



# Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE NO 11 | July 2023

Once again the spring and summer season has soared by! This past quarter our R&C teams and community partners have been busy planning and hosting fun events for our foster, adoptive and kinship families across the state. We have spotlighted some of our amazing families and the valued partnership you bring for kids and families in your regions.

From our 2023 Foster Families of the Year awards to launching the new Foster Friendly App in partnership with Kentucky Kids Belong, we are working hard to show our support and appreciation to the families that dedicate their time, money, love, and so much more to the kids in Kentucky's out-of-home care.

Check out this month's issue to see all of our regional Foster Families of the Year, events hosted across the state, resources and updates. Don't forget to check out the kids spotlighted in KAPE Korner and visit the KAPE website to view information regarding over 250 children in Kentucky who are waiting for adoptive families.

**TEAM  
KENTUCKY®**

CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Family Spotlights

2023 Foster Families of the Year  
Pg. 2

### KAPE Korner

Brynnlee  
Cecil  
Davis  
Pg. 3

### What is Happening... Across the State

Pg. 4-5

### Parent Resources

Core Teen  
Foster Friendly  
Aetna August Trainings  
Other Resources  
Pg. 6

### News from Central Office

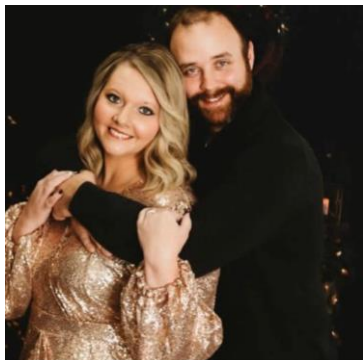
The Need  
Reunification Spotlight  
Policy Update  
Pg. 7



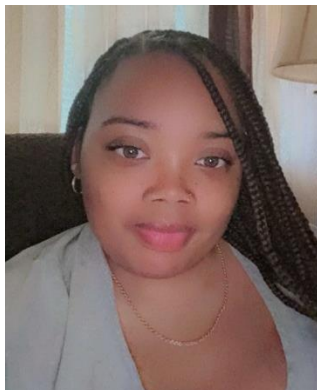
## Family Spotlights

# Congratulations 2023 Foster Families of the Year

Eastern Mountain  
Donny & Sabrina Hobbs



Jefferson  
Gemirra Petty



Northeastern  
Paul & Nellie Mullins



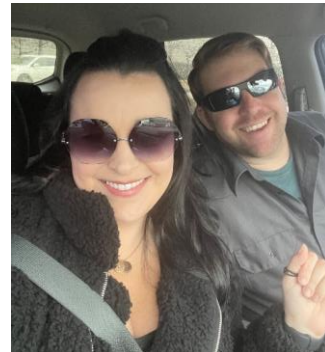
Northern Bluegrass  
Michelle Maehren



Salt River Trail  
Michael & Amber Manion



Southern Bluegrass  
Ashlee & Steve Pracht



The Cumberland  
Sharon York



The Lakes  
Thomas & Margaret Kirkwood



Two Rivers  
Josh & Terra Blanford





## KAPE KORNER



### Brynnlee

Brynnlee (03/2020) is a pleasure to be around. She has a very easy-going disposition and never has an irritable moment. Brynnlee has a predictable daily routine and thrives with a structured environment. Currently Brynnlee is in a home that is very structured with a set daily schedule and very supportive caretakers. The caretakers are willing to help facilitate Brynnlee transition into her forever home. Please contact KAPE today about Brynnlee.

[Child Profile - AdoptUSKids](#)



### Cecil

Cecil enjoys playing videos, and educational, and computer games. Cecil is helpful and likes helping out around the house. Cecil enjoys baseball and basketball and hopes to play for a team one day. Cecil is eager to gain some independence by getting a job and his driver's license. Cecil can be very quiet at times; however, he will ask questions when needed. Cecil responds well to enthusiastic praise and encouragement. Cecil enjoys getting out in the community. Cecil would benefit most from an experienced two-parent family that has strong parenting skills and support system. Cecil will flourish with a family that can provide him with consistent structure and patience. Cecil longs for a forever home.

[Child Profile - AdoptUSKids](#)



### Conner

Life with Conner (03/11) will never be dull! He is a small child with a lot of energy and keeping up with him can sometimes be a challenge. Conner has such a great smile and he loves with his whole being; he often feels very protective of those that he loves. He loves to show off and act silly and needs significant one on one attention. He enjoys playing sports as well as coloring and superheroes. Conner wants a family that he can count on, a family that will not give up on him or leave him. Conner enjoys learning in school but sometimes struggles. He will need a family that understands trauma and the need for consistency and therapy.

[Child Profile - AdoptUSKids](#)

Check out more children who are in need of adoptive families at [Meet Kentucky's Waiting Children \(adoptuskids.org\)](https://adoptuskids.org) or [Kentucky Archives - America's Kids Belong \(americaskidsbelong.org\)](https://americaskidsbelong.org)



## What is Happening... Across the State



Southern Bluegrass has been busy this quarter! Events and activities were held across the region to celebrate foster parents and child abuse prevention. From Easter egg hunts and planting pinwheels to foster parent appreciation movie night and bikes for kids in care, staff were hard at work showing their appreciation for the families and kids in the region!



Northern Bluegrass hosted two Foster Parent Appreciation picnics! Each event hosted a variety of activities such as food, games, bubbles, face painting, live music, free zoo tickets and more!





## What is Happening... Continued



The Cumberland Region hosted a foster parent appreciation event at the Party Palace in London. Over 100 individuals involved in the fostering community were able to enjoy food, fun, fellowship and gift baskets provided by the local offices.



Southern Two Rivers held their foster parent appreciation event in Barren and Warren counties in May. Both events were a hit with fun, food and fellowship enjoyed by all.



The Lakes Region West collaborated with the local Network team to host a Splash Pad Party for all foster families! They provided snacks, popsicles, drinks and toys for everyone who came thanks to the support of the Bikers Toy Run. Each family received a bag of fun summer activities and recruitment items from DCBS and The Network to take home.





## Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Parent Resources

CORE Teen is a FREE curriculum for foster, adoptive and kinship families who are or will be raising older children from foster care who have moderate to severe emotional and behavioral challenges.

CORE Teen training is being offered by ASK, the Network and some R&C teams. There are also Real Time Trainings available through the web-based training portal.

If you are parenting a teen or are considering parenting teens, check out the Real Time trainings and ask your worker about additional CORE teen trainings.

### WEB-BASED TRAINING PORTAL

Access the portal by scanning the QR code or this link: <https://learn.trc.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=803>

Trainings included:

- Continued Connections
- Parental Adaptation
- Parental Regulation
- Relationship Development
- Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity + Expression
- Transition Support for Youth in Out-of-Home Care
- Trauma Informed Resource Parenting One: Understanding + Recognizing the Effects of Trauma
- Trauma Informed Resource Parenting Two: Understanding Behavior



**FOSTER FRIENDLY**

### Foster Friendly Businesses

DCBS has partnered with Kentucky Kids Belong (KYKB) to launch Kentucky's Foster Friendly Business program.

You can download the Foster Friendly App from the Apple Store or GooglePlay. The app officially launched in Louisville in May and is working to add businesses and resources across the state.

You can help grow this resource by nominating a business to become involved. If you know of any businesses that would like to participate, or you would like to nominate a business, go to the app, click the category and select nominate a local business or visit [Business Impact Partners- Kentucky Kids Belong americaskidsbelong.org](http://americaskidsbelong.org)

Apple



Google



Don't forget about our partner resources available to all foster/adoptive/kinship parents

(click on the photo for link to the websites)



### August 2023 Trainings

Caring for a Child with ADHD (*Foster parent credit)	Tuesday, August 1, 2023 @ 9-10 am EST <a href="#">link</a>
Basic Information on OTC and Prescription Medication (*Foster parent credit)	Tuesday, August 1, 2023 @ 11-12 noon EST <a href="#">link</a>
Power Struggles (*Foster parent credit)	Wednesday, August 2, 2023 @ 11-12 noon EST <a href="#">link</a>
The Talk: Talking to Your Teen about Sex (*Foster parent credit)	Thursday, August 3, 2023 @ 11-12 noon EST <a href="#">link</a>
What is Insurance? (for young adults)	Thursday, August 3 @ 12-1 pm EST <a href="#">link</a>
Caring for a Child with Food Allergies (*Foster parent credit)	Tuesday, August 8 @ 11-12 noon EST <a href="#">link</a>
Child and Family Advisory Partnership	Tuesday, August 8 @ 12-1 EST (Bernheim Forest-Happy Play) <a href="#">link</a>
Child and Adolescent Nutrition and Wellness (*Foster parent credit)	Thursday, August 10 @ 11 am – 12 pm EST <a href="#">link</a>
One LOVE (healthy/unhealthy relationships; consent; boundaries)	Tuesday, August 22 @ 3-4 pm EST <a href="#">link</a>
Sexual Health and Body Safety (for young adults)	Scheduled with agencies/groups at their request
Healthy Relationships with Food (for young adults)	Scheduled with agencies/groups at their request

For further information: [JonesE8@aetna.com](mailto:JonesE8@aetna.com)  
[mgdean@aetna.com](mailto:mgdean@aetna.com)



## News from Central Office

### What is the Need?

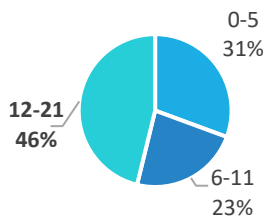
Do you have space in your home but not getting calls for placement? Does your acceptance criteria match the need for actual children in care?

Did you know that 46% of the children in care are between the ages of 12 & 21 BUT only 32% of foster parents are open to children in that age range?

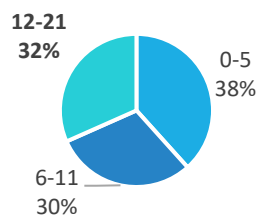
School aged youth and teens are among the hardest to find placement for. Children are sleeping in offices because there are no families willing to accept them into their homes. The placement crisis is real and we need families who are able and willing to care for older children.

Do you know someone who works well with teens? Refer a family who becomes approved and you get PAID! Ask your worker how.

#### Age of Children



#### Acceptance



### National Reunification Month

One Kentucky family was highlighted for their partnership efforts with birth families and the important role they play in reunification. Josh and Melissa Howell believe that all children should be with their birth families if at all possible. They provide a support system to families even after reunification.



Read more about the Howells at <https://tinyurl.com/yc6dh4c4>

Below is a resource from AdoptUSKids on supporting reunification:

[How Foster Parents Can Support Reunification – AdoptUSKids blog](#)

### Policy Update

SOP 4.28 Meeting Educational Needs has been updated and is now live with updated information about ESSA.

[4.28 Meeting Educational Needs - Standards of Practice Manual \(ky.gov\)](#)

The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) will make every effort to ensure a child's educational stability and will document those efforts. Federal law requires that those efforts include:

- Agency attempts to ensure the child can remain in the same school that they attended prior to removal;
- Documentation around educational assessments and services to support the child's educational needs; and
- The appropriate transfer of school records when a change in schools is necessary.
- Prior to any school change, a 'best interest determination meeting' shall be held. A best interest meeting may be initiated by either the local school district or the SSW.