Thank You Kinship Caregivers

During the month of September, we honor and celebrate Kinship Care at Summit County Children Services. Our mission of ensuring safety, permanency and well-being could not be accomplished without the loving care and support of our kinship families that open their hearts and home to children in need. Kinship families are an invaluable resource providing the care for approximately 200 children in agency custody and an additional 177 children who are in the temporary custody of kin.

Across the nation, approximately 2.7 million grandparents and 1.4 million other relatives are providing homes for over 6 million children. Family members play a vital role in keeping everyone connected and strengthening families especially when children cannot be in their own home due to abuse or neglect. Please allow me to extend my sincere thanks to those kinship caregivers who have provided food, clothing, shelter and unconditional love to children in need.

SCCS will recognize kinship providers with a Thank You card and Papa John’s pizza gift certificate. An appreciation banner will be displayed outside the main entrance of the agency during the month of September and kinship information will be available in the lobby. Finally, ‘Thank You’ ads will be featured in various media publications throughout the month.

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Visit our website at summitkids.org or follow us on Facebook.
Foster Care & Adoption Information Meetings

Summit County Children Services is continuing its foster care and adoption recruitment efforts by hosting information meetings throughout the community. We invite foster and adoptive parents to bring family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or individuals who are interested in learning more about foster care and adoption with SCCS. Below is information about the next meetings. At these meetings, agency staff explains the process, support provided by the agency, costs involved (specific to adoption), and share general information about the types of children who come into care. If your family or friends want more information about foster care and adoption, please call (330) 379-1990. SCCS is able to provide recruitment information and materials for you to share with anyone that is interested.

Monday, September 11, 6 p.m.
Summit County Children Services
264 S. Arlington Street, Akron

Tuesday, September 26, 6 p.m. NEW DATE
Cuyahoga Falls Library
2015 Third St., Cuyahoga Falls

For visitation cancellations or information, please call the Family Interaction Center at (330) 379-2080

NON-EMERGENT INCIDENT REPORTING HOTLINE
(330) 379-1952
These include incidents that DO NOT require an immediate response such as a child that is AWOL, child restraints that do not result in an injury, school suspension or expulsion, and an injury not requiring emergent medical attention.
Candidates for Foster Parent Association Board Positions

Are you a very organized person who is good at preparing documents electronically and meeting deadlines? Have you ever served in a leadership role and dealt with a 501C3 non-profit organization overseeing the organization, dealing with partners in other businesses, and creating excitement about your company? Are you a go-getter and confident about speaking to others and encouraging positive communications among the association. These are just a few qualifications of Secretary, President, and Member-at-Large of the Summit County Foster Parent Association. Though other duties are posted in the bylaws, assignments to these positions include so much more. Consider this opportunity to lead and support your Foster Parent Association. Contact the association at the email address below if you are interested and let us know what your questions about the board are.

For a look at the full bylaws and more details, please go to: Summit County Foster Parent Association By Laws

Click ‘Forms’ and then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the By-Laws link. Please email the Association at summitcounty.fosterparents@yahoo.com or call (330) 996-1013. Please leave a message for Sara Viar if you are interested or have questions about any of the positions.

Waiting Child Profiles

Because One Waiting Child Is One Too Many

Jvonte

Birthdate: June 2004

Jvonte is a very shy young man. However, once he gets to know you, he becomes very friendly. He likes to make others laugh by telling jokes. Jvonte likes being outdoors. He enjoys playing sports; basketball and swimming are his favorites. Jvonte also enjoys playing video games. He wants to be loved and is looking forward to being in a forever family.

For more information, please contact his worker, Jennifer Cranston, at (330) 996-1064 or at jcranston@summitkids.org.

Cheyenne and Benjamin

Birthdates: July 2006 & November 2007

Cheyenne is a very pleasant young girl. She enjoys being active and likes to participate in dance and after school sports. Cheyenne loves animals, especially dogs, and likes to make trips to the pet store. Cheyenne is good about getting her chores done but she struggles with her homework. Cheyenne is on an IEP at school and needs extra help with math and reading. Cheyenne is very protective of her 9 year old brother. She participates in counseling every two weeks and is working on her relationships with others.

Benjamin is an active and curious young boy. He is very smart and is a great reader. Ben has some issues with anger and controlling his temper, but he is working on this. Ben participates in counseling every two weeks. He has a 504 plan at school to help him concentrate and focus on his school work and to help him get along better with other students. Ben enjoys being active but also likes to watch TV and play video games.

For more information, contact their worker, Lisa Poor, at (330) 379-1807 or at lpoor@summitkids.org.
Monday, September 18
Topic: Kids Capes for Courage
A non-profit organization located in Akron, Ohio, Kids Capes of Courage was started by Debby Rowland, Monica Moyer, and several friends. They sew one-of-a-kind capes for sick and special needs children to give them extra courage when it is needed most. This effort will provide the opportunity to sew capes for our foster children or any other child. Supplies will be provided. We will need to know how many are participating and how many capes you would like to make.

Monday, October 16
Topic: Independent Living for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
So what is the process for preparing teens to exit agency custody and move from your foster home? When can they get a driver’s license? Where can they live? How soon can they get a job? How does graduation from high school impact the process? How can they afford health care? Where do they get start up furniture and other home supplies to be on their own? How much should I help them out after they move out? These are just a few questions that come up regarding the process of preparing a youth for aging out of foster care. Those of you who foster teens can gain and share some experiences while others will gain new insights into this process.

Monday, November 20
Topic: Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Other Academic Supports
The kid I have is failing everything. What can I do to help ensure a successful academics in school? I have a kid who has anger issues and won’t cooperate with any teacher. How can I help them correct that? I have a kid who gets assignments and loses them before turning them in. Is there a way to ensure the assignments get to their destination? Eligibility for special services in our school systems can start as early as kindergarten. We as foster parents sometimes don’t recognize there is a problem and the child may be eligible for these services. Come listen to specialists from local schools explain a process that can help you get help for these children and perhaps lead them to a successful education.

Monday, December 18
Topic: “Make It and Take It”
Bring your foster kids, adopted kids and your birth kids along with your creative minds to this unique event to create arts and crafts for those special people. Be it holiday decorations, unique artwork, fun jewelry or whatever you can think of. Use the time to chat and enjoy the company of others who all do what we do – parent children in foster care! Reservations are required to be sure we have enough of and the right kinds of supplies. Supplies will be provided. Interested families please contact the email address or call the office and include the age and gender of the children participating.

Inclement weather may affect scheduling.
Always check Facebook for updates on cancellations and changes.

Questions and suggestions may be submitted to summitcounty.fosterparents@yahoo.com.
You can ...

Help Recruit Families!

Summit County Children Services’ foster and adoptive parents can earn $50 for bringing another person or couple interested in learning more about foster care and adoption to a special information dinner meeting.

NOTE: Foster/adoptive parents will only receive $50 regardless of the number of guests brought to the dinner meeting.

Special Information Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 11, 6 p.m.
Summit County Children Services Main Building

Please make a reservation by calling (330) 379-1990 (option 2) by Friday, September 1
Adoptive Parent Support Group

Have you finalized at least one adoption in your home? Please join us for our monthly Adoption Support Group Meetings! More information on topics and speakers coming soon. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact Gina Oriti at (330) 996-1054 or at goriti@summitkids.org.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 12, 6-8 p.m.

Summit County Children Services
264 South Arlington St. Akron, OH 44306

Education Center/Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center (NEORTC)

Please RSVP for each meeting so we can plan for food and guarantee your child’s spot for child care:

Gina Oriti
(330) 996-1054 | goriti@summitkids.org

Bring a side dish and meet other adoptive parents as we discuss relevant topics in the field of adoption

Childcare will be provided onsite

Support