



# Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE NO 10 | April 2023



Happy Spring Families!!

Spring is here and Kentucky weather is anything but predictable this time of year. Warmer weather is on the way so bring on the outdoor activities, events and more!

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Celebrations, proclamations and events are happening across the state. Pinwheels were planted in front of the Capitol and across many regions to educate communities and raise awareness of child abuse and neglect. Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAK) is hosting events across the state all month to raise awareness (more information in the Parent Resources section).

In May, we celebrate our foster families with National Foster Care Month. This year's theme is "Strengthening Minds. Uplifting Families". This year's theme highlights the need to take a holistic and culturally responsive approach to supporting the mental health needs of those involved with child welfare.

This issue of The FosterKY Newsletter is packed with resources and upcoming events! For region specific upcoming appreciation events, please contact your R&C worker for details!

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## FAMILY SPOTLIGHTS

### Meet the Clark Family

Christa and Jason Clark state that they got into fostering after watching their friends welcome kids through foster care into their home. With five children already, they decided to start with respite care and state that this has been a perfect fit for their large family. Christina and Jason state “when children come into our home, we are given an amazing opportunity to welcome them, make them comfortable, and ensure they are safe, warm and fed. They spoil them just a bit while their full-time foster parents are getting much-needed and well-deserved rest. We have had children teach us how to make fried dumplings, introduce us to new movies, motivate us to visit a park we’ve never been to and many other things.”

The Clarks are a respite family in the Salt River Trail Region. The family of 7- has been such an asset to their region and have taken respite placements of hard to place youth, teens and consistently provide respite for many families that need a break. THANK YOU CLARK FAMILY!!



### Meet the Malone Family

Colin and Melissa Malone, and their two daughters, opened their foster home in 2019. Since opening their home they have cared for five unique children with varying levels of need. With every child came a different set of challenges but the Malones always rose to the occasion and handled every placement with care. Over time, they have continued to grow and open themselves to new challenges as foster parents.

In the summer of 2022, the Malones expressed an interest in gaining more training to care for medically complex children. Not long after, they were matched with a sweet little boy who desperately needed a medically complex home to meet his needs. The Malones spent months rotating shifts at the hospital and worked in partnership with medical staff, birth family and caseworkers to advocate for the child. They have navigated a very challenging, fast-paced placement with the highest level of grace.

We would like to thank the Malone family for their dedication and sacrifice as they continue to serve within our foster care system.



### Meet the Linkous Family

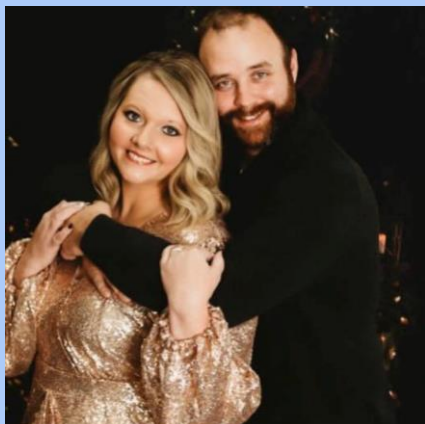
Jim and Carol Linkous have been fostering with DCBS since March of 2012. They both have a heart of gold and started their foster care journey to help make a difference in the lives of children who have experienced trauma. They both like to cut up and make people feel at home and welcome. Jim and Carol are both very patient individuals and have been open and willing to help out by taking placement of the region’s most hard to place youth. They do not give up easy on any youth that enters their home and have made a huge impact in the lives of so many people over the years. The couple has dedicated their lives to making an impact and difference whenever possible in the lives of youth in OOHC. They also have been able to provide two teenage males with their forever home and they are both thriving and doing well.

Thank you Jim and Carol for your unconditional love and support for Kentucky’s youth!



## FAMILY SPOTLIGHTS

### Meet the Hobbs Family



Danny and Sabrina Hobbs are from the Eastern Mountain Region. They have been foster and adoptive parents since 2019. They are a medically complex and care plus foster home. The family has worked well with treatment providers and the agency in providing care to children placed in their home. They are advocates for the children placed in their home and are willing to speak up for the needs that children deserve. They are also mentors for new foster parents through the UK Mentor Program. For those who are hesitant and are afraid to get too attached, they encourage them to “go all in and get too attached. You will not regret it.” In looking back at their journey, Danny and Sabrina feel that for many years they were telling God “No” for the very same reason, and their only regret now, is that they didn’t do it sooner. They could not imagine their life any differently now. Despite the chaos, loudness, busier lives, and fostering being hard sometimes, they feel that God has equipped them for this season in their life to shape another little life. They often hear people say to them, “those babies are blessed”, but the Hobbs’ reply is that “we are the blessed ones. We get to hear those little feet patter our home, the little laughs, and the ‘I love you’s. What a blessing.”

### Meet the Tackett Family

Clayton and Miranda Tackett have been DCBS Foster Parents in the Eastern Mountain Region since 2020. They initially opened their home as a relative placement and the children were returned home; however, they chose to open their home to other children in foster care. In 2021, they accepted placement of a child who was later diagnosed with autism. Following this placement, they accepted placement of the sibling. This child is showing indicators of autism as well. Clayton and Miranda work full time jobs. We all know how challenging caring for one child with autism can be but with support and encouragement from others, they are successfully nurturing and parenting two. Clayton and Miranda share in the parenting duties. The oldest child attends the Autism Center three times a week. They juggle work, their birth child’s college needs, another birth child’s high school sports events, and the foster children’s speech, physical, and occupational therapy appointments. They find time to take the children on family outings, church, and took them to Disney at Christmas. The Tacketts work well with the birth parents, supporting reunification by sending photos, telephone calls, treating the birth parents with respect, and sharing information about the children’s treatment and progress. Clayton and Miranda have huge hearts and are a great asset to the Eastern Mountain Region.



### Meet the Tschumper Family



Zeke and Rachel Tschumper and their children, Ada and Simon, joined the DCBS family as a basic foster home in March of 2022. In their first year of fostering, the Tschumpers have cared for SIX of our DCBS kiddos! The Tschumper family also provides respite for one of our other DCBS foster homes. The Tschumpers’ biggest strength is their exceptional compassion for birth families. The couple serve as positive role models for the others and fathers they have worked with. Their communication and kindness with these families is so great that some have kept in touch even after reunification. The Tschumper family has decided that looking after children in care is their calling and they give of themselves until it hurts. In addition, the couple is always in communication with the DCBS team updating us on how their kids and families are doing. They set an amazing example of love and service for their children and the rest of us.



## KAPE KORNER



Dashaun or Shaun (07/06), as he is also known, is a kindhearted young man who is longing to belong to a family that wants him as much as he wants to be in a family. Dashaun has had many heartbreaks in life where he has given of himself in an honest and open way only to be rejected by those he loves. He is a friendly young man who is polite and respectful. He has a sense of humor that keeps you smiling when talking to him. He describes himself as nice, awesome and amazing.

Dashaun is looking for a family that will encourage and assist him academically. He enjoys the social aspect of school. He does not really have a best friend but gets along well with his peers. Dashaun is like many boys his age and enjoys listening to music of various kinds. His favorite pastime is to play video games and likes the Super Hero games the best. He considers his gaming abilities as one of his best talents. He does enjoy a variety of sports and board games but is not fond of Uno. Dashaun shared that he plays the guitar a little and sometimes will sing along. Dashaun likes having dogs in the home and hopes to have his own someday. He also dreams of a vacation in California at Disneyland and then going to Disney World in Florida. He said he likes most foods but does not like carrots or salad; pizza is his favorite food. Dashaun considers himself a Christian and attends church regularly.

One of Shaun's greatest hopes is to find a family and be adopted. He would like to maintain contact with his younger siblings. If you are a family that has an open heart for a young man, who wants to fit in and feel secure, please contact us about Dashaun.

Topped with precious, bouncy curls, Jacob (01/2012) is an energetic and curious young man. "JD" as he prefers to be called, loves swimming, baseball, and his toy "Mr. Bear". His favorite foods are chicken nuggets, French fries, and cheese pizza. JD has lived in a home with cats and says that he likes having them as pets. His favorite kind of animal is a puppy. JD says he understands that some people are allergic to animals and would only want them if no one in his family was allergic. He recalls playing with his RC car and letting the cats chase it and play. JD prefers playing indoors but does enjoy swimming. He loves playing with his indoor sandbox and making sand castles. When asked what his three wishes would be JD said: 1. to be invisible 2. to be fast like Sonic (to be able to run fast) and 3. to have "super strength". Everyone who knows JD says that he has a great imagination. JD says he most wants in his new home to have pets and to have a TV in his room. JD is legally freed for adoption and is eager to meet families who are interested in getting to know him! Will you be the one to let this sweet smile melt your heart forever?



Skyler (01/2011) is a soft spoken and articulate youth. Skyler appears to be older than his age in how well he speaks to adults. Skyler's vocabulary is advanced and he has a unique way of verbally expressing his thoughts. Skyler is intelligent and likes to discuss facts that he learns about most anything. Skyler likes to play games with peers and enjoys music. When Skyler smiles and laughs, he instantaneously puts others at ease. Skyler would like an adoptive family that spends time with him and keeps him challenged intellectually.

Watch Skyler's video: <https://americaskidsbelong.org/project/skyler-f0174/>

## REGIONAL HAPPENINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS



We are so excited to share with you about our new Foster Friendly initiative and special launch event in Louisville! Details will be coming soon!

Meanwhile check out the Foster Friendly App! Download on GooglePlay or the AppStore.

*Kentucky Kids Belong is a nonprofit organization partnering with DCBS. We strive to improve the experience of kids in foster care and to help change their outcomes so they can thrive in safe, loving families, supported by Foster Friendly communities where they belong.*



The Family Enrichment Center held the Warren County Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Butler County held it's proclamation on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Butler County Courthouse.



As Spring brings warmer weather and more community events, Eastern Mountain Region R&C staff are more visible partnering and providing recruitment information. They have recently participated in the local office's April Child Abuse Prevention activities, community events such as Easter egg hunts, and yard sign campaigns. There are several local events that families have the opportunity to participate in as Child Abuse Prevention month is recognized in April. Many of the local offices and partners have Child Abuse Prevention events planned including, conferences, baseball/softball game dedications, photo events, awareness walks, 5K runs, Kids Day in the Park, inflatables, balloon releases, T-shirt campaigns, and pinwheel planting just to name a few. Pictured are Eastern Mountain R&C staff Alice Martin, Wilma Bentley, and Tamra Howard wearing blue in support of Child Abuse Prevention month while out recruiting foster families.



## REGIONAL HAPPENINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

### Kentucky RISE Spring Events!

**April  
1st**

Registration Opens for  
Fostering Success

**April  
17th**

Cumberland Education Event @  
Air Raid Trampoline Park

**April  
18th**

Spring Education Expo

**April  
22nd**

Salt River Trail Cooking Class

**May  
1st**

Registration Opens for  
Earn and Learn

**June  
12 - 13**

Youth Empowerment  
Conference

Register at [kyrise.ky.gov](http://kyrise.ky.gov)  
For questions: [chafee.ilp@ky.gov](mailto:chafee.ilp@ky.gov)

Made with PosterMyWall.com

### Meet us at the park!

*join us on our summer park tour  
meet other foster/adoptive families  
or just come and learn more about KY foster care*



Join us for a summer park playdate!

Mingle and get to know other foster/adoptive parents!

OR

Come and get some info about Kentucky Foster Care and Adoption from our  
Network Team and meet some of our amazing foster/adoptive families!

Open to all NKY foster/adoptive families (KY DCBS or agency homes!)

We will be hosting several of these at different dates and times across NKY!

Come and hang out with us!

Thursday June 8, 2023 at Bellevue Beach Park

Tuesday June 27, 2023 at South Fork Park

Saturday July 8, 2023 at Stringtown Park

Tuesday July 18, 2023 at Flagship Park

Friday August 11, 2023 at Walton Community Park

### KY RISE TWO RIVERS



THURS JUNE 8, 2023  
5:30-7:30 PM  
DIAMOND LANES SOUTH  
410 CARLTON DR, OWENSBORO  
FOR FOSTER YOUTH AGED 14-22 (AND THEIR CAREGIVERS)  
DINNER & BOWLING PROVIDED

JOIN US TO LEARN HOW TO ROLL A STRIKE WHEN  
TRANSITIONING TO INDEPENDENCE!

REGISTER ONLINE NOW  
**KYRISE.KY.GOV**

### Child Abuse Prevention Fair

APRIL IS  
**CHILD  
ABUSE  
PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEN:** April 18th, 2023

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**WHERE:** Lancaster Public  
Square

**COST:** FREE!

**Everyone Welcome!!**

**Join us for:**

\*Information

\*FREE Food

\*Goodies

\*Drawings for Prizes

\*Fun & Fellowship



## PARENT RESOURCES

DCBS is partnering once again with Holiday World & Splashin' Safari to offer a discount for all foster families and one FREE ticket for children in out-of-home care.

To redeem your discount tickets visit [HolidayWorld.com/FunClub](https://HolidayWorld.com/FunClub)  
For free foster child tickets, request a referral from your R&C worker.



**Have a Billing Questions? Refer to JIT for your answers**

[Foster Parent Reimbursements](#)

DCBS foster parents often have billing questions around foster care. This training will provide foster parents with the tools and answers to their billing needs. *(note: this video is not eligible for relicensing hours)*

**Importance of Self-Care – New Training Posted on JIT**

[Self-Care for Foster Parents: Healing When Helping Hurts](#)

Helping children heal from abuse or neglect is rewarding but hard. Like the children in their care, resource parents often feel overwhelmed by strong feelings and are unsure how to take care of themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually.



Aetna has several benefits available for SKY members! Check out some of the benefits below and visit [aetnabetterhealth.com/Kentucky](https://aetnabetterhealth.com/Kentucky) for more information!

**FREE YMCA family membership (at select locations):**

All SKY members are eligible for a family YMCA membership. Your SKY Care Manager will help you apply.

[Aetna YMCA Flyer](#)

**Getting on TRACK**

**(Transition Ready Assistance & Core Knowledge)**

All classes are FREE! Reach out to Member Services to get more information! 1-855-300-5528 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm EST.

[Aetna Getting on TRACK Flyer](#)

Classes available include:

- What is Insurance?
- Problem Solving?
- New Driver Prep
- One Love
- Couponing 101
- Understanding Public Assistance
- Daily Living Skills
- Resume Building
- Higher Education
- Banking and Finance and
- Slow Cooking Nutrition

**SKY LACES**

**(Language Access Communication Empowerment Support)**

SKY Program that offers a helpful Value-Added Benefit (VAB) to Aetna SKY members who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH). The

LACES program helps children who are DHH get a special Communication Skills Assessment (CSA). The CSA looks at the child's language skills and language access to help with ideas to improve these things.

[SKY LACES: Guide By Your Side Flyer](#)

[LACES CSA Info Sheet](#)

## PARENT RESOURCES CONTINUED



### About National Foster Care Month

National Foster Care Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau. Each May, we take time to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. We use this time to renew your commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than [391,000](#) children and youth in foster care, and recognize those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Find resources, stories of foster care, key statistics and facts and other raising awareness resources at the National Foster Care Month 2023 Website.

[National Foster Care Month - Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)



National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Prevention services and supports developed by this collaboration can help to protect children and strengthen families.

The Children's Bureau, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, funds the National Child Abuse Prevention Month initiative each April on the Child Welfare Information Gateway. Visit the 2023 National Child Abuse Prevention Month website for resources such as the 2023/2024 Prevention Resource Guide, child maltreatment data, graphics and sample messages to spread the word, and more information on National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

[National Child Abuse Prevention Month - Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)



Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky is the leading statewide child abuse prevention organization. Our work assists all Kentuckians in recognizing their role in the collective responsibility of protecting children from all forms of abuse and neglect. From distributing educational materials, running awareness campaigns, training professionals working with children and advocating for policies benefitting families, we work every day to ensure Kentucky's children grow and thrive in safe, healthy environments.

For resources and events across the state visit [PCA KY – To Prevent the Abuse & Neglect of Kentucky's Children](#)



The UMPS CARE Charities All-Star College Scholarship is for youth adopted **at or after the age of 13**. This scholarship gives students up to \$10,000 per year. To learn more about the eligibility [visit our scholarship page](#). Here is [the application](#) which can be saved and returned to at a later date. The deadline for submission is May 12, 2023.



**Growing Families** 

Are you caring for children or youth of another race or culture?

[Here are books, podcasts, and online resources](#) that will help you support your child or youth's well-being and development of a positive racial and cultural identity.

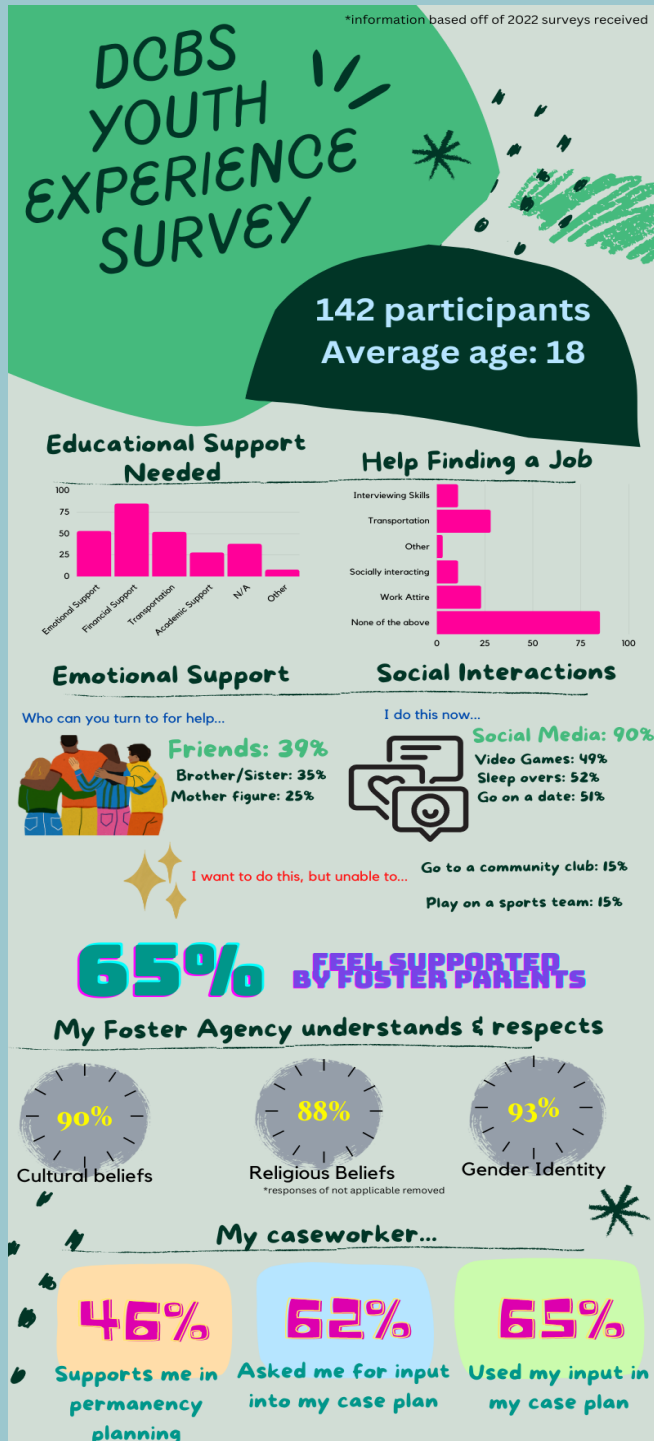
Foster parents: Celebrate everything—and other secrets to success.

Here, you'll find [advice from one foster parent to another](#). She gives three tips for maintaining cultural connections in a transracial home and discusses the power of joining a parent support group.

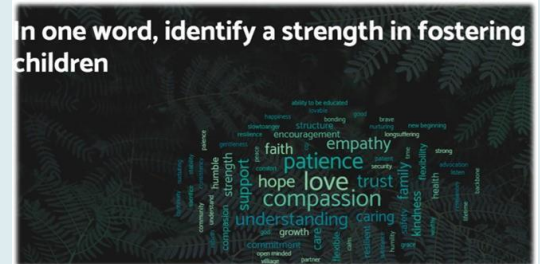


## NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

The DCBS Youth Experience Survey is part of the DCBS Quality Improvement Initiative that solicits feedback on youth experiences around education, job preparedness, emotional support, social interactions, healthcare & basic food/clothing needs, supportive services/permanency planning, and recommendations for system improvement.



Word Art from a poll completed with foster/adoptive parents during the statewide CQI meeting



As part of our continuous quality improvement work, each service region operates a regional foster/adoptive parent group. These meetings help provide important feedback from foster/adoptive parents on what is working, identifying areas of improvement and participate in solutions to issues. The meetings also provide an opportunity to exchange data, discuss outcomes and action planning to better meet the needs of families/children that are served. CQI issues that are identified by foster/adoptive parents that cannot be resolved at the team level are advanced to the regional level for review and if cannot be resolved at that level are forwarded to the state CQI team for review/resolution and feedback is provided to the team.

An important part of CQI is ensuring that the attendees are informed and understand their role in the CQI process. The Field Quality Branch created a CQI FAQ that is shared among internal and external partners (link below) and CQI specialists also serve as a support and assist with regional needs of foster/adoptive parent CQI teams. CQI specialists also attend the bi-annual UK Medically Complex Foster/Adoptive parent statewide training and provide CQI training and an opportunity for foster/adoptive parents to discuss issues, barriers to service delivery and brainstorm solutions or identify issues that need to be advanced for resolution.

If you have questions or want to learn more, please reach out to Melinda Vise, Branch Manager over Field Quality (CQI) and/or Tiffany Mullis, Assistant Director, DSR.

[Melinda.Vise@ky.gov](mailto:Melinda.Vise@ky.gov) [Tiffany.Mullis@ky.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Mullis@ky.gov)

[CQI FAQ](#)