



Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE NO 9 | January 2023



Happy New Year!!

2022 was a busy year and we ended it with celebrations and fellowship across the state! It is important to us to recognize the tremendous time, love and commitment from our foster and adoptive families and to help you connect with others who understand and share your experiences. We are dedicated to increasing our support of foster and adoptive families and go into the new year with goals of increasing foster parent retention and satisfaction in the great service that you do. We know being a foster family is such a selfless and often a thankless duty and want you to know that we appreciate you every day.

Take time to complete the annual satisfaction survey, talk to your worker and let us know what we can do to support your family in this journey.

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Family Spotlights

2022 Adoptive Families of the Year

Eddie and Lana Hurley
Cumberland Region



Michael and Dannette Kendall
Salt River Trail Region



Mark and Angela Jamison
Northern Bluegrass Region



Brady and Daniel Clark
Jefferson Region



Daniel and Shana Pugh
The Lakes Region



Roger and Pamela Johnson
Southern Bluegrass Region



Jennifer and Jason Baier
Northeastern Region



Jennifer and Adam Morris
Two Rivers Region



Steven and Ashlee Bell
Eastern Mountain Region



KAPE KORNER



Steve (10/2006) is a Caucasian male. He has brown eyes and brown hair. Steve has a likeable personality. Steve likes to draw, play Pokemon, be in art class, and play outside. Steve also likes to play with dolls and create new Pokemon via art supplies and drawing them. Steve completes his activities of daily living every day without any assistance. Sometimes he has a cluttered room, but it is usually clean. He does well for the most part on his chores. He does need to be reminded to do his chores.

Find out more at [Child Profile - AdoptUSKids](#)

Emma (08/2006) is a lovely teenage girl who is hoping to find a forever home that will allow her to have a great teenage life. Emma loves animals, being outdoors, makeup and fashion. Emma gets along with kids her age and younger. She is looking forward to learning how to drive and working her first job. Emma is a good student and can make friends easily. Emma has a warm smile and may be shy at first, but quickly warms up to new people in her life once she learns that they can be trusted. Emma's favorite candy is Reese cups but isn't too picky when it comes to food. She is looking forward to learning how to cook and needs a family that is willing to teach her these skills.

Learn more at [Child Profile - AdoptUSKids](#)



Meet Raegan (02/2020) who is a quiet and content toddler who is absolutely adorable. She enjoys being held and read to daily. She enjoys cuddling with her family. She likes to lay on the floor and reach for her family's dog, which makes her smile. She enjoys going for walks in her stroller, and feeling the breeze and warm sun on her face. She loves to taste new foods. She enjoys being sung to every day.

Learn more at [Child Profile - AdoptUSKids](#)

This handsome young man is Michael Isaiah, (11/2009). He prefers to use his middle name. Isaiah is a very likeable youth who has a great sense of humor and is a good conversationalist. He chooses to handle life in a positive way. In his free time, Isaiah loves to play video games. He also enjoys putting together Legos and is very capable of putting together entire sets in a very short time. Isaiah also loves to go outside and play. He enjoys taking bicycle rides.

Learn more and watch his video at: [Michael F0138 - America's Kids Belong \(americaskidsbelong.org\)](#)



Sammy is an intelligent young man who is full of life! He's not crazy about school, but he enjoys reading, math, and science, and he likes doing anything related to science and math. In his free time, Sammy loves playing video games, and he has a Nintendo Switch of his own he likes to play. He also likes playing with Nerf guns and has several that he's bought with his own money. Sammy likes being outside doing outdoor activities, especially fishing and hiking, and he enjoys playing sports, especially basketball and football. He also enjoys going out and about, shopping and eating fast food. He likes going to amusement parks, too. Sammy gets along with other kids, of all ages, and with adults, too. He will do best with an active family who will be active with him doing all the fun things he enjoys. Sammy needs and wants a forever family, and he is very determined to find one.

Learn more and watch Sammy's video at: [Sammy E919 - America's Kids Belong \(americaskidsbelong.org\)](#)

Regional Happenings

The end of the year is full of fun events across the state! Take a look at some photos from some of our regions' Halloween, Adoption and Holiday Events across the state.

Two Rivers Event: R&C, Network & Borrowed Hearts



Hardin Co Fall Festival



Jefferson County Courts in collaboration with DCBS held its annual Adoption Day in Celebration on November 18th. Thanks to the hard work of Jefferson DCBS staff, 24 agency adoptions were finalized that day! A huge thank you goes to Jefferson Region DCBS staff who made this possible: Whitney Lewis, DeAndrea Baldon, Rachel French; Michael Montgomery, Tim Padgett, Diane Dawson and Barbara Beard.



Southern Bluegrass DCBS held its 3rd Annual Holiday Festival. They were able to serve 101 children in the Southern Bluegrass Region with the help from many businesses and organization throughout the region! Children and families experienced meeting Santa, Ms. Claus, the Grinch, and the UK Wildcat. They also got to decorate stockings, participate in escape rooms, and parents got some kid free Christmas shopping time in the Grinch's lair. Our families had a blast!



Regional Happenings CONT'D

Northern Bluegrass hosted the Grinchmas Christmas Party at the Cynthiana Country Club. We showed the Grinch Movie, had pizza, popcorn and crafts and a surprise visit. We also were able to give each child Grinch pjs, grinch plush/book, stockings as well as a \$25 gift card for each family. We had a huge turnout as 93 children were rsvp'd!!



Also in Northern Bluegrass, FAPA of NKY and NKY Support Network, with the help of numerous community partners, hosted a Breakfast with Santa at Seven Hills Church Florence. Families enjoyed breakfast, courtesy of Groen Family McDonald's and Scot Merrel, pictures with Santa and family photos courtesy of three local photographers, filled stockings courtesy of Roo's Wish, a present for each child, visits with animals from Cool Critters outreach, balloon animals from iTWIST, visits with princesses, superheroes and Christmas characters, and more!



The Cumberland Region hosted a Christmas party for their foster parents complete with a visit from Santa, Mrs. Claus and The Grinch!



The Lakes Region Foster Parent Appreciation Event! Families came together and played games, enjoyed Grinch themed snacks and had a visit from Santa complete with gifts. The Grinch even stopped by for the fun!



Regional Happenings CONT'D

Two Rivers South invited anyone in the community who has been touched by adoption to an adoption celebration at Ironwood Farms, Bowling Green. There was a fabulous meal provided by Redeemer Church, inspirational music from Christ Fellowship Church and 123 white balloons released at the end of the night symbolizing the number of DCBS foster parent adoptions in the last fiscal year. The event was orchestrated by our wonderful Network Leader, Laura Mattingly.



Also in Two Rivers South, we rolled out the Red Carpet for our DCBS foster and adoptive families! All of the families were greeted with the red carpet, a personalized ornament from the year they adopted, dinner from Wendy's, and popcorn. The Capitol in Bowling Green opened its doors for these families to enjoy a private showing of Raya and the Last Dragon. It was a super fun night for families to kick back, run the theatre, eat and socialize with one another. Big THANKS to the Family Enrichment Center for all of the time, work and attention to detail for this event!



Eastern Mountain Region hosted a foster care party in Letcher Co. A huge thanks to all of those who helped with the event! Church congregations came together to sponsor a toy drive and holiday party for DCBS foster families. A high school soccer team assisted the churches in wrapping the gifts, The Letcher Co. Women's group donated toys and ornaments and helped to serve the families attending the party and Letcher Co. Foster Parent Association donated fruit baskets.



Northeastern Region DCBS held a foster parent appreciation event and Christmas Party at the Carl D. Perkins Center in Morehead. The event offered foster families food and drinks, bounce houses, crafts, face painting, treat bags and door prizes!



Foster/Adoptive Parent Resources

Effectively Responding to a Child in Crisis

From the Child Welfare Information Gateway:

[Adoption Triad: Effectively Responding to a Child in Crisis \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)

Responding effectively to a child in crisis is an essential skill for parents who foster or adopt a child who has a history of trauma and loss. While most parents know the challenge of responding to a child who is having the dreaded “meltdown,” parents who have adopted or are fostering may face these challenging behaviors more frequently. Knowing how to effectively respond improves parents’ ability to ensure the child’s safety, and it can also be an opportunity to help the child learn to handle their feelings more constructively while also strengthening their relationship with the child.

3 Resources for learning more

[Responding to Children in Crisis](#)
By NTDC

[Trauma Informed Parenting” \[Podcast\]](#)
By Perry

[Trauma Informed Parenting” \[Podcast\]](#)
By Lanni

For more information, visit at <https://www.childwelfare.gov>.

ADOPTION TRIAD

What I Want Foster and Adoptive Parents to Know

Make memories, build your network, know that it takes time: these are some of the pieces of advice Jamerika Haynes-Lewis has crafted for foster and adoptive parents in a new article on AdoptUSKids.

Jamerika entered foster care when she was five. Now a journalist and advocate, she shares advice from her own experience to help families.

She explains, “Those who remain open to learning can find fostering and adopting a fulfilling experience. Children and teens in the system want what other youth want—to feel seen, loved, and have a family to call their own. Despite my challenges in care, I’m grateful I had adults in my life who made me feel that I mattered.”

[Discover eight pieces of advice for foster and adoptive parents.](#)



The 12 Days of Foster Care (The Permanency Song)

by Chauncy Strong of Strong Training and Consulting

Enjoy this little bit of holiday cheer! This song was written to highlight what Chauncy believes are the important elements needed to ensure that all children and youth in foster care leave to a family.

[12 Days Of Foster Care-Full Version - YouTube](#) (6:04)

[12 Days of Foster Care Short Version - YouTube](#) (1:19)

Resources for Sensory Processing

NHS Sensory Processing Hub

<https://sensoryprocessinghub.humber.nhs.uk/downloads/>

Helpful Ways for Dealing with Sensory Problems

<https://looklikelanguage.com/2019/07/helpful-ways-to-deal-with-sensory-problems-plus-a-free-download.html>

UNDERSTANDING & MANAGING YOUTH'S CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

Check out the new CORE Teen curriculum focused on responding effectively to your teen's rejecting, testing and challenging behaviors. Please note you are welcome to attend any virtual training (both parts are not required) regardless of your location.

LAKES

Part One
Jan 31 - 5:30-7:30 pm CST
Part Two
Feb 4 - 5:30-7:45 pm CST
Zoom

NORTHERN BLUEGRASS

Part One
Feb 23 - 6:00-8:00 pm EST
Nicholson Christian Church
Part Two
March 23 - 6:00-8:15 pm EST
Lakeside Christian Church
Child Care Provided

SOUTHERN BLUEGRASS

Part One
March 9 - 7:00-9:00 pm EST
Part Two
March 16 - 7:00-9:15 pm EST
Zoom

LEARN MORE OR REGISTER WWW.MURRAYSTATE.EDU/TRC

News from Central Office

Foster Parent Surveys for DCBS Parents ONLY

The third annual satisfaction survey has been created to solicit feedback regarding your experiences during the past year, what has been successful and where we can improve. We value the feedback and experiences of each of our foster/adoptive parents and want to hear from you!

Each year, your feedback contributes to changes in practice, new trainings, new support groups and more. It may take time to see the changes but we want you to know that we hear you and we are working hard to show our appreciation and include you as part of the team for children and youth in Kentucky.

A survey link will be distributed through email by the end of January for all current DCBS foster/adoptive parents to complete regarding the past year. We encourage you to please complete this survey so we can improve support and services for our foster parents. If you do not receive the survey by the first of February, please contact your worker to receive a link to the survey. Survey responses are anonymous unless you chose to identify yourself at the end of the survey.

Reminder: The survey is for DCBS active foster/adoptive parents ONLY at this time.



New Just in Time Trainings and Helpful Videos:

[Autism and Co-Occurring Disorders](#)

[Caring for a Child with Reactive Attachment Disorder](#)

[Welcoming Youth](#)

[Post Adoption Placement Stabilization Services \(CC\)](#) (note: this video is not eligible for relicensing hours)

Trainer Spotlight

Ian Rosser is a 33-year-old alumnus of the foster care system, where he spent 13 years of his life. Since then, he has attained an Associate degree from BCTC (Bluegrass Community & Technical College) with a focus in communications, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from ECU (Eastern Kentucky University) in Broadcasting & Electronic Media.

Ian now works as a training specialist for Murray State University sharing his lived experience with parents. He is also a motivational speaker, inspiring both former and current youth in care, teachers, administrators, parents and the like-proving to them that they can be essential to their kids' futures!

Ian was a part of the Kentucky's Foster Youth Council-entitled the VOC (Voices of the Commonwealth)- where he worked with several other youth to change legislation, advocate, teach leadership skills, and become part of a voice for youth. He also gained experience as the youth representative for Kentucky at the NYTD (National Youth in Transition Database) Conference in Washington D.C., The KECSAC Conference (Kentucky Education Collaborative for State Agency Children), and as a Statewide Youth Coordinator for a federally funded program in the state of Kentucky entitled TAYLRD (Transition Aged Youth Launching Realized Dreams).

Ian has recorded Several great trainings for **Just in Time**:



- [Welcoming Youth](#)
- [#TalkWithTeens](#)
- [Creating Permanency for Youth](#)
- [How to Get The Job, Keep The Job](#)
- [Money Moves - Financial Literacy for Foster Youth](#)