

Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE NO 8 | October 2022

Happy fall y'all!

October brings fall weather, pumpkin patches, hayrides, leaf piles and so much fun! As we head into this busy season that the end of the year brings, let us pause to be thankful for the individuals, families and children brought into our lives through foster care and adoption.

November is National Adoption month. We celebrate adoptions across the country and raise awareness for the thousands of children who still need permanent families. See the parent resource section of the newsletter for more information and a link to the National Adoption Month website. We have also included an Adoption Month Calendar of fun activities and resources for each day of November. Print this calendar off, share with friends or make your own adoption month calendar to celebrate all month long!

As the year comes to an end, many agencies and regions are planning Trick-or-Treats and holiday events. Check with your local agency or R&C office to find out about fall and winter events in your region!



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Family Spotlights

Meet the Saylor family! Jerry and Lisa were initially approved as foster parents in 2013 and closed their home for a short time but reopened in September 2018. Since reopening their home, they have had seven children placed with them. They reside in the Northern Bluegrass Region in Kenton County.

Jerry and Lisa have been a valuable asset to DCBS and foster care. On multiple occasions, they have taken children outside of their age range and even a child who we were struggling to find placement for. Early in their return from foster care, they were called upon to take children from a difficult situation. Jerry and Lisa took their time with these children and they were eventually returned to the care of the parent. During their time with this case, they showed unlimited patience in a challenging situation.

Jerry and Lisa are the type of heroes that we treasure.



Jerry, Lisa, Julian & Bryson Saylor



Randy, Kerensa, Alexis, Harrison, Joey, Keegan & Joziah

Introducing the Smith Family! Randy and Kerensa have been foster parents since 2010, initially being approved by the Home of the Innocents (HOI) and then transferring to DCBS as a Medically Complex Foster Home in 2019. The Smiths reside in Campbell County. Randy and Kerensa have adopted two medically complex children and are in the process of adopting a third. The Smiths do an amazing job at juggling all the schedules (therapies, doctor's appointments, nurse visits, surgeries, school, etc.) for ALL of the children in their home and ensuring all of their needs are met. They are VERY familiar with Cincinnati Children's Hospital! Randy and Kerensa seek out, accept and love the children that would unfortunately be difficult for some families to take on due to their long-term medical needs. Even during unimaginably difficult times for their family, Randy and Kerensa maintained placement and relied on their family and friends for support. We are truly lucky to have the Smiths as a foster/adoptive family!

Marty Ingram is a foster parent who is dedicated to provide a loving home for children who come into our care, even for short amounts of time. Mr. Ingram resides in Spencer County. Since becoming a foster parent in August of 2020, Mr. Ingram has done a diligent job in providing a placement for teenage children and large sibling groups. Mr. Ingram has received multiple placements in the short time he has been a foster parent for the Salt River Trail Region. Recently, Mr. Ingram has been providing short term emergency placement for children who do not have a bed to sleep in for the weekend. Mr. Ingram is always ready to help a child in need, no matter how long the child will be with him. Because of his willingness to help, many children placed into the Cabinet's custody have been able to sleep in a home rather than an office. Mr. Ingram has gone above and beyond the meaning of being a foster parent. He has been an instrumental tool in helping our children in need, going out of his way to accept children beyond his original acceptance criteria to assist the Cabinet in providing these children with a safe and stable environment. Mr. Ingram has shown to be a true asset to the Salt River Trail Region, and we would not be able to do what we do without him. We continue to appreciate his diligence and willingness to provide short term placements for children in need.





Breeze

Breeze (10/29) is a beautiful teenage girl. She has long blonde wavy hair and blue eyes. She enjoys doing all things girly! She loves doing her makeup, dressing up, doing her hair, and going shopping. Breeze strives for one on one attention. Breeze wants to find a forever family with her same interests and who is willing to accept her into their family. Please contact KAPE today if you would like to find out more about becoming Breeze's forever family and help her accomplish her goal of adoption.

[Child Profile - AdoptUSKids](#)

KAPE Inquiry Process

Who can submit an inquiry? Families with an approved home study may submit an inquiry. The family can be approved through DCBS, a PCP agency, or an out of state agency.

How does a family submit an inquiry? Visit <https://www.adoptuskids.org/states/ky/index.aspx> and complete the inquiry form. You will see a green "Make Inquiry" tab listed with the child's narrative. If you have questions or need assistance you may call 1-502-564-2147.

What happens next? A KAPE Specialist will contact you. You will need to provide a copy of your home study and complete the Home Study Review Form.

How is a potential match determined? The home study is reviewed by the Adoption Review Committee to determine if your family is a good fit for the child. The Committee will review the home study and provide feedback within 15 working days. The Committee may reach out to your worker for additional information.

What happens next? If your family is selected as a potential match, more information about the child is shared. If everyone is still in agreement, a pre-placement conference is scheduled.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a family inquire on more than one child at a time? No, only one inquiry may be submitted at a time.

Why can't my worker share information about the child before I make an inquiry? Children referred to KAPE live in our communities and their privacy needs to be respected as much as possible. It is important for the Adoption Review Committee to determine if your family is a good fit for the child before sharing any information about the child.

How do I obtain a copy of my home study? DCBS families may request a copy of their home study by completing a CHFS 305 form and submitting the request to Records Management. PCP families should speak with their case manager about obtaining this required information.

My home is not approved yet, can I still inquire? You may contact 1-502-564-2147 and notify the Adoption Branch staff of your interest. However, please visit <https://webapps.chfs.ky.gov/kyfaces> to learn about how to become an approved adoptive parent. Once your home study is completed and your home is approved, you may submit a formal inquiry at that time.

What is Happening... Across the State

The Salt River Trail R&C team attended the Radcliff Cultural Festival on September 10. They set up a table to pass out recruitment information and to meet and recruit foster parents and respite providers from multi-cultural backgrounds. They are looking forward to attending this event in 2023 and attending other multi-cultural events to recruit more foster parent!



What better way to wrap up the Summer than with a Pool Party! The Southern Two Rivers Region hosted a SWIM party for all foster and adoptive families at the Whispering Hills Pool in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Around 75 parents and children attended this fun event that contained a bit of training on Water Safety, pizzas and a dish from each of the families and fellowship. It was a great way to kick off the school year and end the Summer.



Southern Bluegrass R&C spoke at the Statewide AppalRed Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence Conference. During this event they were able to present statistics related to foster care needs across the state. Information was also presented on how service providers can better serve children who have experienced trauma. Voices of the Commonwealth joined the presentation and were able to present their firsthand experiences as youth aging out of foster care.



The West Lakes Region hosted a skating night for foster parents and their families in July. The event offered a discounted rate to all families, treat bags with homemade baked goods for each family also with a Foster KY magnet and stickers with inspirational quotes on them. Everyone had a great time!



They also set up at Marshall County Family Day in the park to share about the need for foster and adoptive families. This event is a part of a week long event celebrating families and encouraging time together. The R&C team set up a tent with a coloring station for the kids and recruitment items for parents. Everything including food, snacks and drinks was free for families. At the end of the event families could attend an outdoor movie, too. We met so many amazing families and had fun sharing information about foster care and adoption with them.



Foster/Adoptive Parent Resources



The KYRISE.KY.GOV site has information regarding services and resources for transitioning aged youth needs, such as:

- Tuition Waiver
- Education Training Voucher
- Vital Documents
- Independent Living Specialist's contact information
 - Housing information
 - Goodwill Car Program
 - Employment information
- VOC Employment- NOW HIRING!

From the US Children's Bureau:

Thousands of teenagers across the country need permanent families. You can make a difference by helping to raise awareness during National Adoption Month.

National Adoption Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau that seeks to increase national awareness of adoption issues, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for teens in the U.S. foster care system, and emphasize the value of youth engagement. We continue to focus our efforts on adoption for teens because we know that teens in foster care wait longer for permanency and are at higher risk of aging out than younger children. Teens need love, support, and a sense of belonging that families can provide. Securing lifelong connections for these teens, both legally and emotionally, is a critical component in determining their future achievement, health, and well-being.

Find resources, youth voices videos and outreach toolkit at The Children's Bureau's National Adoption Month website

[Spread the Word - National Adoption Month - Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

Welcoming Older Foster Kids to Your Family A resource from Creating a Family

When welcoming an older foster child into the family, it can be challenging to strike a balance. You don't want to come on too strong and overwhelm them. You also don't want to be too blasé and make them feel like just another body in a revolving door of placements. How do you welcome older foster kids to your family with that balance in mind?

We turned to our online community to capture many helpful ideas. These experienced foster, kinship, and adoptive parents have logged countless hours in on-the-job training! Their advice fell into a couple of broad themes, and we appreciated the creativity that their conversations offered to the topic.

Find this article and other great foster/adopt/kinship resources, articles, and podcasts at:

[Welcoming Older Foster Kids to Your Family - Creating a Family](#)

Back to School 2022

New mental health resources for a new school year

Adolescence is already a confusing time without added concerns about social media, safety in schools, staying healthy, family financial security, and loss of loved ones—so we shouldn't be surprised that the rates of anxiety, depression, suicide, and other mental health conditions are on the rise.

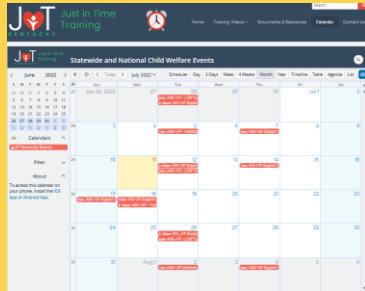
This year, Mental Health America Recognizes with our 2022 Back to School Toolkit that our youth are having "All the Feels" as they enter the new school year. These resources look at the issues young people face that are having an impact on their mental health and offer tips on how to deal with these issues and the resulting emotions. The MHA toolkit can also help parents and school personnel better understand the issues, such as the effects of social media on youth mental health and how to be supportive.

[Back to School | Mental Health America \(mhanational.org\)](#)

News from Central Office

Just In Time Updates

Just In Time www.jitkentucky.org now has support groups under the calendar tab for foster parents and kinship families. Our partners at UK with ASK and Kinship are listed on the calendar. On the website, you can click on the support group and it will prompt you to register. This calendar is for **SUPPORT GROUPS ONLY and not training** opportunities.



Just In Time's homepage now gives foster parents the opportunity to sign up for trainings through ASK at UK, the Network at Murray State, EKV's landing page, and Aetna training opportunities. Scroll to the middle of the screen and click on the training need that you are interested in based on the needs of our foster home.

Just In Time has launched the following trainings since the last newsletter:

- [Fostering Educational Success for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deafblind Children \(CC\)](#)
- [Adolescent Development & Mental Health](#)
- [Simple Coping Skills for Kids!](#)
- [Money Moves - Financial Literacy for Foster Youth \(CC\)](#)
- [Human Trafficking 101: An Overview for Caregivers \(CC\)](#)
- [Understanding & Responding to Caregiver Grief and Loss](#)
- [Supporting the LGBTQ+ Population](#)
- [Aggression and Disruptive Behavior: Best Practices](#)
- [Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Substance Exposed Infants](#)
- [Diabetes Type 1: Diagnosis Specific Education](#)
- [Power Struggles](#)
- [Parenting a Child with Food Allergies](#)

Please visit www.jitkentucky.org for a full list of trainings and supports.

This year the Voices of the Commonwealth (VOC) advocated for changes to Kentucky's extended foster care policy and for amendments to the foster youth bill of rights to promote inclusivity for young people. Their initiatives were filed into SB 8 which has passed both bodies of state legislature and has been signed by the Governor.

New Extended Foster Care Policy:

Youth have the option to extend commitment to the cabinet when they are 18. Previously, a youth was only able to make the decision to extend commitment or recommit (if they left care when they were 18) until their 19th birthday.

The new policy states that now youth can have until their 20th birthday to decide if they want to extend their commitment or recommit to the cabinet. Youth may now opt in or out of extended foster care up to two times.

This new policy structure provides flexibility for those who are not sure if they like the extended commitment and want to leave and then may need to return. It also provides flexibility for those who did not extend their commitment and decide they want to return by their 20th birthday.

New Foster Youth Bill of Rights Amendments:

1. Youth have the right to request placement be made where he or she feels the most safe and comfortable
2. Youth have the right to participate in a sibling or half-siblings court hearing if deemed appropriate by the Cabinet, court of jurisdiction and guardian ad litem, if applicable
3. Youth have the right to raise his or her child and make decisions on behalf of his or her child unless a health or safety risk is determined by the cabinet or due to the treatment needs of the youth
4. When youth reaches 18 or older, they have the right to receive a copy of their cabinet case history including family medical history, placement history records, and the child's medical records including physical, dental, vision and mental health

Adoption Month Calendar

November

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Update your social media profile picture with a National Adoption Month frame	2 Visit the National Adoption Month Website National Adoption Month	3 Check out the foster and adoption resources on Kentucky's Just in Time site. Kentucky Just in Time (jitkentucky.org)	4 Watch a foster/adoption themed movie (ex. Lilo & Stitch, Stuart Little, Tarzan, Instant Family)	5 Visit the KY KAPE photo listing Meet Kentucky's Waiting Children (adoptuskids.org)
6 Invite someone to register for an informational meeting October-December 2022 Info Meetings	7 Spread awareness through social media to make others aware that it is National Adoption Month!	8 Check out the adoption support groups and trainings at ASK Adoption Support For Kentucky - University of Kentucky College of Social Work (uky.edu)	9 Celebrate World Adoption Day by drawing a smile on your hand and share on social media #WorldAdoptionDay	10 Use the hashtag #nationaladoptionmonth when posting to social media.	11 Read a book about foster care or adoption.	12 Create or purchase a piece of adoption art for your home.
13 Surprise a local foster/adoptive family with a meal or gift card.	14 Cook a traditional dish with your child to celebrate his/her heritage.	15 Wear your favorite adoption themed shirt!	16 Watch a video about adoption from a youth's perspective. Youth Voices - National Adoption Month	17 Ask your social worker how you can get involved in foster care and adoption recruitment.	18 Watch videos of children waiting for adoption at Kentucky's Kids Belong (americaskidsbelong.org)	19 Celebrate National Adoption Day!
20 Talk about adoption with your faith-based or community organization.	21 Listen to an adoption podcast	22 Share the KYFACES site with someone interested in adoption kyfaces.ky.gov	23 Talk about what adoption means to your family	24 Give thanks to all of those who have been impacted by adoption. Thanksgiving	25 Write a thank you note to someone who has played a role in your foster/adoption journey.	26 Offer to do respite for a local foster/adoptive family.
27 Send a card to your child's worker.	28 Ask to speak about adoption with your school's PTA.	29 Share the KY Kids Belong site with someone interested in adoption. Kentucky's Kids Belong	30 Tell your adoption story or ask someone else to share theirs.			