

December 10, 2016

Dear Foster Parents,

It is that time of year again, the most exciting time for kids and most adults. No, I am not talking about rain that just won't stop or daylight that does not exist before or after work, I am of course talking about Christmas.

Christmas, it has been said, is challenging for foster children because it is advertised as a time of joy, a time of family, a time of sharing and a time of hope. Many of our seasoned foster parents have helped children during this time of year and others are entering Christmas with foster children for the very first time. I know it sometimes feels hopeless when children act-up and seem ungrateful for all you do especially with the holidays upon us. I hope those of you that face these challenges will remember that your efforts, your prayers, your generosity, your love will not return empty handed. You may not see or hear the gratitude this season or even the next year, but love and kindness does and is making a difference.

We have heard many stories of children who were once foster children and are now adults. Too often we hear the horror stories, but let me share an email I received from one of our foster parents last month. I hope it is a blessing to you. I know my eyes teared up when I read it.

"Hi Mark,

I hope this finds you dry and ready for the storm.

I was watching a lady that is new to my neighborhood with her 4 children at our bus stop. Watching her with her children brought a smile to my face. I remember thinking she looks like such a good momma as she got out of the car, walked her children to the bus and gave each of her children a sincere hug and kiss on the head as they walked onto the bus. It made my morning.

This morning in the storm I offered for her and her children to take shelter in my car and gave her a ride to her house after the bus came. We began talking and she asked if I was a foster parent and she in turn told me she had been a foster child. I told her I hope it was a positive experience and she told me she had been bounced around a lot until she finally came to a home of a lady named Donna, (I can't remember her last name.) She said Donna was with CFSF, to which I told her that is my agency and she smiled and said, "With Mark Fullington?" I said yes. She was so excited about this. I wanted to share with you what an impact you have made and continue to make with the vision, I believe God gave you. This woman's name is Stacy.

I hope this brings a smile to your face and happiness to your heart.

Cinda"

Thank you ALL for the lives you reach. Without you these precious souls would be lost. You are all making a difference and the guidance, love and support you are giving these children will reach our next generation.

God Bless You All and Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Fullington".



**Welcome to all our new CFSF Staff and Foster Parents! We are excited to partner with you to care for Foster Kids in our communities!**

**All CFSF Offices will be closed on the following days:  
Dec. 26 & Jan. 2**

***Please note:***

***If you have a CFSF Magnet, the Suicide hotline number should be  
1-800-273-8255***

**Success Story**

The Smith children came into care early this past year and were placed in 2 different CFSF foster homes. Since being in care the children flourished with proper medical & dental appointments, Head Start services and stable living environments. Their paternal grandparents stepped in to become the children's caregivers and became licensed foster parents in their home state. The grandparents flew up to WA State and the kids were transitioned to their care after 8 months of foster care. The CFSF foster parents, social worker, GAL, grandparents and the case manager worked together diligently to make the transition a positive outcome for everyone involved.

**If you have not yet signed up for direct deposit, please do so ASAP. You can find instructions on the CFSF website**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

Dec 16 Burlington Christmas Party  
Riverside Lanes, Mt Vernon 6:00 pm

Dec 17 Moses Lake Christmas Party  
Lake Bowl 1:00-4:00pm

**Check our website for times & locations for upcoming events!  
[www.cfsf.net](http://www.cfsf.net)**

**After 5:00 pm or before 8:30 am please use the after hours number to contact us:  
360-443-2516**



**Another Success!**

When Ava was born she tested positive for drugs and shortly after her birth exhibited withdrawal symptoms. Around two months in age she was placed in one of CFSF's long term foster homes after her previous placement was unable to continue to care for her. In spite of her early childhood circumstances and with the loving support of her foster family, Ava is a happy and healthy two year old with a forever family of her own!

Just a little reminder, we have duffle bags for receiving care children as well as children who are moving homes or leaving care. Please contact your case manager or stop by the CFSF office to pick them up.

