



Cornerstone Connection

Serving Foster and Adoptive Parents

Official publication of Stark JFS' Division of Children Services, Foster and Adopt



UPCOMING EVENTS

Foster Parent Recognition Banquet - May 12th

Mother's Day - May 14th

Father's Day - June 18th

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Website: StarkJFS.org

Farewell Rob Myers—Deputy Director of Children Services Retires



Before I started to write this month's introduction, I reviewed some of my earlier efforts and discovered that I have referenced the changing of the seasons quite a bit over the years. It makes a lot of sense to me on several levels. First, change is an ever-present experience in child welfare; there is always something new on the horizon. Second, the seasons line up so nicely with the quarterly events that are happening here at the agency.

With that in mind, I cannot believe that we are already entering the Spring season! For us at Children Services, March is National Social Work Month, which is a time to reflect and recognize the contributions of our staff. I have been in this field for a long time, and every day I witness incredible efforts and teamwork under very challenging circumstances. In May, we will celebrate National Foster Care Month, with our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet. This event will take place on May 12th at La Pizzaria and is just one of the ways we show you our appreciation for the care you provide to children in Stark County.

Finally, this Summer we will celebrate our graduates at RUMO - Rising Up, Moving On. Foster youth graduating from high school or college will be recognized during this luncheon and reception on June 15th at Hoover Park. These young adults are already beating the odds, so it is so incredibly important to honor and celebrate their achievements.

Circling back to the topic of change, this will be my last article for the Cornerstone Connection. By the time this is published, I will have already retired. My last day was March 31st. I have been fortunate to do this work for 33 years, with the last 8 ½ years of my career in Stark County. My time has provided many opportunities to work with caring people. Thank you.

Stark JFS' Division of Children Services

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Meet the program area!



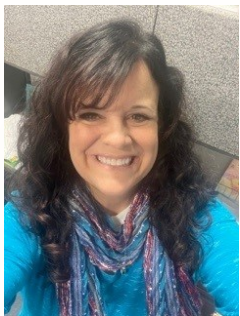
Hello Stark County Foster and Adoptive Families! As I begin my new role as Program Administrator, I would like to introduce myself. I have worked in Child Welfare for 13 years and have experience as an Intake, Ongoing, and Family Search and Engagement worker. In 2019, I became the Family Resources and Foster Care Training Supervisor and, in 2022, I transitioned into an Ongoing Supervisor. While each role I have had has brought new experiences, they have all had the same primary goal: to protect children and strengthen families. I know how vital foster and adoptive families are to helping us achieve this mission, and I'm very excited to work alongside all of you. Thank you for everything you do!

Jamie Horey—Program Administrator



Hi! I am the new Family Resource and Training Liaison Supervisor at Stark JFS' Division of Children Services. I have been with the agency since 2015 and have worked in several departments: intake, adoptions, and independent living. In October 2022, I joined the Family Resource team as their supervisor. My unit is filled with AMAZING people (Lisa, Katie, Daphne, Monique, Cheri, and Sharm), but you already know that! I am happy and honored to join you in your journey throughout the foster care system. I understand that sometimes days and weeks can be challenging, but deep down – and from the bottom of my heart – I am so thankful for each one of you.

Katie Speicher—Supervisor of Family Resources and Training Liason



Hi Stark County Foster and Adoptive Families! As I am new to this program area, I wanted to introduce myself. For the past 18 years, I have worked in Child Welfare. I have experience as a caseworker in multiple areas of the agency and as an Ongoing Supervisor. Last fall, I became the Licensing Supervisor and Wendy's Wonderful Kids Supervisor. I love my new roles and am excited to be a part of the process of finding safe, stable, and loving homes for children and permanency whether through reunification or adoption. I work alongside Katie Speicher and I'm very excited to work alongside all of you, too. Thank you for everything you do!

Maggie Paul—Supervisor of Licensing and Wendys Wonderful Kids



I have been with SCJFS Children Services for over 17 years. What I enjoy most about my job is the opportunity to help others and the wonderful people I get to work with. THANK YOU to our foster parents for taking our placement calls and helping our youth when they are in need.

Sarah Goins—Supervisor of Independent Living and Placements

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YAB Madness Fundraising Event

On April 13th, Stark County's Independent Living (IL) Department hosted their 5th Annual Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Madness fundraising event. YAB gives foster youth a voice to influence positive changes in the foster care system and provides an opportunity to offer input for shaping policies and initiatives.

YAB Madness is an event planned and organized by our foster care youth, with help from the IL Department. The event is a youth vs. staff basketball game that everyone can enjoy, including friends and family. The youth may participate in several ways, either by playing in the game or working as an admissions or concession stands helper.

Money raised through the event is used toward a cause of their choice. This year, they were able to raise \$328, which will help emancipated foster youth pay for the laundromat and purchase gift cards. Youth, family, and staff had a fun-filled evening with plenty of laughs and good sportsmanship. For the first time in the history of the event, our staff won the game. However, this victory will be short-lived because we predict the youth will come back with a vengeance next year! Stay tuned for information about the 2024 YAB Madness event.



Independent Living Summer Series is coming!

The Independent Living (IL) Series gives our foster youth the opportunity to learn new tasks, make lifelong friendships, and gain knowledge in the world of "adulthood".

All youth, ages 14 to 18, who have been assigned an independent living worker are invited to attend these events!

Stark County Independent Living Presents
Summer Meetings & Activities
Lunch provided, stipend is \$100 per class June, July, and August at the Y.

Date	Time	Location	Activities
May 25th	5:30pm-7:30pm	Hall of Fame Lanes	Bowling and Dinner
June 1st	10am-2pm	Myers Lake YMCA	
July 13th	10am-2pm	Myers Lake YMCA	
August 3rd	10am-2pm	Myers Lake YMCA	
August 11th	Summer Celebration	Details TBD	

Text RSVP's to Alexis Dillard 330-575-6021

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The Costa Family

The Costa Family shares their foster care journey, in their own words:

“In the last two years the Lord laid on our hearts to add to our family through adoption. Many people were placed in our path and we decided to become licensed foster parents. Although we knew this would not be easy, we felt called to serve these families and accept what was meant to be and support reunification. During the process of preparing for our home study and licensure, Stark County JFS was so wonderful and a pleasure to work with.

December 2021, we got a call at 1030 am that there was a three day old newborn girl that needed placement. My husband and I had an absolutely beautiful baby girl in our home at 4pm that same day. The next day we met with our county case worker and asked when we would be meeting with her mother and we were told this could take some time and our hearts sank! Luckily, the mother had asked to meet with us for Christmas and we said yes! We were able to meet our foster daughter's sweet mother and knew instantly that God was working. On our own, we were able to set up a visitation schedule weekly because we did not want this mother to be without visitation so early after the birth of her daughter.

Fast forward a year later and we developed a beautiful relationship and have become family! Not only have we been able to grow to love this sweet babe but also her mama. We were able to dedicated this precious child to the Lord at her mother's church and held a family and friend reception after to celebrate. Raquel (our foster daughters birth mother) got to meet our family and we got to meet her friends. Raquel has celebrated all holidays with our family, birthdays and comes to hang out with us on the weekends. Through the last year we have been able to complete as a "Family" a 5K Color Run for Fostering Family Ministries and the Elephant Run 5K through Forget me Not Baskets.

We have loved getting to love and support both Raquel and her daughter. The future looks amazing for us and for our new family! My dream was to support a birth mother, have a relationship and open adoption. The next fun adventure for Raquel and our foster daughter is our first Disney Trip as a Family of 5 and Raquel is joining us!

We couldn't be more excited to adopt in the upcoming months! We have absolutely enjoyed being a foster family and thankful this is where the Lord called us to serve. God is so good and it is because of him that this has unfolded better than we could have ever dreamed!”



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Featured Adoptive Children: Kayzie and Deziree

Loving, caring and affectionate describe sisters Kayzie and Deziree. Kayzie is smart and creative and does well in school. Her favorite subject is art, and she also enjoys working on the school computers.

Kayzie likes coloring, making crafts, and drawing. She also enjoys watching movies and television, playing on the phone, and singing. Kayzie would like to be a singer when she grows up.

Deziree does well in school, likes to be challenged, and her favorite subject is gym. Deziree likes to stay busy and enjoys running and making fun noises. Her favorite activity is swimming. Deziree also loves to give lots of hugs!

The girls look forward to becoming part of a family that enjoys spending time together, going to the park and visiting Skymax.



Wear Blue day

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

-In 2022 Stark County Children Services had an average of 402 Children in Custody.

-As of April 2023, we have 129 Stark County licensed foster homes.



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The Hub

The Stark County Job & Family Services' Division of Children Services has been closely collaborating with the Early Childhood Resource Center to serve families looking to foster or adopt children. The Early Childhood Resource Center serves as the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services' Region 4 Hub, working with several public and private foster care agencies in our greater area. It's one of 12 Hubs blanketing the State of Ohio. Each hub works to increase the number of adoptive, kinship, and foster homes (also known as resource homes) available to public and private child-serving agencies.

Stark County Job & Family Services and the Hub have been very busy with community outreach efforts, especially over the summer. They've staffed resource tables at numerous community events, including Juneteenth, the Stark Pride Festival, the Jackson Community Celebration, and the En-Rich-Ment African American Arts Festival. In addition, they've been connecting with churches and community leaders throughout the community to alert them to the serious need for homes for children.

"Families seeking resources or information on adoption, kinship, or fostering are encouraged to reach out to the Early Childhood Resource Center's Kelley Moffett at kmoffett@ecresourcecenter.org or to call 844-OHIOKAN."

About OhioKAN:

OhioKAN is a flexible and responsive kinship and adoption navigator program designed to support children, youth, and their families. Building on the premise that families are inherently capable of finding solutions to the circumstances and challenges they face, the OhioKAN program will take an inclusive, engaging, and genuine approach to strengthening families and their networks.

Website for more: <http://OhioKan.jfs.ohio.gov>



Ongoing Training Schedule May-July 2023

MAY

Independent Living Issues for Caregivers (3.0)

Date: Mon., May 15, 2023, at 6:00pm-9:00pm | Trainer: Bert Nero

Understanding and Surviving Grief and Loss while Fostering: The Emotional Roller Coaster (3.0)

Date: Tues., May 23, 2023, at 6:00pm-9:00pm | Trainer: Deanna Prezioso

JUNE

Education Advocacy: Supporting Your Child's Success at School (3.0)

Date: Mon., June 21, 2023, at 6:00pm-9:00pm | Trainer: Ronna Johnson

Sibling Relationships in Foster Care: Keeping Them Connected (3.0)

Date: Wed., June 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Trainer: Deanna Prezioso

JULY

Mentoring Among Foster Caregivers- Strengthening the Team (6.0)

Date: Sat., July 29, 2023, at 9:00am-4:00pm | Trainer: Deanna Prezioso

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STARK COUNTY JFS, CHILDREN SERVICES DIVISION APRIL 2023 - PHONE LIST

You must dial (1)-330-451 and the 4-digit number listed.

ADMINISTRATION		3rd Floor	ASSESSMENT/INTAKE		3rd Floor	FAMILY RESOURCES	
MAYLE, TRICIA - Interim Deputy Director	8077		PETRICINI, SUZANNE - Prog. Admin.	8844		HOREY, JAMIE - Prog. Admin.	8840
NEISEL, MICHELLE - Admin. Assistant 2	8846		BADALICH, MAURISSA - Supv.	8717		GOINS, SARAH-Supv.	8209
HILL, KOURTNEY - Admin. Assistant 1	8412		CHESNES, RACHEL	8104		INDEPENDENT LIVING & PLACEMENTS	
ON-CALL			HOCH, ZOE	8828		BAUMGARDNER, THEANA	8295
CLEAVANGER, EMILY (Part-Time)	N/A		LYNN, JORDYN - Unit Support Wkr.	8982		DILLARD, ALEXIS - IL, Specialist	8870
FILM, JENNIFER	N/A		MORRIS, KAMI	8695		HORN, PAIGE - IL, Specialist	8785
HASKELL, CATHY	N/A		RICHARDSON, MIRANDA	8529		KERRY, LISA	8751
			WAGNER, KATIE	8753		MONTEERRUBIO-BRADY, MICHELE	8849
			DEAN, JESSICA - Supv.	1721		PLACEMENT LINE	8688
			ANDERSON, MARIANNE - SSW3	8923		PAUL, MAGGIE - Supv.	8905
			BOLES, CASSIDY	8689		RECRUITMENT, LICENSING & WVK	
			McCARTNEY, SARA - SSW3	8644		EITMAN, CHRIS - Homestudy Specialist	8839
			PARILLO, MONICA - SSW3	1713		FITZWATER, IY - WVK Recruiter	8820
			FARKAS, ALICIA - Supv.	8837		LOOMIS, JENNIFER - Unit Support Wkr.	8789
			ERB, AMY	8696		HAMILTON, DARRYLANN - WVK Recruiter	8106
			MAHAFFEY-VELENYI, SHAWN - SSW3	8914		SPEICHER, KATIE - Supv.	8806
			MCDANIEL, KATHERINE	8709		FAMILY RESOURCES & TRAINING	
			RYZNER, BREANNA - SSW3	8626		CHANAY, MONIQUE	8804
			MITCHELL, VICKI - Supv.	8825		FLOTT, SHARMALEE - Unit Support Wkr.	8246
			BURNS, MALLORY - SSW3	8778		FURR HAMILTON, DAPHNE	8746
			FISHER, CHARLENE	1720		GLADIEUX, LISA	8767
			KRAJCI, TINA - Unit Support Wkr.	8918		HUMMEL, KATIE	8810
			MCCLINTOCK, BROOKE	8518		WHITAKER, CHERI	8291
			MILLER, ARIN	8505		SUPPORT SERVICES	
			POWELL, TIFFANY - SSW3	8078		HILANEH, MARY - Prog. Admin.	8109
			STEIN, JENNIE - SSW3	8822		FTM & KINSHIP	
			NICKOL, AMBER - Supv.	8044		HADDEN, NICOLE - FTM Facilitator	8144
			SEXUAL ABUSE UNIT			JONES, DIANA - Kinship Coord.	8148
			BEAVER, ASHLEE	8145		MACK, CARLA - Kinship Coord.	8519
			CAMPBELL, EMMA	8987		RALSTON, HOLLY - FTM Facilitator	8881
			HETRICK, KIMBERLEE - SSW3	1719		SIEGFRIED, CHERYL - Kinship Coord.	8143
			KIRKBRIDE, ADRIANNA	8137		KENNEDY, SHANNON - Supv.	8783
			KROAH, SONYA	8030		RECORD ROOM/RMS/SACWIS	
			MIDDLETON, MARLEE	8985		CONNER, BRITNEY - Unit Support Wkr.	8893
			MORETTA, ANDREA - Unit Support Wkr.	8055		HESSON, KRISTI - SACWIS Trainer	8790
			SMITH, MINDY - Supv.	8147		McALLISTER, TRACEY - Admin. Asst. 1	8121
			CHARPING, DENISE - Unit Support Wkr.	8819		SIMMONS-HILL, PENNY - Cier. Specialist	8851
			LUCAS, BRIAN - SSW3	8933		MYERS, LIZ - Supv.	8772
			MICHEL, JOSIE	8262		SUPPORT UNIT	
			OLIVER, JESSICA	8815		CLAPPER, TARA - SS Aide	8588
			SCHOEPPNER, LAURA	8133		DAUB, BRITTANY - SS Aide	8897
			WALPOLE, DANNI - SSW3	8757		HEWIT, ELIZABETH - SS Aide	8878
			STRICKLAND, KELLY-Supv.	8959		KROLL, LORI - SS Aide	8618
			CURTIS, KARMIESHA	8523		McDOUGAL, APRIL - SS Aide	8193
			GERWIN, MADELYNN	8858		McGREW, MOLLY - Unit Support Wkr.	8199
			LOPES, SHAELAH	8827		MULLINS, AMBER - SS Aide	8142
			PORTER, KELLY - SSW3	8629		PAPAS, CHRISTINE - SS Aide	8899
			WENGERD, AMY - SSW3	8138		PITTMAN, BRIAN - SS Aide	8103
			WEIGAND, CHELCEA - Supv.	8855		SOLENTHALER, KELLY - SS Aide	8149
			REPORT LINE			ROSA, ANG- Supv.	8927
			PLEASE DIAL 1-330-455-5437			TRAINING UNIT	
			BOWMAN, MIRANDA	N/A		SCHMIDT, CAITLIN	8146
			COULTER, SANDRA	N/A		INTERNS	
			FOSTER, ANGELA	N/A		ATKINS, MYA	8146
			McLEOD, MONICA	N/A		BACKER, STEPHANIE	8146
			MYERS, LYN	N/A		BURKHART, VICTORIA	8146
			SHOWALTER, ANGELA	N/A		TUCKER, JENNIFER - Supv.	8850
			VEGA, BIANCA	N/A		QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	
			WILLIAMS, CARRIE	N/A		JONES, KRISTY - Evaluator	8646
			FISCAL DEPARTMENT			KEAGY, TAYLOR - Evaluator (Part-Time)	8189
			SNYDER, BARB - Prog. Admin.	8752		WILLIAMS, RACHAEL - Evaluator	8903
			FOGLE, LISA - Supv.	8627		CONFERENCE ROOM EXTENSIONS	
			PAYMENT PROCESSING			Admin. Conf. Room - 3rd Floor	8046
			AMAN, SUSAN	8699		Conference Room A - 1st Floor	8039
			BEARD, KAREN	8700		Conference Room B - 1st Floor	8035
			KOSTELNIK, PENNY	8898		Conference Room D - 1st Floor	8037
			SCHRADER, DIANE	8908		Conference Room F - 2nd Floor	8056
			SHRIGLEY, SANDY	8698		Conference Room G - 2nd Floor	8585
			STEVENS, KERI - Supv.	8593		Legal Conference Room	8884
			BENEFIT MANAGEMENT			CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT REPORT LINE	
			LOURY, NANCY (A-60)	8764		1-800-233-KIDS (5437)	
			MARTENY, JO (P-Z)	8584		330-455-KIDS (5437)	
			SNAUFFER, MICHELLE (Gp-O)	8978		FAX NUMBERS	
						CHILDRENS NETWORK	330-452-2181
						CHILDREN SERVICES	330-451-8706
						LEGAL DEPARTMENT	330-451-8769

Stark JFS' Division of Children Services

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Together We
RISE

#riseupstark



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