# **CFSF** Family Connection



Dear Foster Parents,

Well here we are in 2016! Do you remember 1999? Remember all the uncertainty with computers and the scare that all was going to be lost? Well the year 2000 rolled in and all was not lost. This was the year CFSF came into being. When I think of our origins in this way, it seems like a long time ago, but when I wake up in the morning it all seems so new and fresh. Interesting how time is so based on perspective.

Well, since I started down this nostalgic road, let's throw out some stats. When we started CFSF was known as Alternative Family Services. The name was changed in the summer of 2000 to CFSF. So here we go:

2000 licensed foster homes (10) 2000 staff (1) 2000 CFSF offices (1) 2000 foster children in care (8) 2000 adoptions (0) 2015 licensed foster homes (189) 2015 staff (67) 2015 CFSF offices (6) 2015 foster children in care (240) 2015 adoptions to date (269)

It is humbling to see how things have grown. It was never my intention to have a large agency. With that being said, having had this opportunity to work with such wonderful people and license foster parents that are literally changing lives is a Blessing to experience.

So, as we move forward into a new year, I want to move forward with the urgency that more of God's children are still in need. It is my prayer that we will work hand in hand with all who are willing to stand in the gap for children in need of family. I am not sure exactly where this will take us, but I am excited to find out.

I hope we are all excited for 2016 and ready to meet the challenges ahead. Remember, "If God is for us who can be against us?"

mark Sulling

HAPPY NEW YEAR



# **Office Closures**

January 1 - New Years Day January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday February 15 - President's Day January 10, 2016

Washington State Patrol Clearinghouse for Missing Children

1-800-543-5678

Training Website Allianceforchildwelfare.org Click on Course schedule to view



www.independence.wa.gov

Info and programs

available for youth (13-21) in out-of-home care.



Kitsap Foster Care

Association

http://kitsapfostercare.org

CFSF Emergency After Hours 360-443-2516 Website: www.cfsf.net

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

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

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**THANK YOU...** It is amazing to look back at the past year and see what loving and generous communities we serve! We were blessed to have many donations for foster kids given by organizations, both large and small, who collected clothing, toys and supplies this year. Sleep Train has donated pajamas, clothes, shoes & socks, underwear, warm coats, school supplies, toys and much more to our foster kids. Through some of our monetary donations by private individuals, we have been able to go above and beyond helping to provide some of the basic needs for our foster kids. These funds have been used to help supplement the cost of summer camps, music lessons, educational expenses and many other incidentals that occur when having children in our homes. A special thanks to Silverwood School, Scotty Brown's, Joy of Pilates, Carter's, Interwest Construction, Sleep Train, DJ's Diesel, Columbia Crest Center, Action Management Services and the many individuals who donated specifically for this Christmas Season. Our Christmas parties for our foster families were a huge success! We have been truly blessed by amazing people who care about kids and want to make a difference!

## **Tacoma/Pierce County Youth Shelter Services**

Open daily 6:30pm – 6:30am. Doors Close at 10pm .

Located at Beacon Senior Center

415 South 13th Street ,Tacoma, WA

The shelter at this location will be open through 3/31/16, has 40 beds and serves young people ages 18-24.

Please call 253-256-3087 for more information.

# Upcoming Common Core Training (CCT):

Kitsap County:Module One—Feb 22, 23 &27Module Two—Mar 7, 8 &9King County:Module One—Apr 4, 5 & 9Module Two—Apr 18, 19 & 23

Pierce County: TBD



Welcome to the 61 NEW Foster Homes that joined CFSF in 2015!



This year we had a total of 33 ADOPTIONS!!! Thank you to all the people who have been involved in making it possible for these kids to have a forever home! Your countless hours and dedication have not gone unnoticed! Thank YOU for making a difference!

## Sleep Train's Annual Pajama Bowl

## April 24, 2016

CFSF will have a team and if anyone wants to form a team please contact Celeste at <u>dice@cfsf.net</u> The money raised from this activity helps support Lake Days and other special events.

#### Stay tuned for the

## 2016 Upcoming CFSF Events Including:

FPAWS Great Wolf Lodge Conference

- Moses Lake Car Show
  - Lake Days

**Ghost Train** 

**Training Opportunities** 

**Christmas Parties** 

12K's of Christmas Run