

# ♥ foster roster

A BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN UTAH • VOL 2, APR & MAY 2011



**3 College Bound?**

**4 Statewide  
Announcements**

**5 Medicaid Coverage for  
Children in Foster Care**



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*For years of support*

# College Bound?

By Darcey Hirst, Utah Foster Care Foundation

**D**o you have a youth in foster care ready to graduate from high school? Does he or she need money to attend college? The Olene S. Walker Transition to Adult Living Scholarship can help!

Young people who were in Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) foster care after age 14 or adopted after age 16, may be eligible. Youth can be awarded up to \$5,000.00 per year for college tuition, books, fee, supplies and living expenses. Besides cash, they will get to participate in extracurricular activities and work with a mentor who will help youth succeed.

Cindy has been receiving the Transition to Adult Living scholarship for a year now. She shared her story with us, in hopes of encouraging other teens currently in foster care and foster care alumni to apply for this scholarship.

“Once you receive the scholarship you meet with a mentor once a month and have at least five hours a week of volunteer service, extracurricular activity or participation in some kind of campus event. It is a good way to get involved in the community and build your resume,” says Cindy.

“The scholarship has helped me out so much, especially because I have a little girl and it has helped me be a mother and focus more on school, instead of trying to work full time, go to school full time and be a full time parent and get overwhelmed. The scholarship is so helpful in so many ways! Those who have been in care should realize how important it is to go to college and how lucky we are to have so many resources available to help us.”

To apply for the scholarship you need to:

- show documentation of having been in foster care,
- fill out the application,
- apply and be accepted at an accredited college,



## 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

RR 3 Box 8008  
Roosevelt, UT 84066  
Phone: 435.724.0959

### Vernal

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

### Moab

180 S. 300 E., Suite 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

- apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA),
- type a personal statement of 1-2 pages double spaced,
- get one or more letters of recommendation,
- get your high school or college transcripts,
- take your ACT/placement test
- and send this all off!

“This may sound a little overwhelming, but trust me it’s not that bad and it is definitely worth it!” says Cindy. “My experience with the application process was great. It helped me learn to become more independent and gave me an idea of what I needed to do to graduate.”

“The scholarship can cover anything from tuition and books, to living expenses such as housing, food, clothes or any other bills. I use the scholarship to help pay for my apartment and my other bills such as insurance, phone bill, etc.”

Thank you Cindy for sharing your experience with us! We wish you the very best as you attend college and work toward a bright future.

The deadline to apply for this scholarship is April 15, 2011 for Fall Semester 2011. For more information about this opportunity visit: [www.justforyouth.utah.gov/education](http://www.justforyouth.utah.gov/education) or call Patti at 801.652.2173 or email [pwestern@utah.gov](mailto:pwestern@utah.gov) or Jode at 801.707.9734 or email [jlittlep@utah.gov](mailto:jlittlep@utah.gov).

# Statewide Announcements

## Adoption Tax Credit

By Marty Shannon, Adoption Program Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services

**M**any of you have heard about the new Adoption Tax Credit. You can find information authorized by the federal government Children’s Bureau at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). When you arrive at the website, search for Adoption Credit. The search will take you to a page, “IRS Issue Guidance on Expanded Adoption Credit Available for Tax-Year 2010.”

Remember that you need to seek advice from a tax professional regarding your specific situation.

Other sources of information that are not authorized by the Children’s Bureau, but have been helpful to adoptive parents are:

- [www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org) The North American Council on Adoptable Children is an adoption advocacy organization that has put together “easy to read” information that can be accessed on their home page.

■ — continued on page 13



# Test Your Knowledge: Medicaid Coverage for Children in Foster Care

By Chris Chytraus R.N., BSN, CPM, Program Manager, Fostering Healthy Children Program

**T**he majority of children who are in foster care are eligible for Medicaid. Children who may not be eligible are those who receive social security benefits, have trust accounts, are not legal residents and some that are transferred here from other states. It is important to follow-up with the caseworker and nurse to identify if the child in your care is eligible for Medicaid.

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. All children in foster care are eligible for Medicaid.                   | True | False |
| 2. The Medicaid plan is the same wherever you live in the state of Utah.    | True | False |
| 3. It is not necessary to take the Medicaid card to the appointments.       | True | False |
| 4. My name should be listed as the guarantor on all accounts for the child. | True | False |
| 5. All medical requests are covered by Medicaid.                            | True | False |

### **The Medicaid plan is not the same throughout the state of Utah.**

Along the Wasatch Front, Medicaid plans require a Health Plan Selection. These plans include Healthy U, Molina and Select Access. The Medicaid card will identify in which Health Plan your child in foster care is enrolled. You **MUST** use providers within the Health Plan Network. If you go outside of the Health plan, it may not be covered. If there is a PCP listed on the Medicaid card, you will need a referral to use another provider.

The selection of the Health Plan is based on multiple factors:

- Compatibility with the biological parents' private insurance. If there is insurance, it is the child's primary insurance and Medicaid is secondary.

- Which plan the child was on previously.
- The child's current health care providers and insurance accepted by them.
- HMO's that have openings for clients.

In the other areas of the state Medicaid does not require a Health Plan Selection and children may use any provider that accepts Medicaid or the PCP listed on the card.

You must always show the Medicaid card prior to the child receiving medical, dental or mental health services. If you do not show the Medicaid card, you could end up with bills that will not be covered.

The guarantor on accounts for children in foster care should be listed as Fostering Healthy Children. You should receive a copy of the Designation of Responsible Party from the caseworker as part of your home to home packet. If you did not receive one, ask them for a copy.

Not all medical or dental services are covered by Medicaid. Like other insurance plans, many tests and medical procedures require a prior authorization. The medical or dental provider is responsible to submit the information and request a prior authorization. The test or procedure cannot be completed until the prior authorization is received by the provider. If Medicaid denies the prior authorization and the physician believes it is necessary he/she can appeal to a higher level.

If you would like further information you can go to the website <http://health.utah.gov/umb>.

*(Answers: all answers are False)*

## 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.

### 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:

Diane Callister  
Utah Foster Care Foundation  
321 N. Mall Dr. #B102  
St. George, UT 84790 or  
diane.callister@utahfostercare.org



## Overheard

By Debbie Hoffines, Utah Foster Care Foundation Area Representative, Southwest Region

**A**s I waited at a local tire store, I heard a couple talking about a newspaper article written by a foster parent. My ears perked up.

The wife said, "You know who she is, don't you? She's a foster parent to all those kids and she's adopted some of them." Her husband replied, "Well, you know, they're only doing that for the money they get."

I resisted the urge to reach over and throttle the man. If I had gathered my wits that day, this is what I would have told him:

- It's easier to board animals than to care for teens and hurt, scared children; and you get paid more money.
- You can earn more money running a daycare from your home than doing foster care. The kids go home at night and you get weekends off!
- The Utah legislature cut the reimbursement rate for foster parents by a dollar per day last year.

Foster parents care for children who have been so hurt and traumatized, that it is difficult for them to trust anyone. Foster parents hold infants through the night for weeks, as the small bodies "detox" from drugs, or heal from the frightening things that happened to them in the dark. Foster parents open their hearts

and homes to children and youth who spew hateful and hurtful words because they feel unloved or unlovable.

Foster parents bathe the child's body, mind and spirit with unconditional love. When they've poured about everything they can muster into this child, they sometimes get a little back, sometimes not. Foster parenting is a thankless and unselfish job, and it's not for the faint of heart. It takes a true hero/angel to love, care, and safely nurture someone else's child.

Many of the rewards that come from foster care don't have a monetary value. "Priceless" is the word that comes to mind. It is priceless to realize that you have made a huge difference in the life of a teen or child who has been in your home, no matter what the length of time.

Many families have had to discontinue providing foster care because they can no longer afford it, due to economic strains and lower reimbursements. Most Southern Utah families are living with very limited resources already. It is not right or fair for society to expect a family to care for the most vulnerable and hurt without expecting some kind of financial support.

During the month of May, it's Foster Care Month. I hope everyone in our community finds a foster parent to hug or give a "high five." They deserve your thanks.

## Division of Child and Family Services

Resource Family Consultant  
(RFC) Contact Information

**Rick Clements 435.867.2771**  
rickclements@utah.gov

**Angie Morrill 435.896.1263**  
amorrill@utah.gov

**Ben Ashcraft 435.705.4694**  
bashcraft@utah.gov



# Celebrate the Upcoming Summer on May Day

**M**ay Day is an annual tradition that is celebrated around the world on May 1st. May Day is celebrated in a variety of ways, depending where you live. Some people celebrate the special day with parades and festivals, while others recognize May Day as an important day for the labor movement. And some countries do not recognize May Day at all.

In Hawaii, May Day is also known as “Lei Day”, a special day of the year that recognizes and honors Hawaiian culture and tradition.

Some of the more common May Day traditions include the May Pole, Tussie-mussies and May Day baskets. This year, why not begin your own May Day tradition? Celebrate May Day by making May Day baskets for your neighbors.

Follow these directions and learn how to make a cone-shaped May Day basket you can hang on a neighbor’s door knob.

- **Age Guideline:** 5 Years and Up
- **Time Required:** 20 minutes (Does not include drying time)

*Age and time guidelines are estimates. This project can be modified to suit other ages and may take more or less time depending on your circumstances.*

### Materials Needed:

- Construction Paper
- Cellophane Tape
- Home-Made Flowers
- Scissors

### Instructions:

- Cut a triangle shape out of bright colored construction paper. Make the point flat. Roll the triangle into a cone shape and tape the 2 sides together. Trim off any extra paper around the top of the cone to make it even.
- Cut a strip of construction paper that is approximately 12-inches long by 2-inches wide. Tape this strip onto the top of your cone to make a handle.
- Now you can fill the basket with flowers and/or treats. You can make home-made flowers to fill your basket.
- Once your May Day cone basket is done, try to hang it on your neighbor’s doorknob without getting caught!

Craft project: [www.familycrafts.about.com](http://www.familycrafts.about.com)



# Trauma & Attachment

2ND ANNUAL UFCF SYMPOSIUM

2011 : A CLOSER LOOK

APRIL 13 & 14

Join foster parents, social workers, child advocates, law enforcement, and their allies for an amazing two-day symposium!

[utahfostercare.org/symposium](http://utahfostercare.org/symposium)

VISIT TODAY TO REGISTER!

CEUs PENDING



Special guest Janine Driver – Best-selling Author & Speaker



Utah Foster Care Foundation's

# Chalk art Festival

June 17 & 18  
Salt Lake City

# Call for Artists!

[chalkartfestival.org/registration.html](http://chalkartfestival.org/registration.html)

Early-bird registration closes APRIL 15th!

# Register Today!



Photo Credit: Alex Gallivan





# St. George Arts Festival

**S**pring has sprung and that means it's time once again for the St. George Arts Festival! Utah Foster Care Foundation will make its annual appearance with a booth at the festival on April 22 and 23rd (Easter weekend).

A guest artist will be creating some beautiful chalk art. Come by and say hi to Debbie, Diane and Cliff! We are also looking for foster parent

ambassadors to help us staff the two-day event. It's a wonderful family festival filled with great art and music.

Remember, foster parents are our best recruiters of more foster families! If you can volunteer, please contact Debbie Hofhines 435.656.8065 or email [debbie.hofhines@utahfostercare.org](mailto:debbie.hofhines@utahfostercare.org).

## May is National Foster Care Month!

Each May, we salute the compassionate people who make a difference by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers, and volunteers. Thanks to these unsung heroes, many formerly abused or neglected children and teens will safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives, or be adopted by loving families.

Join us as we celebrate all of our wonderful foster/adoptive families in the Southwest Region:

- Foster Care Month declaration- St. George Mayor Dan McArthur will sign a declaration of foster care month on May 5, 2011 at 4:00pm during the city council meeting.
- Appreciation Event - St. George and Cedar City families are invited to UFCF's annual FREE swim night at Washington City Pool on May 16, 2011 from 3:30-7:30pm. Bring the entire family! Enjoy pizza at 6pm, along with some great prizes. RSVP to Diane at 435-656-8065 or [diane.callister@utahfostercare.org](mailto:diane.callister@utahfostercare.org).
- Richfield and Manti families, your Appreciation Event will be held in June! Details to come.



Utah Foster Care  
FOUNDATION

### Southwest Region

#### St. George Office

321 N. Mall Dr. #B102  
St. George, UT 84709  
Phone: 435.656.8065  
Fax: 435.656.8071  
Toll Free: 877.656.8065

#### Area Representative

Debbie Hofhines

#### Trainer

Cliff Farnsworth

#### Retention Specialist

Diane Callister

#### Richfield Office

201 E. 500 N.  
Phone: 435.896.1232  
Toll Free: 877.656.8065

#### Foster/Adoptive Family Recruiter/Retention Specialist

Marissa Douglas

[www.utahfostercare.org](http://www.utahfostercare.org)

" A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."  
-Tenneva Jordan



## Cluster Attendance Has Its Rewards

By Diane Callister, UFCF Retention Services Specialist, Southwest Region

**A**re you attending your Cluster meetings regularly? If not, you are missing out on great trainings, support from other foster/adoptive parents and friendship. Plus, every time you attend a Cluster meeting, you get to enter the Southwest Region Cluster drawing. If you attend six Clusters during the year, you get to enter the drawing six times. At the end of the year, the winner is drawn and wins a \$100.00 gift card to Wal-mart.

Congratulations to Amy and Curtis Bates of St. George! They are the winners of the gift card for 2010. The Bates moved from Texas to St. George in 2008. There are three biological children in their family ages 7, 9 and 14 years. Their first

placement came into the home shortly after they became licensed in 2009. They have already cared for nineteen children in the time they have been licensed! Currently the Bates are caring for two children who are four months and seven years old.

Amy says, "All children who come into our home will always have a place in our hearts. Our home feels a little empty without at least one son or daughter in foster care."

Continue to attend your Cluster meetings and enter the drawing each time you attend. Remember the more Clusters you attend, the better chance you have to WIN!

**"You don't have to suffer to be a poet. Adolescence is enough suffering for anyone." ~John Ciardi**

# Cluster Meetings/Training



## St. George

**Facilitator:** Brandee  
**Phone:** 435.652.3979  
brandeestahlej@msn.com

## 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 Diane at 435.656.8065 for more information.

## St. George

### Family Barbeque

Presented by  
UFCF

Get together for food and fun with other families. Bring a large side dish.

#### No Training Hours.

April 18

6 pm – 8 pm

Hidden Valley Park

3505 S. Barcelona Dr.

St. George, UT

## St. George

### Question & Answer with GAL

Presented by  
Mary Brown

Join us for a question and answer session with the Guardian ad Litem.

TBD Contact Brandee Staheli for Details.



## Cedar City/Beaver

**Facilitator:** Amy  
**Phone:** 435.586.7403  
bates4ever@hotmail.com

## How to Register for Training

### Contact:

Cliff Farnsworth  
Southwest Region Trainer  
321 N. Mall Dr. #B102  
St. George, UT 84709

435.656.8065

cliff.farnsworth@utahfostercare.org

## Cedar

### Parenting Ideas

Presented by  
Rick Clements, RFC

Need more parenting tools? Come to the meeting and add some new ideas.

April 21

7 pm – 9 pm

DCFS Regional Office

856 Sage Dr.

Cedar City, UT

## Cedar

### Family Barbeque

Presented by  
UFCF

Get together for food and fun with other families. Bring a large side dish.

#### No Training Hours.

May 2

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Canyon West Park

Cedar City, UT

# Cluster Meetings/Training



## Manti

**Facilitator:** Nancy  
**Phone:** 435.283.5020  
njbean@yahoo.com

## 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 Marissa at 435.896.1232 for more information.

## Manti

### Meth and Families

Presented by  
Cliff Farnsworth, MSW

Come learn about the impact of meth use on families.

April 20

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Nancy's House

## Manti

### Love and Logic

Presented by  
Diane Felt, DCFS trainer

This will be an overview of the basics of Love and Logic.

May 11

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Nancy's House



## Richfield

**Facilitator:** Patty  
**Phone:** 435.896.6360  
pknaphus@yahoo.com

## How to Register for Training

### Contact:

Cliff Farnsworth  
Southwest Region Trainer  
321 N. Mall Dr. #B102  
St. George, UT 84709

435.656.8065

cliff.farnsworth@utahfostercare.org

## Richfield

### Meth and Families

Presented by  
Cliff Farnsworth, MSW

Come learn about the impact of meth use on families.

April 21

6 pm – 8 pm

Richfield DCFS

## Richfield

### RFC Updates and Review

Presented by  
Angie Morrill, RFC

Come meet with your RFC to review Foster Parent guidelines and get your questions answered.

May 4

7 pm – 9 pm

Richfield DCFS

■ — continued from page 4

- [www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org) Dave Thomas Foundation promotes foster care adoptions. They have a link on their home page to a video conducted by Jackson Hewitt tax service that describes the adoption tax credit in everyday language – it does promote their services, which are not endorsed by the State of Utah Division of Child and Family Services or Utah Foster Care Foundation.

## Did You Know?

**C**hildren and youth in foster care qualify for the federal nutrition programs available in schools. The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 has expanded nutrition assistance for children in foster care. For more information, please visit: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2011/02/0048.xml> or contact your child's caseworker.

## Save the Date



Utah Adoption Council Annual Conference  
Wednesday, May 11th and Thursday, May 12th  
South Towne Expo Center  
9575 South State; Sandy, Utah 84070

Registration is online only: [www.utahadoptioncouncil.com](http://www.utahadoptioncouncil.com)

If you have questions, contact Marty Shannon (801.540.0833) or Amy Boyack (801.994.5205).

## Private Pay Pre-Service

As of March 1, 2011, the fee for families to pay to take pre-service classes in order to adopt privately or from out of state will increase from \$200.00 to \$300.00 per family.

Families will be asked to pay for the classes in advance.

**"Our most basic instinct is not for survival but for family. Most of us would give our own life for the survival of a family member, yet we lead our daily life too often as if we take our family for granted." ~Paul Pearshall**

One Stop CD Shop can help you preserve your family memories by turning your old forms of media into a DVD. Call us today! 801.303.6100.



## Seth S.

**Birthday:** 10/1996

**Grade in School:** 8th

**Heritage:** Caucasian

Kids who are Seth's age normally dream and fantasize about an array of things, but Seth's dream is simple. What he wants most is to have a "normal life", outside foster care, with a family who loves and appreciates him. This fun guy has a lot of positive characteristics to add to his forever family. He is outgoing, energetic, respectful, well-mannered, has a great sense of humor, and LOVES to make people laugh! Seth's favorite pastimes include football, basketball, hanging out with friends, and watching movies.

For more information, please contact

**The Adoption Exchange**

(801) 265-0444

[www.utdcfsadopt.org](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org)





## Jamie T.

**Birthday:** 04/1995  
**Grade in School:** 9th  
**Heritage:** Caucasian

This fashionista is Jamie. She is a trendy teenager who loves to look nice and dress up. Music, shopping and hanging out with people are just a few of her favorite things to do. Jamie dreams of being part of a family and having someone to whom she is connected. A people-person, this young woman has a great sense of humor and is easy to engage and talk to.

For more information, please contact

**The Adoption Exchange**  
(801) 265-0444  
[www.utdcfsadopt.org](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org)



## A message from Molar Man

Burg Pediatric Dentistry, [www.burgpediatricdentistry.com](http://www.burgpediatricdentistry.com)

# The Tooth, the Whole Tooth and Nothing But the Tooth...

**A**s the story goes... the tooth fairy comes when a child has lost a tooth. Commonly, she is very small, and she comes in the middle of the night. The child is to leave the tooth under his/her pillow, so that the tooth fairy can take it during her visit. Once she has taken the tooth, she leaves monetary reimbursement under the pillow (this action is done by a parent). The teeth are then taken to her tower, and used for her purposes.

So, where did this story come from – and more importantly, what really happens to all those teeth?

The tooth fairy has appeared in folk tales throughout the western world – and parts of South Africa, in various forms since the 18th century. While most tooth fairy experts (yes, they really do exist) agree that it is likely that the modern version of the fairy stems from a much loved French story about a tooth gathering mouse that turns itself into a fairy. However, for history buffs – the tooth fairy has its roots with the Vikings in 900 AD. Apparently, the Vikings had a “tooth fee” – a monetary gift for children in exchange for their teeth; which were later used in jewelry or amulet making. The Vikings were a superstitious bunch and held a widespread belief that having an article of clothing, a piece of hair or a tooth belonging to your child in your possession brought power and luck in battle.

The tooth fairy has no religious significance and no holiday affiliation – so it can readily be accepted by everyone. However, perhaps like the Vikings – parents for generations have found a certain charm in the tooth fairy and the attention she brings to the rites of passage for our children as they grow – loosing their “baby teeth” for their permanent “grown up” ones.

In modern times – the fashion for teeth necklaces has gratefully diminished and the general consensus is that the tooth fairy simply collects the teeth, labels them and neatly files them away in a museum-like castle.

As with all other commerce transactions – the tooth fairy has; in her infinite wisdom kept up with the times. Rosemary Wells, acknowledged as the world’s leading authority on the tooth fairy, actually tracked the exchange rate for teeth from 1900 to 1980, against the consumer price index and found that the tooth fairy has kept pace with inflation. The going rate for a tooth these days? According to Securian Dental Plans... \$2.00 per tooth.

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