CYS Foster Care: An Inclusive & Welcoming Program

Marisha McDowell & Nathan LaChine, Recruitment & Retention

Our Recruitment, Retention and Licensing team is excited to share with you a break down of our new homes that are in licensing and will join us soon! Don’t forget that any current CYS home that recommends a family and they become licensed is entitled to our monetary referral bonus if the family completes the licensing process, and when they take their first placement.

New families by county:
Clallam: 1
Clark: 1
Cowlitz: 1
Grays Harbor: 3
Lewis: 1
Thurston: 1
Mason: 2
Pierce: 2
Thurston: 1

We also are proud to announce that as of Fall 2019, CYS Foster Care has begun to participate in the Human Rights Campaign, All Children – All Families. HRC’s All Children – All Families promotes LGBTQ+ inclusive policies and affirming practices among child welfare agencies and formally recognizes those agencies that are leading the field with innovative approaches to inclusion.

Research demonstrates the crucial nature of this work. LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in foster care, many having been rejected by their families because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Too often these young people then enter child welfare systems that further traumatize them due to a lack of inclusive policies and practices. At the same time, the LGBTQ+ community remains an untapped resource when it comes to finding families for children and youth in foster care. For these reasons, the project focuses on supporting agencies’ efforts to achieve safety, permanency and well-being by improving practice with LGBTQ youth and families.

Since the project began in 2007, hundreds of agencies across the country have recognized the importance of this work and utilized ACAF resources.

We at CYS recognize the importance of inclusivity! Our program is also in the process of changing our foster parent applications and youth intakes to be gender inclusive to all cultures and identities of people. For more questions, or training opportunities, please feel free and reach out to our team for ways to be supportive and learn more!
Recent Events

Nathan LaChine, Lead Foster Parent Recruiter

Jamie Floch, Recruitment at the Aberdeen Book Fair!

TAY, Accounting and Foster Care at the Combined Fund Drive! CYS won best table!

Nathan, now CPR teacher certified! Coming Soon: Winter 2020!

Foster Care Staffing Updates

Marisha McDowell, Recruitment & Retention Specialist

**Title:** Clinical Case Manager  
**Name:** Kassie Sidwell; she/her  
**Previous jobs:** Childcare Center Director  
**Hometown:** Spokane, WA  
**Education:** M.A. Organizational Leadership  
**Favorite thing about working at CYS so far:** The company culture, everyone is very friendly and welcoming  
**Family/pets:** Husband (Paul)  
**When I’m not at work, I like to:** Spend time with my family, going to the movies and having a good dinner  
**Favorite movies:** Historical fiction. Harry Potter.

**Title:** Licensor  
**Name:** Joyce Erickson; she/her  
**Previous jobs:** Caregiver, Paraeducator, Stay at Home Mom, Fostering Together Liaison  
**Hometown:** Randle, WA  
**Education:** BA of Human Development from WSU  
**Favorite thing about working at CYS so far:** The people  
**Family/pets:** Husband- Ryan  
**Kids-** DJ, Oriana, Carver and Kelsey  
**Pets-** Cat/Mozzie, Dog/Lily  
**When I’m not at work, I like to:** Camp, Hike, TV/Movies, Fun Stuff with the kids  
**Favorite movies:** Blazing Saddles and most movies.  
**When I was a child I wanted to grow up to become:** a Mom, Police Officer, Social Worker  
**Something I want to do that I have never done:** Snow Shoe-ing
Holiday Season Donations

Megan Lobdell, Development Associate

With the Holiday season coming up, we wanted to remind you of a few things. The Development Office handles all donations. Please contact Megan or Lynsi with any needs this Holiday season. Remember, we cannot help you if we don’t know what you need. It’s also very difficult for us to deal with last-minute requests. So please please, please get your lists in early. We already have community members calling about the holidays.

• Do you have a participant willing to tell their story? Please let the Development Office know. We are currently looking for participants to share their story for the Holiday campaign.

• Adopt-A-Family/Adopt-A-Youth is right around the corner. Like I said, we are already getting calls from those that want to adopt. So be talking with your families now and getting the needs for the Holiday. Please remember these families that you submit shouldn’t be getting help from other community organizations. We prefer those other avenues are explored first, as our resources are limited.

• When you are out and about at events and hearing from community members that would like to donate to CYS, please have them call Megan at 360-918-7844 to make arrangements. We do have limited space and want to make sure we have room for it.

• Last but not least, if you have any special holiday requests as a foster family—please reach out to Marisha as she can get your requests in!

ILS/SETup Updates

Veneza Tana, ILS Program Coordinator

SETuP – We have a new SETuP Case Manager, Tia Stoner! Tia’s name may sound familiar since she’s recently worked with New Directions-Pierce County and prior to that worked with Haven House. Tia has over five years of experience working with young people in a CRC setting. Please help me welcome, Tia!!

We are currently accepting referrals for the SETuP or Supplemental Education Transition Planning Program. The SETuP program supports young people with their career and educational goals. Some of the activities include career exploration, vocational training opportunities including apprenticeship programs, college exploration and planning, assistance with filling out college and financial aid applications, and much more. If you come across participants interested in getting involved with SETuP and they meet program eligibility (between ages of 13-21 who are in middle/high school or GED program; are in the care of Washington State, tribal, or federal foster care system; or experiencing unaccompanied homelessness) reach out to Tia Stoner at either email, or 360-918-7812.

ILS – We are excited to announce that the ILS Program can now work with young people ages 15-23! The ILS or Independent Living Skills Program works young people to achieve growth, independence and connect them in areas of housing, employment, education, and self-care.

If you have a participant whose interested in getting connected with ILS and they meet the eligibility criteria (between ages of 15-23, currently or were in foster care in an open dependency action though DCYF or tribal child welfare agency for at least 30 days after 15th birthday, live in Thurston, Mason, or Lewis Counties) reach out to Veneza Tena at either vtena@communityyouthservices.org or, 360-918-7829.
Community Youth Services supports youth and families in achieving their needs for health, safety, security, and community.

**Upcoming Alliance Trainings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 4, *Webinar</td>
<td>Jan. 10, Olympia</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>So you have a new placement... now what?</em></td>
<td><em>As they grow, the drug impacted child</em></td>
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<td>Dec. 11, Centralia</td>
<td>Jan. 14-15, Olympia</td>
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<td><em>Introduction to Adoption from Foster Care</em></td>
<td><em>Caring for Children with physically aggressive behavioral concerns</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 18, *Webinar</td>
<td>Jan. 15-16, Vancouver</td>
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<td><em>Kinship: 101</em></td>
<td><em>Caring for Children with physically aggressive behavioral concerns</em></td>
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<td>Dec. 28, Vancouver</td>
<td>Jan. 22, Tumwater</td>
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<td><em>Knowledge and skills to help children heal</em></td>
<td><em>Supporting the educational success of youth in foster care</em></td>
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**To Browse More Classes and To Sign Up:**
http://alliancecatalog.org/

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**CYS Foster Families...**
Open the door to their homes, providing a safe, stable, nurturing home for growth.

**CYS Foster Youth...**
Walk through the door, into the home; vulnerable and have suffered multiple traumas. Most times not trusting, but looking for change.

**CYS Case Managers...**
Hold the door; to facilitate safety and growth, and to improve children’s lives leading to successful adulthood.

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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS:**

- **Police Dispatch:** 911; Get Intake Number for CYS Case Manager
- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:** 800.843.5678
- **After Hour CYS On-Call Case Manager:** 360.280.9516

*Remember to always reference your youth’s safety plan!!!

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711 State Avenue NE
Olympia, WA 98506
1.888.R.FOSTER

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