

CFSF Christmas Parties

Region 5 The Christmas party for Bremerton, Port Orchard and surrounding areas will be held on 12/7/11 at the Sons of Norway Hall, 1018 18th, Bremerton, WA 98311. The time will be from 6:30 pm—8:30 pm. Please join us for an evening of fun and delicious desserts as we celebrate Christmas. This year's party will be a dessert-only affair. Santa will be on hand with gifts and the Bremerton High School choir officers will be back to entertain us.

Region 4 The Christmas party for Seattle, Tacoma and surrounding areas will be held on 12/15/11 at the Burien office. The party will be held open house style with dessert, beverages and gifts for the children. The time will be from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm. Please RSVP to Cindy Edlund (edcy@cfsf.net) or call the Burien office at 206-246-5262. Please let us know how many adults and the ages of the children that will be attending.

Region 3 An open house is being planned at the Burlington office so that toys, gifts and coats can be made available. Please contact your case manager or Jackie for more information.

Region 1 & 2 The Christmas party for Eastern Washington will be 12/11/11 at Lake Bowl in Moses Lake. Pizza and drinks will be provided along with bowling for the families. Please RSVP to Cory (chco@cfsf.net) or Danielle (hoda@cfsf.net) or call 509-766-1952.



Abraham's House

Abraham's House is a Christ-centered non-profit organization. They take in donations from the community and give them away to those who are in need, for FREE. They are there to help anyone who has a need for items such as appliances, clothing, linens, baby items, electronics, beds, furniture, household items and more. They accept furniture (chairs, tables, lamp stands, recliners, couches, etc), clothing, coats, shoes, baby clothes, appliances, household goods, linens, bedding bed frames, mattresses and many other items. If you have a question about whether they will take a particular item, please call 360-876-6502. Please donate items that are not broken and are in fair condition. Your gifts are tax deductible.

Location: At Christian Life Center

1780 SE Lincoln Ave., Port Orchard, WA 98366

Phone: 360-876-6502

Website: www.abrahamshouse.org

Fostering The Community

Prices for Foster Children at the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties.

* Infant—14 years old = \$16.50 a month

* 15 years and up = \$19.00 a month

No joining fee!

Financial Assistance available

Stop by any YMCA branch in Pierce and Kitsap Counties.

CFSF Family Connection



December 10, 2011

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

Training Website
<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.

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

Adoption Referral & Information Service
www.adoptionreferral.service.com

Dear Foster Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and as we head toward Christmas, I pray the Lord's blessing on you. I know this time of the year can magnify challenges for the children you care for. For some children having a family experience during Christmas is out of the ordinary. For others this is the first time they are away from the family they know and love.

When I was growing up Christmas was always a wonderful time filled with the true meaning of Christmas; gifts, family and great food. It was not until I was out of college and working with challenging youth that I discovered Christmas was the most horrible time of year for them. The anxiety and pain those children experienced grew to become an expectation of this time of the year; how very sad.

So as you head into this wonderful time of year, pray that the children you care for can experience the love God intended. Don't get caught off guard by the challenges you may face with your foster children. By bringing children into your home, you have the ability to begin a new and wonderful meaning of Christmas.

God bless you all for your willingness to care for God's children.

In Christ,

Mark Fullington



The State of WA has realigned the boundaries of the regions within DSHS including Children's Administration/DCFS/CPS. Previously regions 5 and 6, (Kitsap, Pierce, Mason, etc) are now all combined and known as region 3. On Dec. 1, 2011, the phone system will be updated and some of the smaller office's intake staff will report to a supervisor in a larger office. The local intake numbers for making reports of alleged abuse and neglect will remain the same but the regional toll free intake line—1-888-713-6115 or 253-983-3877 will have a menu to allow the caller to connect to a local office. Central intake will still take the afterhours calls at 1-866-ENDHARM (363-4276). To troubleshoot issues with intake referrals, here is a list of supervisors by county:

Julie Slaughter, Pierce 253-983-6146,

Scott Adams, Pierce & Kitsap 360-475-3663

Kelli Drake, Mason, Thurston & Grays Harbor 360-725-6732

Please remember to make copies of all school progress reports, any Dr. appointments, medical information and med logs for the children in your home. These must be turned in to your case manager every month.



If a child placed with you leaves your care, don't forget to contact your case manager to give them the exit date. If you have a social worker contacting you about placement of a child, please remind him/her to always contact CFSF first.

New Foster Care Association meeting place.

Cinda Baldwin, a foster parent with CFSF has started the Key Peninsula foster care association. The meetings take place on the first Monday of each month from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. For more information please contact Cinda at 253-884-1754 or email her at cinda-baldwin@centurytel.net. Please put foster parent in the subject line.

If you have questions or a new resource, please contact Celeste Carey, cace@cfsf.net or 206-794-8316.

Direct Deposit

If you don't already have direct deposit, it's fast, easy and the funds are in your account and available for use on the 10th of each month. Call Michelle at the Port Orchard office for more info.

It came to our attention that Keep the Beat was issuing first aid renewal certification without requiring attendance throughout the class. RFTI's Cora Phillips, who manages the Keep the Beat contract has clarified with Keep the Beat:

Caregivers must complete both the CPR and First Aid classes in their entirety at each renewal. www.keepthebeatcpr.org or call 1-888-704-6074.

Reminder

If a social worker or the placement desk calls to ask if you'll take a placement or provide respite for a child, please remember to tell them they need to call CFSF to ask us first. A placement cannot be made in your home by anyone other than CFSF.

A CPA foster Parent meeting was held on Nov. 17th 2011 in Gig Harbor. There were over 60 foster parents from five Child Placing Agencies attending the meeting. A letter was drafted and can be accessed by going to <http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5832/c/780/p/dia/action/public/?action KEY=8809>. This letter can be used as a guide to help you write to your legislator,

There was also a request from foster parents for more information about a great resource, **Foster Promise**. Please feel free to join any of the following Foster Promise communication mediums: * YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/fosterpromise?feature=mhee>. * Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/FosterPromise> * Face book <http://www.facebook.com/groups/FosterPromise/>

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Celeste Carey at 206-794-8316 or email her at cace@cfsf.net.

Word Search: Find the names associated with Winter: Cold, snow, Christmas, New Year, Ice, fireplace, blanket, slippers, flu, football, basketball, ski, soup, chili, stew, and coat.

N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	C	O	L	D
A	C	H	I	L	W	O	N	S	A	L
L	I	L	I	H	C	D	O	R	A	L
F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	H	A
S	L	K	W	E	T	S	O	P	G	B
O	S	U	S	O	U	P	A	P	I	T
T	E	K	N	A	L	B	T	I	E	O
B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L	O
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	S	F

Christmas Recipe for Kids: Mini Pizzas

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 3 minutes

Ingredients:

- * 1 English muffin
- * 1/3 cup Marinara or pizza sauce
- * 2 slices of mozzarella cheese, sliced as broadly as possible and about 1/4 inch thick
- * Chopped olives



Preheat your oven's broiler. Cut the English muffin in half and toast it in a toaster on a medium-low setting. Place the two toasted English muffin halves on a baking sheet. Spread the marinara or pizza sauce on each muffin. Cut your cheese slices with a tree-shaped cookie cutter or a cookie cutter of your choice. Place the cheese shape on top of the marinara sauce. Sprinkle the chopped olives on top of the cheese tree as if they were ornaments. Place the baking sheet in the oven under the broiler. Broil just a few minutes, don't let the cheese become too melted so you don't recognize the tree shape. Cool to eat

A few tips for a better new year

1. Stop making promises you can't keep. Don't over-promise. Over-deliver on everything you do.
2. Give up worrying about what others think of you. What they think isn't important. What is important is how you feel about yourself.
3. When other people treat you poorly, keep being you. Don't ever let someone else's bitterness change the person you are.
4. There is nothing to hold you back except you. And there is only one question to ask yourself: "What would you do if you were not afraid?"
5. No matter how it turns out, it always end up just the way it should be. Either you succeed or you learn something. Win-Win
6. If you want to feel rich, just count all the great things you have that money can't buy.
7. Saying "no" to the right people gives you the time and resources required to say "yes" to the right opportunities.