion!

Send your thoughts to us: ufafa1@gmail.com. Share them with your elected officials. Make comments on radio, TV and newspaper web sites. Talk to those around you: friends, neighbors, family, co-workers and make them aware. Join our website (www.myufafa.com) so we can keep you up-to-date in this effort to move the boulder that leaves us caught between it and a soft place.



UTAH FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

EASTERN REGION UPDATE

AUGUST 2010

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475 W. Price River Dr. #152
Price, UT 84501
Phone: 435.636.0210
Fax: 435. 637.9702
Toll Free: 877.636.0210

Area Representative

Kobi Marchello

Moab Office

180 S. 300 E. Suite C
Moab, Utah 84532
Phone: 435.259.3345
Fax: 435.259.2691

Foster/Adoptive Family Recruiter & Retention Specialist

Gerri Winkler

Vernal Office

1052 W. Market Drive
Vernal, Utah 84078
Phone: 435.790.4225
Fax: 435.781.1539

Trainer

Les Harris

Roosevelt Office

RR 3 Box 8008
Roosevelt, Utah 84066
Phone: 435.724.0959

Retention Specialist

Faith Spencer

Jeff Edwards, Foster/Adoptive Dad of the Year



foster parents the same day they found out Jamey was pregnant! The Utah Division of Child and Family Services contacted the Edwards, saying they had a five-year-old child in need of a home. The Edwards did not hesitate; he was ready and willing to take care of a newborn and welcome their son into their foster home with open arms.

We congratulate Jeff Edwards of Moab and his family! Jeff is our region's "Foster/Adoptive Dad of the Year" for 2010 and was honored over Father's Day weekend during the Chalk Art Festival in Salt Lake City. The award is presented by the Utah Foster Care Foundation (UFCF) based on nominations from friends, family, and caseworkers.

Jeff and his wife Jamey decided to become

Because their son had a tough childhood, Jeff makes sure he gives his son plenty of father and son experiences. They go 4-wheeling, hunting, and just hang out together. His son looks at him every night and says, "I love you dad and I'm glad we found each other."

Pictured above: Kelly Peterson, CEO, Utah Foster Care Foundation, Jeff Edwards and Brooke Walker of KSL.

Wishing Well Funds

Utah Foster Care Foundation has funds available to meet the special needs of children in foster care when DCFS is unable to meet these needs for any reason. *Funds are limited.*

Requests **MUST** include the following:

- Child's first name, last initial and age
- Foster parent's name and home address
- Caseworker's name and contact information
- The item being requested and the associated costs
- Brief description of how the child will benefit

Request should come in writing by a foster parent, the child in care or the caseworker.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Dispersal of funds can take up to 4 weeks.
- Checks are mailed to the foster parent's home address.
- Funds are for children in foster care **ONLY**.
- Items covered by the foster care reimbursement or by Medicaid are not eligible.
- Only requests previously denied by DCFS are eligible.

VACATIONS:

- A child in care can receive vacation funds only **ONCE** in their lifetime.
- Vacations are restricted monetarily & may not cover all costs.

SUBMIT REQUESTS TO:

Faith Spencer
Utah Foster Care Foundation
140 W. 4225 S. 330-15
Roosevelt, Utah 84066

OR

faith.spencer
@utahfostercare.org



Preparing for a New School Year

Compiled by Faith Spencer
Retention Services Specialist
Eastern Region, UFCF

I was just reading a recent survey asking kids what stresses them the most. More than 80 percent said school was the major source of stress in their life. This may be especially true with children in care. One 9 year old girl explained it this way, "I switched from so many schools while I was in foster care. No one knew me and no one seemed to care. I hated school 'cause I was always failing. I couldn't read like everyone else. Why try when you know you will be moving on? Things are different for me now. I got adopted and my parents are working with my school. I have to do some tests, but my teacher says it will help me. Finally, someone is helping. Maybe one day I will like school and school will like me."

As summer winds down and back-to-school preparations begin, there is much that can be done to reduce anxiety and help kids prepare for the new school year. Here are a few ideas:

Medical needs: Be sure your kids are up to date on required immunizations. Schedule visions screenings, and dental and medical check ups. Make sure teachers are aware of your child's allergies, medications or other medical conditions.

Visit the school together: Help your child locate bathrooms, their locker, and/or classroom(s). If available, review his/her schedule, and meet the teacher(s).

Routine: Family routines tend to slide in the summer. After all, what's summer without crazy bedtimes and wearing a swimsuit for days on end? Practice school bedtimes a week before school starts so that a new routine is established.

School supplies: Let your kids get excited about a cool new notebook and a fresh box of crayons. Check for a supplies list and review the school dress code. It may be better to purchase supplies and return them if not needed than to drive all over town looking for sold-out items.

Eastern Region Partners in Parenting

All Scrapped Up	10% discount & free scrapbook class	150 S. 700 E. #B in Price
Cold Stone Creamery	10% off	1191 E. Main in Price
Personal Reflections Photography	10% off	Jennifer 801.518.6368
KFC/A&W Restaurants	10% off	130 N. Carbonville Road in Price
Big B Equipment <i>John Deere</i>	10% off all toys in stock	22245 W. Hwy 40 in Roosevelt
RC Fencing	\$1 off per foot materials and labor	Rhett 435-790-7681
Northeastern Utah Office Supply	10% off - see store for details	11 N. 200 E. Roosevelt only
Rod's Mini Lube	10% discount	290 E. 200 S. in Roosevelt
Moab City Pool	Free swimming w/pass	181 W. 400 N. in Moab
Gravel Pit Lanes	2-for-1 bowling	1078 Millcreek Dr. in Moab
Slick Rock Cinema	Discount passes - call Geri	580 Kane Creek Blvd. in Moab
K & A Chuck Wagon	Free dinner 1x per month w/reservation	496 N. Main in Monticello
Blanding City Pool	Free family pass—contact city offices	50 W. 100 S. in Blanding
San Juan Theatre	\$4.00/adult & \$3.00/child tickets	120 W. Center Street in Blanding

Preparing for a New School Year (con't.)

Be organized: Have a system for recording assignments/due dates in each subject. A separate folder for homework may be helpful. All assignments that come and go from home need to travel in the designated folder.

Plan to be involved: Familiarize yourself with the information on the school website, check on-line grade access for parents, mark school events on the calendar, schedule and attend parent teacher conferences, and the back to school program together.

Partners in Parenting are local businesses that want to show their appreciation for all you do by offering discounts and specials to foster families.

Just present your Resource Parent ID Card to take advantage of these offers, and be sure to let these businesses know that you appreciate their support!

While the Utah Foster Care Foundation is sincerely grateful to our Partners in Parenting, we cannot endorse any of the services or products offered. A statewide list and description of all Partners in Parenting is available at our website: www.utahfostercare.org.

The Resource Parent ID Card identifies you as one of our valued foster care providers and allows you to enjoy the benefits and savings from local merchants.

You **MUST** have your Resource Parent ID Card to access discounts from these businesses. Please do not ask for exceptions.

If you do not have a Resource Parent ID Card, please call Darcey at 877.505.KIDS.

If you are aware of any business that would like to become a Partner in Parenting, please call Faith at 435.724.0959.

What are Clusters?

Clusters are groups of foster, adoptive and kinship families that meet together on a monthly basis.

Clusters can help you:

- Obtain in-service training hours
- Meet other foster, adoptive and kinship families
- Get support
- Arrange respite care
- Attend fun family activities

Call the Cluster facilitator nearest you or contact Faith Spencer at 435.724.0959 for more information.

For more information on upcoming Cluster trainings, see "Upcoming In-service Trainings."

Eastern Region Cluster Concepts

Monthly Cluster announcements for currently licensed foster parents

Grand/San Juan

Grand Facilitator: Kim
435.259.0665
kima_35@yahoo.com

San Juan Facilitator: Jackie
435.678.3019
jb_squared@yahoo.com

Next meeting will be in September -
details TBA.

Carbon/Emery/Adoption

Facilitator: Glenna
435.748.2626
ldsgjs@etv.net

Parenting with Love & Logic
August 12th
You MUST register with Kobi to attend.



Uintah Basin

Facilitator: Shanna
435.722.6885
sandngoodrich@gmail.com

Facilitator: Debbie
435.724.6746
kndmyers@ubtanet.com

Everything You Wanted to Know About Licensing but Were Afraid to Ask
See Training Pages for details



Eastern Region Training

Monthly training announcements for currently licensed foster parents

Parenting Tip

"The most important property of humankind is the capacity to form and maintain relationships. These relationships are absolutely necessary for any of us to survive, learn & love."



Foundations for Youth

Presented by:
Les Harris

It is essential to help youth build a solid foundation upon which they can more easily make the transition to living as adults and build connections for greater stability.

Required for all foster parents of youth 14 and older.

- See the next page for class details. This class is not offered every month.

Summer Family Reading

Two hours of in-service training will be offered to parents participating in their local library's summer reading program for kids. To receive credit, you must attend library story time, or officially sign up the children in your home to participate in the summer reading program. Total number of hours spent together in reading activities must be at least two hours. Your librarian can sign your training log.

When using www.fosterclub.com website to obtain up to 2 hrs of in-service training, please remember to put your trainers email: les.harris@utahfostercare.org as a second email after you take the quiz!

To Register For Classes:

Contact:

Les Harris
Eastern Region Trainer

Phone:

435.781.4224

Email:

les.harris@utahfostercare.org

Toll Free:

877.505.5437

Please be ready with your name, phone number & the title of the class you would like to be registered for.

Notes on In-service Trainings:

- Classes are for licensed foster parents ONLY
- Training hours will be applied to re-licensing requirements
- Primary caregivers are required to attend 12+ hours of in-service training per year
- Secondary caregivers are required to attend 4+ hours of in-service training per year
- ADULTS ONLY unless otherwise specified
- Classes start on time
- You must attend the entire class to receive credit

Director of Education
Mick Woolsey, LCSW

Phone: 435.229.8808

Email: mick.woolsey@utahfostercare.org

Training Tips:

- **Approved Trainings-** In-service trainings provided and approved by Utah Foster Care Foundation.
- **Foundations for Youth-** FFY is required for families caring for youth 14 and up.
- **Community & Partner Trainings-** Call your regional trainer (found on page 5) for approval prior to attending a class or conference that is held within the community and is not a pre-approved training.

IMPORTANT:

TO REGISTER FOR A TRAINING THAT IS CLUSTER-SPONSORED, YOU MUST CALL YOUR AREA CLUSTER FACILITATOR.

- **Approved On-line Training-** Families may visit the web site: www.fosterclub.com for up to 2 hours of online training per year.
- **Peer Parent Training and Resource Family Consultant (RFC) Training-** 6 hours each per year may be used toward licensure. RFC Training must be provided by DCFS RFCs.

REMINDER:

Family team meetings do not count toward In-service training hours.

Eastern Region Training

Monthly training announcements for currently licensed foster parents

Upcoming In-service Trainings

August 11th

1:00 - 3:30 pm
Roosevelt DCFS

Licensing Review for Foster/Adoptive Families

Presented by
Stephanie Robb &
Jacina Barrett

Foster parents will be provided an opportunity to learn how to facilitate their licensing process and answer questions related to license renewal.

*Sponsored by the
Uintah Basin Cluster*

August 12th

Noon - 4:00 pm
Price location TBD

Parenting with Love and Logic

Presented by
Faith Spencer

Learning & utilizing Love & Logic parenting strategies effectively. You must register with Kobi to attend 435.636.0210.

*Sponsored by the
Carbon/Emery Cluster*

September 7th

5:30 - 9:30 pm
Price DCFS Office

Foundations for Youth, class 1

Presented by
Les Harris, LCSW

It is essential to help youth build a solid foundation upon which they can more easily make the transition to living as adults and build connections for greater stability.

Required for all foster parents caring for youth age 14 and older.

September 15th

5:30 - 9:30 pm
Vernal DCFS Office

Multi-Disciplinary Panel

Presented by
Collateral Agencies

Foster parents will be given an opportunity to learn the roles of various partner agencies to assist them with caring for the children placed in their homes.

*Sponsored by the
Uintah Basin Cluster*

September 21st

1:00 - 5:00 pm
Price DCFS Office

Foundations for Youth, class 2

Presented by
Les Harris, LCSW

It is essential to help youth build a solid foundation upon which they can more easily make the transition to living as adults and build connections for greater stability.

Required for all foster parents caring for youth age 14 and older.

October 6th

5:30 - 9:30 pm
Price DCFS Office

Foundations for Youth, class 3

Presented by
Les Harris, LCSW

It is essential to help youth build a solid foundation upon which they can more easily make the transition to living as adults and build connections for greater stability.

Required for all foster parents caring for youth age 14 and older.

Eastern Region Training

Monthly training announcements for currently licensed foster parents

Upcoming In-service Trainings, cont.

October 20th

1:00 - 5:00 pm
Price DCFS Office

Foundations for Youth, class 4

Presented by
Les Harris, LCSW

It is essential to help youth build a solid foundation upon which they can more easily make the transition to living as adults and build connections for greater stability.

Required for all foster parents caring for youth age 14 and older.

November 10th

6:00 - 8:00pm
Blanding DCFS

Motivating Teens

Presented by
Les Harris, LCSW

Helping teenagers maintain motivation is a difficult challenge. This training will provide foster parents with some helpful ideas related to increasing motivation to improve outcomes.

Sponsored by the Grand/San Juan Cluster

November 11th

1:00 -3:00pm
Utah Foster Care
Roosevelt DCFS Office

Helping Children Transition to Adult Living

Presented by
Les Harris, LCSW

The foster parents role in helping young adults make a successful transition to adulthood is critical for the youth's future.

Sponsored by the Uintah Basin Cluster

Back to School Needs

If your child in care is in need of items for school, please contact Faith Spencer.

phone: 435.724.0959

email: faith.spencer@

utahfostercare.org

Fun in the Sun at the Price Family Swim Party



Kobi Marchello and daughter Izzy take a wet ride to a big splash at the end of a water slide.



Utah Foster Care FOUNDATION

a private, non-profit organization

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Murray, UT 84107

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fosterateen.org

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Foster/Adoptive Parent

Kate Toomey

3rd District Court

Gloria Talley Wilkinson

Zions Bank

Jayne Wolfe, Ph.D.

Psychologist

Bruce Olson, Board Attorney

Ray, Quinney & Nebeker