



For Children's Sake of Virginia Spring Newsletter



Spring Has Sprung!

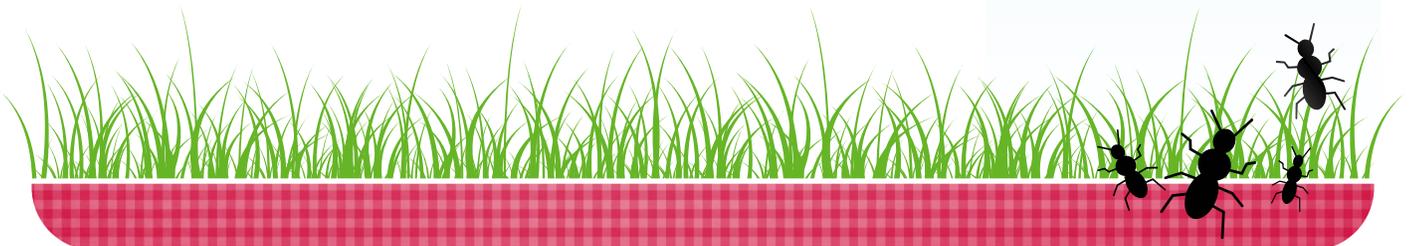
Well, kind of—we all know that in Northern Virginia, the weather isn't very decisive! But, whether there are snowflakes falling or tulips blooming, all of us here at For Children's Sake of Virginia (FCSVA) have been working hard this season!

Since our January edition of our newsletter has come out, we've hired 3 new staff members, fully onboarded one new foster family, and have several more in the works. All of the hard work we do couldn't happen without all of our wonderful staff and foster family support, and we're so grateful to be able to keep expanding to wonderful people.

With May, National Foster Care Month, coming up, we'd like to thank you all for the work you do to support this expansion every day; by opening your home to foster children, encouraging others to participate in our work through volunteering, donations, becoming foster parents themselves, or maybe even just by helping dispel myths around foster care and spread awareness about our work. Every small action is a key part of our mission, and we're so glad to have such a strong team on our side as we work to find a nurturing home environment for every child. Thank you!

Inside this issue

- Our New Staff 1
- Foster Parent
Spotlight 2
- Get Involved:
Volunteer, become a
foster parent, and
more3-4
- Training.....5



Our People

Our New Staff!

Takia



Takia is one of our new case managers! Takia attended graduate school at Hunter College in New York, NY, earning her Master's degree in School Counseling. She began her career in private and public schools as a teacher's assistant and progressing to a full time school counselor. Takia has experience working with children abroad, including Bolivia, Kenya, Sri Lanka. She enjoys working with children to help them accomplish their highest potential in many different arenas of life. When she's not working she enjoys travelling, learning different languages, and spending time with friends and family. Takia is eager to work with the For Children's Sake family to be an exceptional advocate and supportive team member.

Fun fact: Takia has visited 5 out of 7 continents—she's only missing Australia and Antarctica!

Charlotte

Charlotte is the new Foster Parent Training Specialist! Charlotte is finishing her Master's degree this semester at George Mason University in Global Affairs, with a concentration in Public Management. Charlotte is coming to us after working at the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children as a Marketing & Development Assistant. When she's not at work, she's either hanging out with her cat, GusGus, learning how to cook with her husband, or traveling. She's so excited to start getting feedback from foster parents on how to better onboard prospective parents and come up with the best possible trainings for them!

Fun fact: Charlotte met Archbishop Desmond Tutu while traveling.

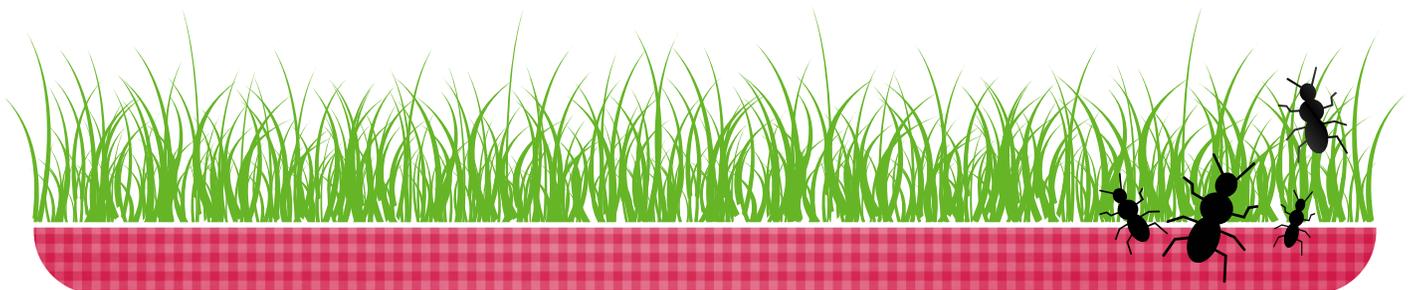


Rachael



Meet Rachael Love, our new TFC Case Manager and Compliance Coordinator. Rachael graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. She's volunteered multiple years with the program Overcoming Barriers, where she worked with special education students. Rachael has always loved working with kids and her ultimate goal is to help them and try to make their lives even the slightest bit better. In her free time, Rachael enjoys going to concerts, the beach, and spending time with her friends and family. She is very excited to begin her time here at For Children's Sake to continue to stay organized so she can assist in the most efficient way possible!

Fun fact: Rachael is a first generation college graduate!



Foster Parent Spotlight: The Hopkins-Moore Family

Sara Hopkins and Christopher Moore, along with their 6 children, have been fostering with FCSVA for two years, and have had more than 10 foster children in their home, between respite and longer term stays. We're so grateful for all they do!

Why did you want to be foster parents?

To give children some normalcy during a very tough time in their life until they can hopefully return home. Also, to help give them the experience of another way of life.



What have you, as parents, learned from fostering?

Every child comes from a different background and every situation is very different.

What have your children learned from it?

They have learned to care more for other children and to not judge kids with their first impression. They give kids a chance because they never know what they are going through at home that they aren't talking about.

What does your family like to do for fun?

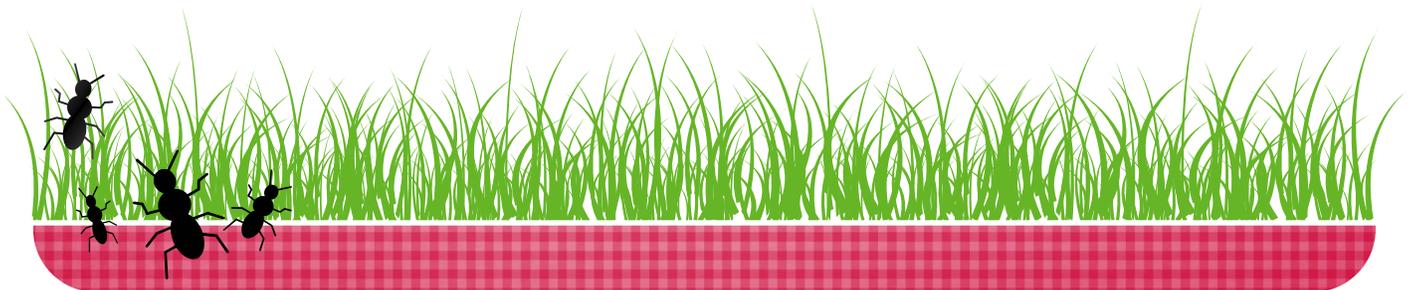
We like to go to amusement parks and we love to take family trips to different states. Our favorite place to visit is Disney World.

What is the most challenging part of fostering?

Not knowing what is going on or what will happen next. When you get a placement it is challenging to try to figure out their normal routines, likes and dislikes. The younger children can't tell you and the older kids aren't always honest about what they usually do.

What advice would you have for an incoming parent?

Have patience and ask lots of questions. Ask direct questions and don't be afraid to ask anything, you may not always get answers, sometimes placements happen so fast there is little to no information so you have to adapt. If you have concerns raise them beforehand and don't feel like to always have to say yes to a placement, even if it is an emergency placement.



Get Involved!

Becoming a Foster Parent

Interested in becoming a foster parent?

At FCSVA, you can attend our no-strings-attached training session to learn more about what fostering looks like and see if it's the right fit for you. If you love it, we help you through the application process and beyond—we provide continuous training and support to all of our foster families the entire time that they're with our organization—because, as a foster parent, **you** are our most valuable resource!



Reach out to our Foster Parent Training Specialist, Charlotte Gallant, at cgallant@fcsva.org or call 703.817.9890 to learn more and get started!

Know someone who might be an amazing foster parent? Get a

\$300 REFERRAL BONUS

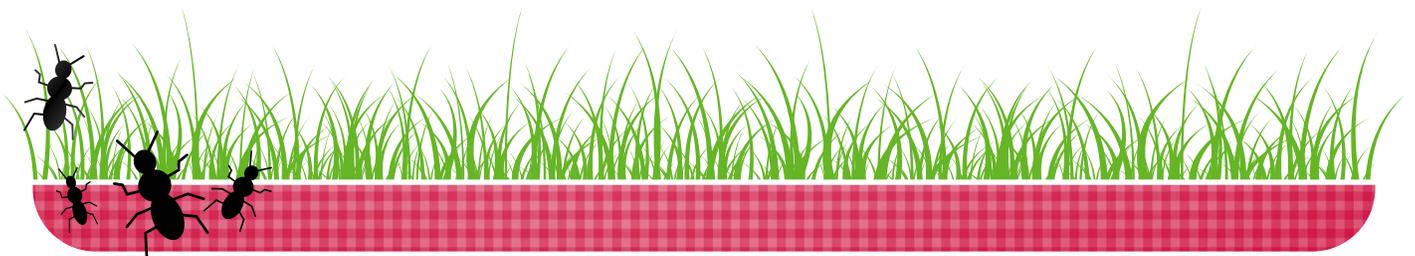
when the person you refer becomes an approved foster parent and receives their first placement.

We're hiring!

If you're passionate about kids and helping others, we want you! Join our team of dedicated professionals, all working together to help those who need us most; children.

Right now, we're looking for **part-time community-based counselors** to join our team! A masters degree in social work or a related field is required.

For more information, or to send your resume, please contact Kelley Willis at Kwillis@fcsva.org.



How Can I Help?

Volunteer! We need help with:

Mentoring a FCSVA foster child!

Fundraising: host a book drive in your local community, assembling birthday bags, organizing a dineout, etc.

Community outreach: help us as we recruit foster parents by passing out flyers, partnering with local businesses, providing us with contacts at churches and PTAs, etc.

Event Assistance: Help plan and run our annual picnic, appreciation events, holiday party, etc.

Donate! We're always looking for:

Board Games

Diapers of any size

New car seats, high chairs, or cribs

School supplies and backpacks

Personal hygiene items

Arts and crafts supplies

For more information on getting involved, or to drop off donations, please reach out to cgallant@fcsva.org

Thank you Usborne Books!



FCSVA would like to thank Anne Oroho with Usborne Books & More for the wonderful donation; all of the children love the books! We're so grateful for your support!

Mark Your Calendars!

We're always planning more events, either for us to attend and spread awareness or for us to host for our potential and current families.

April

Saturday the 21st: Fairfax SpringFest

Monday the 23rd: Support group for established foster parents in Woodbridge

Saturday the 28th: Alexandria Earth Day

Monday the 30th: Support group for established foster parents in Chantilly

May—National Foster Care Month!

May 1: Prospective Foster Parent Info Session, 7—9 at our Chantilly office

Tuesday the 1st: National Foster Care Day!

Saturday the 5th: South Riding Day

Saturday the 19th: McLean Day

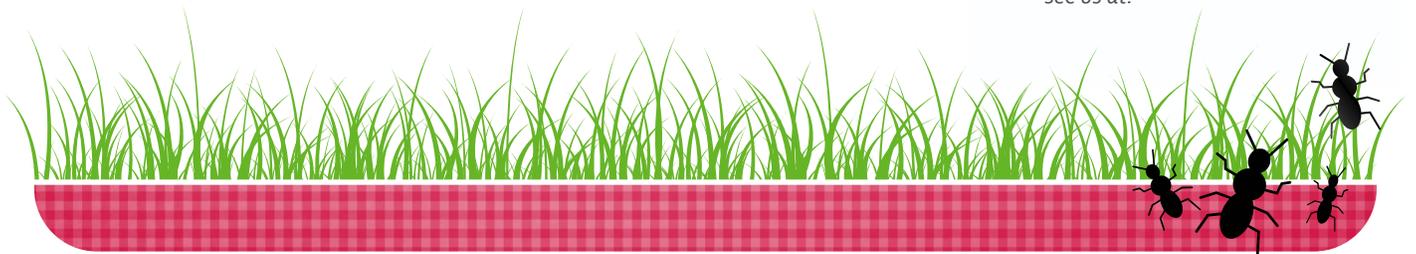
Thursday the 24th: Foster Care and Adoption Showcase at Rust Library

Monday the 28th: Falls Church Memorial Day Parade

June

8th-10th: Celebrate Fairfax

Please reach out to cgallant@fcsva.org if there are any events you'd like to see us at!



Training Hours

As a current foster parent, you need to complete **10** training hours a year. There are several ways to accomplish this;

Support Groups

FCSVA hosts these every other month. They count for **2** training hours.

Training sessions

FCSVA hosts these every other month. They count for **2** training hours.

Newsletter

Every newsletter has a quiz just like this in the back. Completing the quiz and returning it to FCSVA counts for **1** training hour.

Online Courses

If none of these are able to bring you to your 10 hours, there are sites online we have approved for you to get hours from! We email you with opportunities as they arise, but you can also go online to:

www.cenpaticoU.com

or

fosterparentcollege.com

and email us your certificates from courses for additional credit.

Please reach out to cgallant@fcsva.org for any questions regarding training hours.

Training: FCSVA Policy Review

Complete the following form using <http://www.fcsva.org/foster-parent-forms.html> and by specifically focusing on the 'FP Handbook'. Email to cgallant@fcsva.org for **1 training hour!**

Please circle all of the true statements regarding log notes:

There is no format for log notes

FCSVA can charge me a \$40.00 penalty for late or incomplete log notes

Log notes should include accurate clinical information for each foster child in your home

The frequency with which log notes must be completed depends on the level of care of each child

True or false: As long as you bring your foster child to the doctors and receive paperwork from them, it doesn't matter if they fill out the FCSVA paperwork. _____

Please circle all of the situations in which you'd have to alert your case manager to travel:

An overnight trip to Virginia Beach

A day trip to the Cherry Blossom Festival in DC

Lunch at the National Harbor in Maryland

A day trip to Richmond

Afternoon at a friend's house down the street

Medication logs are due the _____ of every month.

List three reasons to contact the FCSVA on-call number:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If I need to reach FCSVA anytime outside of regular business hours, the on-call number is _____

Have any particular topics you want addressed in a training, either in a newsletter or an in-person session? Reach out to cgallant@fcsva.org with your ideas!

