

Merry Christmas Foster Parents,

Another Christmas is upon us and we have so very much to be grateful and thankful for. We must also reflect on the losses we had over this last year. Our dear friend and co-worker, Celeste Carey, is no longer with us and we miss her very much. Celeste was a true champion for children and families. Her ability to speak from her heart no matter who she was speaking with was refreshing to all even if you had a different perspective. Our wonderful foster parent, Betty Mahan, was also suddenly taken from us to be with the Lord. Betty was an advocate to the end; always putting the needs of her foster children above her own. Like Celeste, she was known for her love but was not afraid to speak up for the children God had put in her life. Please remember these wonderful champions for children as we push forward to carry the same torch they have handed off to us.

As I think about Celeste and Betty, I pray God will bring more people to take their place to advocate for children. Please join me in praying for God to send others like Celeste, Betty and You to rescue children in need. Pray also for the children in your care. We too often forget that we may not have the answers, but God does. We at CFSF are grateful to our foster parents and the true good work you do day in and day out. During the Christmas time we are especially grateful to you for inviting children to be part of your families Christmas celebration. Thank you and may God richly bless you. Merry Christmas,

Mark Fullington



December 10, 2013

Washington State Patrol
Clearinghouse for
Missing Children
1-800-543-5678

Training Website
[http://
www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/
fosterparents/
ongoingvid.asp](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/ongoingvid.asp)

www.independence.wa.gov
Info and programs
available for youth (13-
21) in out-of-home care.

Christmas Parties

Port Orchard: **Where:** Sons of Norway Lodge, 1018—18th St. Bremerton, WA. **When:** 12/5/13 at 6:30 pm. **Menu:** Cold cuts, cheeses, breads, salads and dessert will be provided.

Burien: **Where:** Full Life Center near Ikea, 7829 S. 180th St., Kent, WA. **When:** 12/14/13 from 4 to 6 pm. **Menu:** A light meal and dessert will be provided.

Burlington: **Where:** Strawberry Lanes, 1067 Columbia Ave, Marysville. **When:** 12/20/13 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. **Menu:** Bowling, pizza, pop and dessert will be provided.

Moses Lake: **Where:** Lake Bowl, 1165 N. Stratford Rd., Moses Lake, WA. **When:** 12/7/13 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. **Menu:** Bowling, pizza and pop will be provided. Santa has promised to stop in for the party and will possibly bring Mrs. Claus?!?

CPR/1st Aid/BBP
www.keepthebeatcpr.org
or call
1-888-704-6074

Adoption Referral &
Information Service
[www.adoptionreferral
service.com](http://www.adoptionreferral
service.com)

TB Tests for Foster Parents and Family Members

Due to a nationwide shortage of TB tests, the Department of Regional Licensing has filed an emergency suspension of minimum licensing requirements involving individuals being licensed, living in licensed facilities or working as staff or volunteers in licensed facilities. The shortage has been confirmed with the Health Dept. This is particularly concerning given a shortage of placement resources. The suspension will end March 13, 2014. If you are in the process of being licensed or have a child turning 18, please try to get the TB test. If you are unable due to the shortage, please let us know and we'll proceed without the test.

CFSF After Hours
Emergency Pager
1-866-281-9644
Website:
www.cfsf.net

Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks was founded in 2005 by grandparents of a child with autism. It has grown into the worlds leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

Autism Speaks is a website devoted to life skills for families living with autism. There are many different avenues on the website from family services to social skills, combating bullying to advocacy. The site recommends resources and reading materials along with advice on going out to eat, health and wellness, advances made, financial assistance and much more.

To learn more about Autism Speaks, please go to:

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/community-connections/teaching-important-life-skills>

From all the staff at Community and Family Services—We wish you the Happiest of Holidays!

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for direct deposit. This helps cut down on expenses of mailing and you receive your pay sooner. You can find the form on CFSF.net. Click on Services then with the drop down menu, click on financial. This will bring up the form.

Reminder

We have been asked to remind our foster parents and teens to mark all the toiletries or personal items before going to respite. It's very hard for a respite provider to distinguish between their shampoo and a child's shampoo they brought with them. This can lead to frustration when the child returns home without their items. It also gets expensive to keep supplying these items and not have them returned. If they are labeled with a sticker or a piece of masking tape, it helps prevent confusion. Thank you!

REFRESH CONFERENCE

Save the Date: 2/28/14—3/1/14 at the Overlake Christian Church in Redmond, WA.

Keynote Speaker: Kay Warren

Training credits and CEU's are available for foster parents and professionals. Participants will be able to obtain a certificate of completion for submission to licensors. To learn more or to register, go to:

www.TheRefreshConference.org.

