

# The Caring Times

Summer 2019



## Letter from Karen

Happy Summer Everyone! Can you believe it is finally here? A huge thanks to everyone who celebrated National Foster Care Month with us in May. The event was such a success we are considering the need to hold it in a bigger location next year. As we move into a slower, more carefree time of the year I want to take the opportunity to give some important information and reminders. One of the most important things we have to share with you is the change to our respite program. Tabitha will be detailing that in a separate letter. If you have not received a letter from her, please give us a call.

Prior to becoming licensed as a foster parent and every two years thereafter, I will review Foster Care Code, DCF Chapter 56 with everyone. These are the policies that all foster parents in the State of Wisconsin must adhere to at all times. I want to remind you of some of those policies right now.

Crisis situations: If you feel your safety or that of your family is threatened by a foster child, you should always call 911 for assistance. In non-safety crisis situations, but ones that require immediate assistance and it is after normal business hours of 8-4:30 M-F, there are crisis workers on-call to assist you. In most cases foster parents will be calling the Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch Center. Dispatch will then relay the message to our on-call social worker to assist you with your concerns. That phone number is 920-683-4201.

Changes in your contact information: It is important that we are made aware of any changes in your household. These changes may include employment changes, address changes, phone number changes, changes to the composition of who is in your household, email changes, etc.

Serious Incident Reporting: I am going to lump a number of things into this category.

**Discipline:** Did you react to a situation that caused you to act in an atypical way? For instance, physical discipline of any kind is not allowed. Children in foster care have already experienced trauma. In addition, restraint is not allowed under any circumstance as it has the potential to cause serious injury. If you are struggling with repeated behaviors, please contact your case worker for suggestions for managing behaviors without the use of physical discipline and/or restraint. Any use of physical discipline and/or restraint must be reported to the foster care team for review.

**Medical:** You are required to report any medical emergency that occurs to a foster child. Please reports any accidents, injuries, etc. to the child's case manager as soon as possible after the incident occurs.

**Fire:** If you have a fire at your home, this must be reported to our agency.

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**Criminal Offenses:** You must report any law enforcement involvement to the foster care team for follow-up. In general, we perform background checks at re-licensing. However, serious infractions, such as those requiring involvement with law enforcement and the court system, must be reported to us and discussed with us in a timely manner. It is likely that a Corrective Action Plan will be completed. This plan will detail what must be accomplished in order for you to retain your foster care license.

**Pets:** Manitowoc County has a strict policy regarding not licensing any family that has a pit bull or a pit bull mix. There are additional breeds of dogs that due to their typical temperaments around children may also not be allowed. This will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Assessment by a professional dog trainer may be required.

**Photos of Foster Children:** Pictures of foster children may not be posted on Facebook or on other social media. In addition, in no situation should a child ever be identified as a foster child. Photos of foster children may be placed in your home, but they should not be shared with others, such as in a Christmas card. We encourage the use of Life Books to chronicle the child's life and to use as a memory that they can take with them when they leave your home.

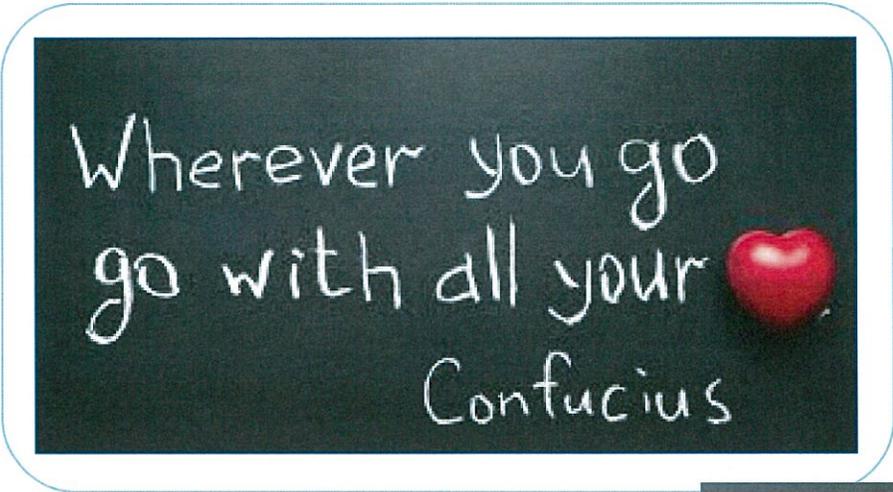
**Training:** Please remember to stay current on your training. If you are in your first two years of licensing, you should be completing your required 36 hours of training (6 hours of on-line Pre-Placement training and 30 hours of in-person Foundation training). After your first two years of licensing you should be attaining 10 hours per year. Do not wait until receiving your letter for relicensing as it could affect future placements and your payment. If you have questions about your training hours, please contact Tabitha at 683-4289. Also, it is important that you inform her of trainings that you receive outside of our agency right after the training so she can document your attendance. Your training is logged in the PDS database, as required by the State of Wisconsin/DCF.

**Placement Availability:** I encourage you to let me know about your placement preferences and availability. This not only helps our team when we are looking for placements, but it helps us plan for the future. If you know there will be a period of time that you are unavailable such as vacations, surgery, schooling, job change, moving, etc. that will affect your ability to accept placements, we appreciate knowing those time frames. This will save time and help our crisis workers.

**Recruitment:** One final thing I want to mention is recruitment. Please spread the word about the need for additional foster parents. We are hoping to create a larger pool of foster parents so we can continue to do good matches with children to available homes. Also, let us know if you would be willing to be a part of our recruitment team that goes out into the community to talk at churches and other events.

**Prudent Parenting:** All of you should be striving to make children's lives as normal as possible. Do you understand Prudent Parenting? Are you using the 8 questions to make your decisions that affect foster children? Any questions about the use of Prudent Parenting should be directed to a member of the Foster Care Team.

Have a great summer everyone! Watch for training opportunities. There have been many that have been emailed out recently. As always, contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have. *Karen*



Wherever you go  
go with all your   
Confucius



Hello Everyone,

I am Paige Osmunson and have been the Foster Care Intern for the past nine months. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you and your families in that time. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have interned with Manitowoc County Human Services and grow as a future social worker. I would not have had the learning opportunities I had without you all welcoming me and accepting me as part of the Manitowoc County Foster Care Team. My time here has come to an end, I am graduating May 18<sup>th</sup> with my bachelors in social work from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay. My time with the Foster Care Team has helped me realize who I want to be as a social worker and has prepared me to pursue my career goals. So, I want to thank you to all of you for helping me on my journey to receive an education and for all you do for children in this community.

*Paige*

# Important to know

## Training Record

Please remember to fill out the Training Record forms in it's entirety for documenting purposes. As a reminder, these forms are to be turned in within 60 days after the training in order to be counted toward your ongoing training requirements. This form is located at the back of the newsletter.

If there is a training you would like to attend but are unsure if it will count toward ongoing training hours , please consult any member of the Foster Care Team



If you are still in need of completing modules of the Foundations training, sessions for the stated areas will be open for registration soon, if they are not already. Keep checking PDS as seats will fill up quickly. Specific dates and registration can be found through your PDS account. If a session you would like to attend is full, please put your name on the wait list. Also, if you are no longer able to attend a session you signed up for, please withdraw from the session.

<b><u>Foundation Training January to May 2019</u></b>	
<b>(to be completed within first 2 years of licensure)</b>	
Appleton	July 2019 to September 2019
Ashland	July 2019 to September 2019
Cleveland	July 2019 to September 2019
Eau Claire	August 2019 to November 2019
Fond du Lac	Starting December 2019
Glendale	July 2019 to December 2019 (Several sessions for each module)
Green Bay	September 2019 to November 2019
Janesville	Starting August 2019
La Crosse	Starting July 2019
Madison	July 2019 to December 2019
Oshkosh	Starting October 2019
Rhineland	Starting September 2019
Rice Lake	July 2019 to October 2019
Summit	Starting July 2019
Wausau	September 2019 to October 2019
Wisconsin Rapids	October 2019 to January 2020

### **Did You Know???**

In 2018, over 43 hours of training options were sent out to aid in completing the required 10 hours per license year. These training hours are a combination of trainings in the community, conferences, and trainings hosted and/or facilitated by Manitowoc County Foster Care Team

# Trainings Being Offered

## Foundation Training:

Dates & Registration now available on PDS

\* contact a Foster Care Team member if you need assistance with this

## Anytime:

Licensed foster parents can total up to 2 hours in non-interactive hours per licensing year. This can be in form of webinars taken at home, readings, etc. Please submit a Training Log with each training you complete, whether interactive or non-interactive.

\* PBS series on ACES <https://www.tpt.org/whole-people/>

\*Child Safety Course

<https://www.safekidswi.org/WI-Car-Seat-Program/Courses-and-Curriculum/Transporting-Children-Safely-Course>

\*Coalition Recorded Trainings

<https://wifostercareandadoption.org/training/recorded-trainings/>

It was great to see everyone who attended the “Working with Birth Families” webinar that we hosted on Tuesday, March 20th, 2019!! It was a very good training for foster parents at every level of fostering to listen to. The Coalition for Children and Families did record the training, so it should be posted on their site in the near future. We will be sure to send the link out when we notice it is online. This way you can view the training at home if you would like, which would count toward your 2 hours of non-interactive training hours in your licensing year!!

Everyone who came went home with goodies for the kiddos placed in their homes!

Congratulations to Rosetta Kauffman and Becky Brooks, who were winners of our door prizes this evening!!



## 2019 Foster Care Proclamation



On, April 9th, 2019 the Foster Care Team, along with foster parents, Brenda & Craig Carle attended the Manitowoc County Board meeting where they

were presented with the Proclamation for May being National Foster Care Month. Karen Zahn, who spoke on behalf of the Foster Care Team, stated the large need for more foster homes in our county, due to the increase in

placements and the filling up of current foster homes. Brenda also addressed the Board and viewers, informing everyone of why her and Craig applied for foster care and encouraged others to become foster parents.

**“If you or anybody you know is thinking about possibly one day doing this adventure-do it now! We need you now. The kids need you now.”**  
~Brenda Carle



## Foster Care Informational Meetings

The Foster Care team hosted three informational meetings between April and June. Each meeting was well attended with citizens from the county, who were interested in learning more about foster care. The Foster Care team was very excited of the turn out for each meeting and are

very appreciative for all who attended.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster parent, or possibly interested in just learning more about being a foster parent, please have them call 920-683-4230 to speak to a member of the Foster Care Team.

# Licenses, Relicenses, Certifications

## Licenses

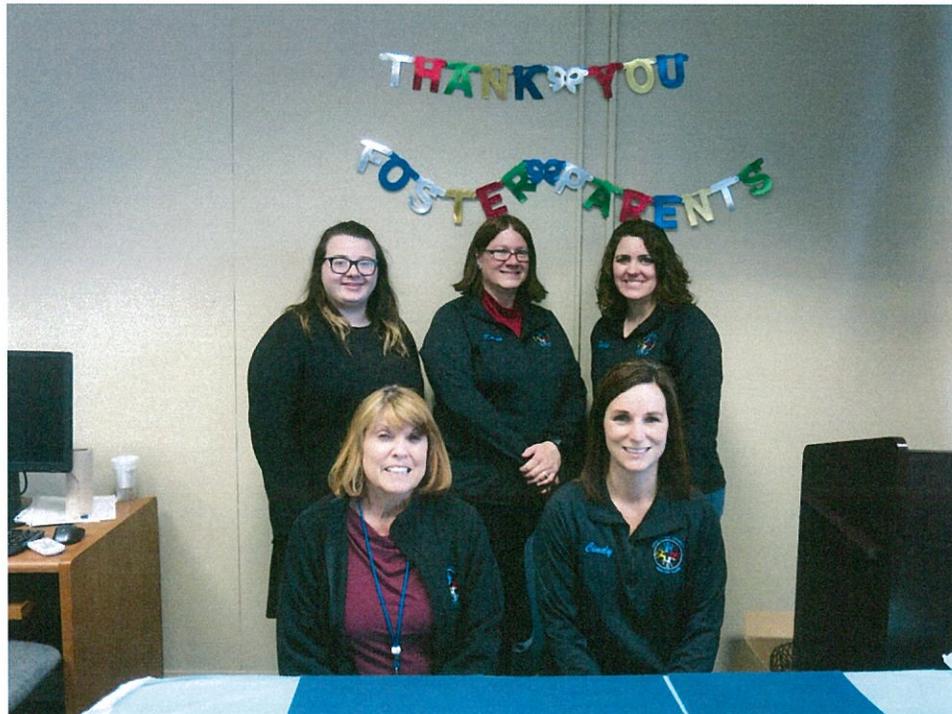
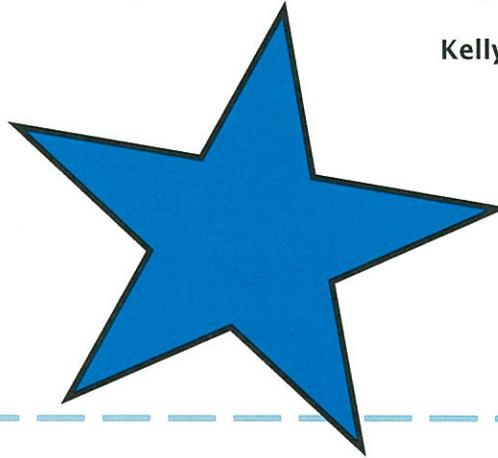
Bethany & Leslie Sensenig  
Jennifer & James Heling  
Darla Mendolla  
Crystal Groelle  
Mary Lazzeroni  
Julie & Jerry Bramstedt  
Vicky & John Schmidt  
Lori & Tim Foth  
Rosetta & Marcus Kauffman  
Lisa Meyer & Melissa Strupp  
Jessica & Alan Fischer

## Relicenses

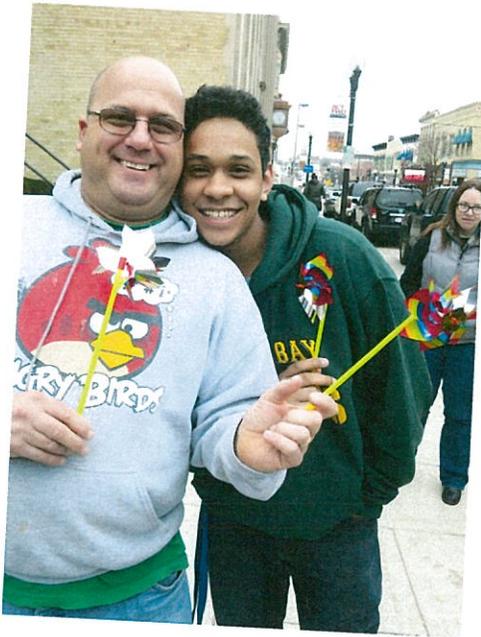
Christine & Clayton Jebavy  
Linda Hauschultz  
Sandra Cater  
Melanie & Todd Hunt  
Leah Senn & Kip Gulseth  
Rebecca & Robert Brooks  
Brenda & Craig Carle  
Jennifer & Anthony Reinke

## Respite Certifications & Re-Certifications

Robyn & Marvin Krall  
Rochelle & Herman Siedschlag  
LuAnn Stehula & Don Horswill  
Cheryl Benthein  
Callie Schroeder & Mitchell White  
Kelly Klein



## Foster Care Kick Off Event



This year foster families, foster children, members of the community, workers from Human Services, and County Executive, Bob Ziegelbauer, “planted” 101 pinwheels on the front lawn of Manitowoc County Human Services Department. Each pinwheel represents 1 child in out of home care through Manitowoc County.



# BINGO!!!

After the annual pinwheel planting, foster families were invited for a social gathering inside Human Services where they could meet other foster parents, have dinner, and play Bingo!. Foster families went home with

several Bing prize winnings, along with door prizes, and gifts from the Foster Care Program.



Foster Parents who celebrated milestone anniversaries with the program, were recognized and awarded a certificate.

Melanie & Todd Hunt—5 years

Sharon & Rob Kirt—5 years

Diane Rabe—5 years

Jessica Brault—10 years

Karie & Jeremy Ladwig—10 years

Shelly & Jay Michalek—10 years



Each foster went home with a door prize after picking from a list of various door prize contributors for this event. The following door prizes were selected:

SS Badger—2 adult round trip passes

Weidner Center-2 tickets

Holy Family Memorial-Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center tickets (6)

Lakeshore Cinema-4 passes, popcorn, sodas, & pizza

Tapped on the Lakeshore—Chamber Bucks

Family Video-Gift card & bucket of snacks

Timber Rattlers-4 passes

Green Bay Gamblers-Voucher

Captain's Walk Winery-wine tasting & lounge party for 12

Manitowoc Aquatic Center-4 passes

Lake Geneva Cruise Line-Tour-2 tickets

Thank you to Backpack Buddies for collecting these donations for the program.

Thank you to Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends for contributing towards the Bingo prizes as well for the event.

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 8544 (6th graders at Monroe Elementary School), for their donation of Girl Scout cookies, which were given to foster families at this event.



## **Foster Care Star Spotlight**

*While we appreciate and value all of our foster care providers, this is a section in the newsletter to spotlight our providers for others to get to know them and what they do for our program.*

### **Kelly & Troy Tiegs**

*Troy and I met, got married after we were in our 30s, and didn't want to start a human family. We have adopted various animals and eventually decided to become foster parents because we had room in our lives, hearts, and home to help people. Becoming a foster family was a difficult decision because we have been married and living with each other for a number of years and have established routines. We eventually decided to take a leap and expand our lives.*

*Troy is a volunteer firefighter for Collins and has loved all of the experiences that has brought. He also enjoys projects around the house, hunting or fishing, when he is not riding on the Harley. Kelly enjoys working with the dogs, reading, and gardening. As a couple, we enjoy riding our motorcycles, playing cribbage, snowshoeing, and being active. We have a half marathon we have been training for coming up in April. With our foster family, we enjoy being outside hiking or fishing, and going bowling.*

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*We enjoy the spontaneity and different life experiences that being a foster family has brought us. There are water parks, museums, scouting activities, family trips, and restaurants that we as a couple would never have experienced if we didn't have the kids.*

#### **Positive Moments:**

*The positive moments come from the memories we have experienced. The phrases that the kids use constantly come to mind and they cause us to giggle when we remember and state their words in their tones. But then going down water slides was quite fabulous as well.*



# RESOURCES

**The following are some resources of support that are provided for foster parents. Feel free to check the websites out & subscribe to their email lists for additional support, activities, etc.**

- **Post Adoption Resource Center (PARC) Newsletter & Events**

<https://www.familyservicesnew.org/parc/>

Sign up through the website to receive emails

- **John DeGarmo emails**

<https://www.drjohndegarmofostercare.com/foster-parent-coach.html>

Sign up to receive informative emails filled with support

- **Coalition for Children, Youth & Families / Foster Care Adoption & Resource Center**

<https://coalitionforcyf.org>

Offers support to foster parents

Lending library, tip sheets, guidebooks

Fostering Across Wisconsin Newsletter

Provides training to foster parents; some video archived online

- **Safe Kids Worldwide Website**

[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

The website provides a lot of neat tips on safety for children, ranging from TV safety, Holiday safety, safety based on the age of a child, and risks. Please take a moment to check this website out. Feel free to share this link with others too.

## **\*10 Tips on Feeding a Teenager\***

We know it is sometimes difficult to feed a teenager, or a picky child, and ensuring they get the nutrition their body needs, while satisfying what their taste buds want. We wanted to include an excerpt on some tips to work with the child to minimize the struggles.

(Excerpted from <https://www.momskitchenhandbook.com>)

Over the years, I've wondered what it was going to be like when all three of our girls hit their teen years. Now that we're here, I can tell you that it's loud, lively, and not always easy, but not nearly as terrifying as I had imagined. On a good day, teenagers are some of the most interesting, funny, and thoughtful people to be around. Parenting them has no shortage of challenges, and conflicts at the table is no exception. Take comfort in something my doctor once told me several years ago when I was fretting over my oldest child's food choices, "I'm pretty sure my daughter subsisted almost entirely on the aisles of 7-11 for the better part of her freshman year in high school," she said. "It eventually passed and she's fine now."

With that in mind, here are some pointers on parenting your own teen when it comes to food and feeding.

### **1. Invite their input.**

All kids, and teens in particular, want some control over their choices. Ask your child for ideas when you're heading to the market or leave a shopping list taped to the fridge and invite them to chime in.

### **2. Look for healthy "convenience" foods.**

Teens don't often want to take the time to prepare and eat something nutritious, so have good choices on hand they can grab on the go: hard boiled eggs, sliced turkey, popcorn, cut up vegetables, easy to peel tangerines, all-juice fruit pops, single-serve containers of hummus, yogurt, mini whole-grain bagels and cream cheese, cubed melon in the fridge, and so forth.

### **3. Encourage them to cook.**

By this time they are quite capable. Help them pick out a cookbook or explore recipes on the web. Give them room to make a mess and to have a some failures. Praise successes lavishly.

#### **4. Make meals count.**

The teen years are key ones for nutrition. They need loads of calcium, iron, protein, and other nutrients to support growth and brain development. When it's mealtime, pack in the nourishment, and then, back off. It's up to them to make decisions about what to put on their plate.

#### **5. Tune in.**

The teen years are, in part, about experimentation, which includes tinkering with food choices. Be aware, though, that this exploration doesn't teeter too heavily into dieting, restrictive eating, or disordered thinking about food or their body. A sudden desire to go on a cleanse, become a vegan, eliminate entire food groups, and the like can be code for an eating issue. Start a dialog about your concerns and seek the help of a professional if need be.

#### **6. Remind yourself, you are still the boss.**

Teens may not want to sit down to dinner, they may want cookies for breakfast, but it's still your house and you get to set the rules. That said, giving them a little latitude doesn't hurt.

#### **7. Share meals.**

There is no better way to stay connected than looking each other in the eyeballs over a meal. Keep this a priority, even when life gets complicated and teenagers get moody.

#### **8. Remember you've done your work.**

You've laid the ground work for a lifetime of healthy eating. They may experiment, but at the core, they will know what is good for them.

#### **9. Be a role model.**

This is perhaps more important than ever. Demonstrating both healthy eating habits and modeling a healthy attitude towards your own body is essential.

#### **10. Lighten up**

There are worse things that could happen than having your teen skip an occasional meal and worse places they could go than the drive thru. It's what they eat day in day out, not once in a while, that matters.



# Looking back at our 2018 events...

The 38th Foster Care Picnic was held on Thursday, June 21st, 2018. We had 11 families attend, with 17 adults and 40 children in attendance. The menu consisted of a taco bar, purchased from El Tequila, along with fruit, and bars for dessert. This year we added a cotton candy machine to the picnic, which seemed to be a big hit with everyone in attendance! Activities included: The Balloon Lady (Jean Johnson) came and shared her abilities, along with having a face painting station, a magic trick show, sack races, henna tattoo station, Yard Jenga, bounce houses, and other fun items. Girl Scout cookies, graciously donated by Troop #8041, were given to each family in attendance, along with gifts from the Foster Care Program. Foster parents were also given the new “Turn A Life Around” t-shirts given by the Coalition for Children, Families, and Youth to promote the new recruitment campaign.

### **There are so many “Thank You’s” to give for this event!**

- Thank you to all the staff for your help with this event—we could not pull it off without you!
- Thank you to all of our community supporters who spent their time, energy, and resources in getting such wonderful raffle prizes for those in attendance ranging from winery packages to comedy shows, to a round trip pass on the U.S.S. Badger Car Ferry.
- Thank you to BackPack Buddies for the working with Kwik Trip in contributing thirst quenchers i.e. soda, juice, water, etc. for the picnic.
- Thank you to County Board Chair, Jim Brey, and other members of the County Board, including Mike Williams, for your continued support for Manitowoc County Foster Parents, and showing your gratitude at the event.



## Annual Foster Care Movie Night

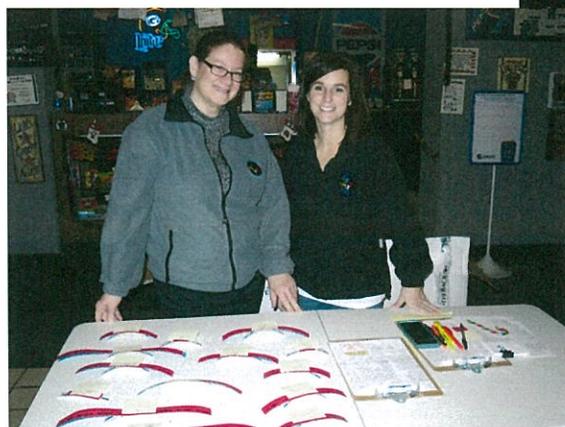
This past December we had 15 families attend our annual Foster Care Movie Night at Lakeshore Cinema. This year we played the movie “Christopher Robin.” Pizza, popcorn, cookies, and soda were provided throughout the movie. Each family left with a stuffed stocking for each person in the family, along with a fleece blanket for each child donated by the Green Bay Packers. Foster Care holiday gifts included a 2019 planner and a coffee travel tumbler. Prizes were also drawn for those in attendance.

The lucky winners were:

Jenna & James Heling—Stuffed Animal Basket

Tim & Lori Foth—Gas Card

Sandy Cater—“Christopher Robin” DVD/Blu Ray Set



## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program

You might be more familiar with **WIOA** in terms of assistance displaced workers receive when a factory shuts down, but did you know that they also have a youth program?



**WIOA** youth program provides high quality services for *youth and young adults* beginning with career exploration and guidance, continued support for educational attainment, opportunities for skills training in in-demand industries and occupations, and culminating with a good job along a career pathway or enrollment in post-secondary education.

In-school youth must be aged 14-21, attending school, low income, and meet one or more additional conditions, which could include:

- Basic skills deficient;
- English language learner;
- An offender;
- Homeless, runaway, in foster care or aged out of the foster care system;
- Pregnant or parenting;
- An individual with a disability;
- Person who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment

Out-of-school youth must be aged 16-24, not attending any school, and meet one or more additional conditions, which could include:

- School dropout;
- Within age of compulsory attendance but has not attended for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter;
- Holds a secondary school diploma or recognized equivalent and is low-income and is basic skills deficient or an English language learner;
- Subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
- Homeless, runaway, in foster care or aged out of the foster care system, eligible for assistance under Section 477, Social Security Act, or in out-of-home placement;
- Pregnant or parenting;
- An individual with a disability;
- Low income person who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment

Five new Youth Program elements:

- (1) Financial Literacy;
- (2) Entrepreneurial skills training;
- (3) Services that provide labor market and employment information in the local area;
- (4) Activities that help youth transition to postsecondary education and training;
- (5) Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster.

This in part, can be done through work experiences, such as summer and year-round employment, pre-apprenticeship, on-the-job training, or internships and job shadowing.



# MANITOWOC COUNTY FOSTER CARE PROGRAM



## Strengthening Families Through Foster Care

Manitowoc County Human Services Department  
926 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street P.O. Box 1177 Manitowoc, WI 54221-1177 (920) 683-4230

Karen Zahn, Foster Care Administrator  
(920) 683-4095  
[karenzahn@co.manitowoc.wi.us](mailto:karenzahn@co.manitowoc.wi.us)

Tabitha Lecher, Foster Care Administrative Assistant  
(920) 683-4289  
[tabithalecher@co.manitowoc.wi.us](mailto:tabithalecher@co.manitowoc.wi.us)

Cindy Schley, Kinship Care Administrator  
(920) 683-4746  
[cindyschley@co.manitowoc.wi.us](mailto:cindyschley@co.manitowoc.wi.us)

## Foster Parent Training Record

Foster Parent Name:

Training Title:

Presenter/Facilitator Name:

Date:

Location:

Time In:

Time Out:

Total Hours:

Summary of the Training:

Most Important Thing I Learned:

**\*\*Please include any supporting documents.**

**\*\*\*Training Record and supporting documents must be submitted to the Foster Care Program within 60 days of the training to be counted as ongoing hours.**

**\*\*\*\*If there is a training you would like to attend but are unsure if it will count toward ongoing training hours for the Foster Care Program, please consult any member of the Foster Care Team.**

Stay Connected on:

Facebook: [Manitowoc County Foster Care](#)  
[www.manitowocountyfostercare.com](http://www.manitowocountyfostercare.com)