CCDSS Resource Parent Quarterly Newsletter

Summer Edition 2025

Kicking Off Summer with Heart and Hope!

As summer begins and we look forward to brighter days and new experiences, we also take a moment to recognize a deeply meaningful part of our work—June is National Reunification Month. This month shines a light on the importance of family reunification and the collective efforts it takes to support, strengthen, and restore families. As valued Resource Parents, your dedication plays a vital role in that journey. Thank you for the compassion, stability, and love you provide every day. Your commitment makes a lasting impact, and we are grateful for all you do.

Upcoming Independent Living Events

Thursday, July 24, 2025 – Horseback Riding with The Chosen Youth Group
Time & Location: TBD

Friday, August 8, 2025 – Annual CCDSS Back-to-School Event
Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: CCDSS

Thursday, September 18, 2025 – Exiting Out-of-Home Care: Living Independently
Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: CCDSS

Maryland
Department of Human Services
CHARLES COUNTY
Department of Social Services

CCDSS Resource Parent Quarterly Newsletter

Upcoming CWA Trainings:

July

Wed 7/9 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours) #Resource Parent Refresh

Fostering is hard work and they weren't kidding when they said it takes a village! Partnering with DSS, supporting reunification, and navigating the court process while caring for children with complicated stories and big feelings can seem unmanageable. Join us as we explore strategies and tips for navigating our system while reviewing the nuts and bolts of foster parenting in Maryland.

Fri 7/18 12:00-1:30pm (1.5 hours) The Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ Ally Training

This cultural competency training is designed to create dialogue around being an adult ally for LGBTQ+ youth by informing participants about common terminology, the "coming out" process, and challenges at home, in school, and the community.

August

Sat 8/2 9:00-11:00am (2 hours) Understanding Trauma and Sexualized Behaviors in Children and Teens*

This seminar will provide an overview of "typical" childhood sexual behavior and development, and the factors that influence healthy versus unhealthy patterns. Participants will explore their own beliefs related to sexuality, as well as common myths and realities of childhood sexual abuse. The immediate and long-term impact of childhood sexual abuse will be discussed, and participants will gain a better understanding of the characteristics of children and teens who are more likely to exhibit sexualized and abusive behavior.

Thu 8/7 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours) Sibling Separation and Healing Connections

Being placed with a sibling during a time of the unknown creates a small sense of normality. However, despite the benefit most siblings are often separated when they enter the foster care system. This webinar will explore how to help children process, grieve, and thrive despite sibling separation so that they can have healing connections. This training will provide tools, caregiver recommendations, and strategies to help siblings stay connected and heal during the separation process.

Wed 8/18 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours) Building Parental Resilience**

The purpose of this training is to help foster and adoptive parents understand concepts and definitions related to enhancing resiliency in children who have experienced loss, separation, or other traumatic experiences; understand the protective factors; how to build upon protective factors; become aware of strategies that support children and develop their identity, self-esteem, and skills towards self- advocacy.

*** Indicates training that meets the Discipline/Behavior Requirement**

**** Indicates training that meets the Medication Management Requirement**

CCDSS Resource Parent Quarterly Newsletter

New to the Crew

Newly licensed Resource Parents:
We have 2 families who will be licensed soon!

Happy Birthday July/August/September

SHAVA LUCAS
CAITLIN STUART

JUNE-National Reunification Month

June is National Reunification Month—a time to honor the efforts to reunite children in foster care with their families. It highlights the importance of supporting families in overcoming challenges and creating safe, stable homes. This month also recognizes the dedication of those who make reunification possible and reminds us that, whenever safe and possible, children thrive best with their families.

JULY-National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, focused on raising awareness of the unique mental health challenges faced by racial and ethnic minority communities. It highlights disparities in care, the impact of stigma, and the need for culturally competent, equitable mental health services for all.

SEPTEMBER-National Kinship Care Awareness Month

September is National Kinship Care Month, a time to honor the vital role of relatives and close family friends who step in to care for children when parents cannot. Kinship care preserves family bonds and cultural roots, offering stability and support. These caregivers often face unique challenges and deserve recognition, resources, and support to help children thrive.

CCDSS Resource Parent Quarterly Newsletter

Charles County Resource Parent of the Year
Regina Green

On May 9th, we proudly honored Ms. Green as the 2025 Charles County Resource Parent of the Year.

During the event, Resource Homes Supervisor, Tracey, shared this touching message on behalf of Ms. Green's Family Development Specialist:

"Ms. Green excels in recognizing and celebrating each child's unique identity, fostering belonging and self-worth. She builds trust through emotional support and honors boundaries, creating a safe and nurturing space. Her commitment to empowering children and supporting their growth is truly remarkable."

Being named Resource Parent of the Year is a tremendous honor that highlights the compassion, resilience, and impact of extraordinary caregivers like Ms. Green.
We are so proud to celebrate her and grateful for the difference she continues to make in the lives of children and families.

Congratulations, Ms. Green! Your Charles County DSS family celebrates you!

CCDSS Resource Parent Quarterly Newsletter

Tri-County Celebrates Resource Parent Appreciation and National Foster Care Month

On May 9, 2025, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties came together to celebrate National Foster Care Month and Resource Parent Appreciation. Hosted at Regency Furniture Stadium, the event brought together families, social workers, and community members for a memorable evening. Guests enjoyed an exciting Blue Crabs game, delicious food, raffles, and fun giveaways. The celebration honored the incredible dedication and compassion of our resource parents, whose support is vital to the success and well-being of children in care. Their willingness to open their hearts and homes truly transforms lives. It was a night filled with gratitude, community spirit, and well-deserved recognition for those who make a lasting difference!

Charles County Youth Currently in Care as of 6/23/25:

Total: 28

15 Females, 13 Males

16 Youth are age 12+

22 African-American, 3 Bi-Racial, 2 Caucasian, 1 Hispanic

PLACMENT UNIT/RESOURCE HOMES TEAM

Tracey Higgins, LCSW-C Resource Homes Supervisor tracey.higgins@maryland.gov
Andrea Leys, Family Development Specialist andrea.leys@maryland.gov
Dahlia Freeman, LMSW Family Development Specialist dahlia.freemandowns@maryland.gov
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