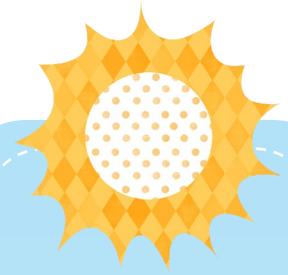




FOSTER CARE AWARENESS

National Foster Care Month, which takes place in May, gives all of those dedicated to helping the lives of children a chance to spread awareness on a large-scale level and teach our communities about the children who live in the United States who do not have a guaranteed home. Child placing agencies and their supporters partake in advocacy for the 400,000+ children who are in the foster care system. FCSVA would like to take the time to thank each and every family who helps provide a foster child with a safe and stable home. We hope that awareness for our foster children will continue to grow and we will one day be able to find a home for every child.



"You don't need to have a lot of money, a big house, or higher education. All you need is love... and plenty of compassion."

A VOICE FOR OUR CHILDREN

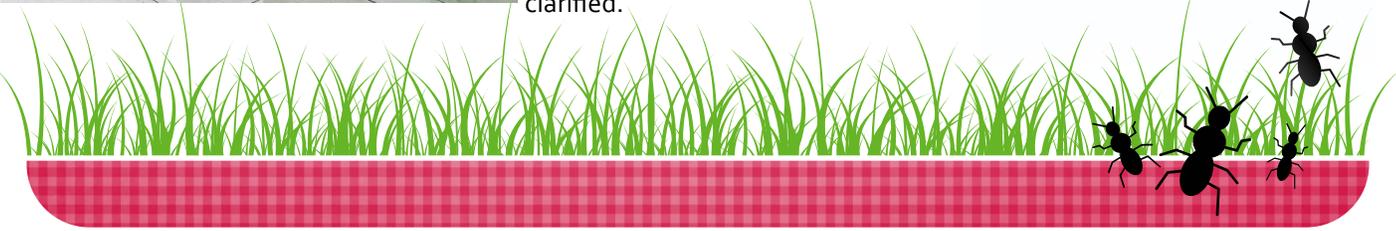
For Children's Sake's Program Director Kelley Willis, and Compliance Coordinator Marcia Valle, along with other advocates of foster care needs, attended the 14th Annual Public Policy Institute & Advocacy Day on May 2nd in Washington D.C. The goal of this day was to discuss with officials the anticipated threats to service



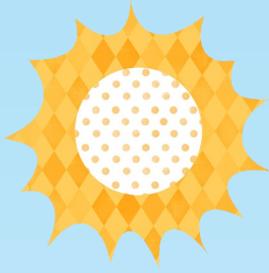
provision in treatment foster care and other family-based treatment services. Some of the discussions included risks to Medicaid funding, Immigration changes and the impact on foster and other resource families, policy responses to prevent youth homelessness and support youth aging out, and guiding public policy to support resource families. Our staff members, Kelly and Marcia, along with other advocates, met with Mr. Charlie Keller, Chief of Staff to Congressman Bob Goodlatte. Our advocates stressed the need for national accreditation standards to be clarified.

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Play 'N' Learn Fundraiser

On Thursday, April 20 & Thursday April 27, For Children's Sake Of Virginia was chosen as the non-profit to benefit from Play 'N' Learns Charity Days! Play 'N' Learn is an indoor playground for young children and it features many activities, such as trampolines, basketball nets, air hockey and more!

FCSVA was able to attend the charity day at the Chantilly location and speak to some families about our agency and what we do. We are excited to announce that we raised \$336 from those who played at both the Chantilly, VA and Columbia, MD location. We are so grateful for companies like Play 'N' Learn who choose to give back to the community around them and we hope to work with them in the future.

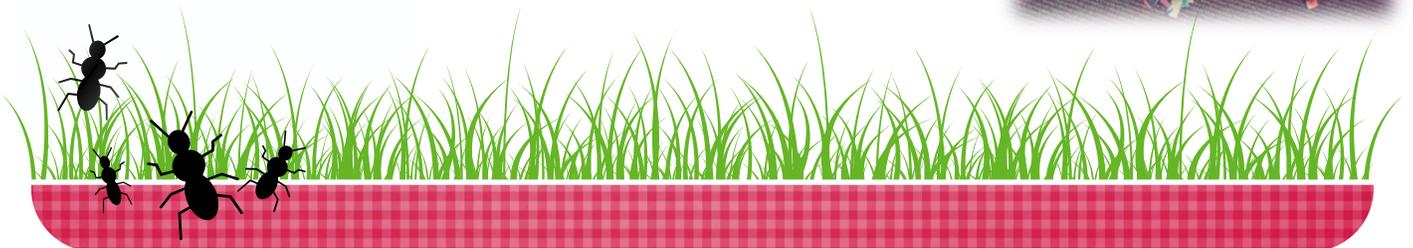


Pet Fiesta!

On May 6th, FCSVA attended the Reston Pet Fiesta in support of our favorite 4-legged friends! Many of our foster families and staff have animal children at home and were excited to be out raising awareness for animals that need foster care and adoption too!

Helping Hands

In early May, FCSVA received a donation from Beginning Bridges, a Preschool in Herndon, VA. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that the donations were blankets hand-made by the children of Beginning Bridges (with help from their parents, of course). We are very grateful for the thoughtful and personal gifts for our foster children. Our Case Managers distributed these cozy blankets to our kids and hope they help our foster children feel comfy at home! Thank you for your kind gifts, Beginning Bridges!



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Girl Scouts Give Back

The Girl Scouts Troop 2922 (Cherry Run Troop) honored For Children's Sake of Virginia as their Bronze Award Project. The Bronze Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can receive. It is described as a "leadership adventure where you team up with others and use your special skills and interests to take action and make a difference in the world!" These young ladies researched, marketed, and collected donations all on their own. Thanks to their project, we received a large donation of school supplies, art supplies, backpacks, books, diapers, stuffed animals, and other items. Thank you so much for your kind hearts, ladies! We are so honored and thankful for your hard work and our children will appreciate the gifts very much!



Springfield Pet Fest

On Saturday, June 3rd, FCSVA participated at Pet Fest in Springfield! It was a day full of music, food trucks, beautiful weather, and dogs! Hosted by Springfield Days, these types of events strive to connect local businesses and residential community through sidewalk sales and special events.

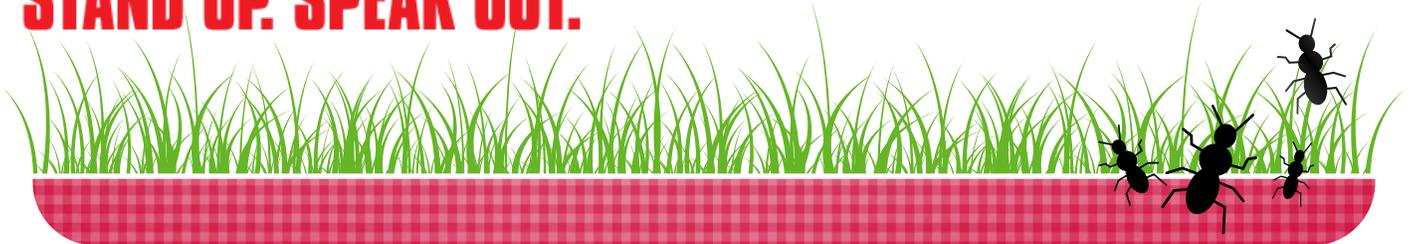


"One act of kindness can change the world."

STOP
BULLYING
STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.

For the past 12 weeks, our Foster Parent Training Specialist Gabby Grimaldi has been working with various after school youth programs in Northern Virginia. The focus of these sessions is social skills and anti bullying. The group has covered topics such as communication skills, personal space, decision making, self confidence, and the dangers of bullying.

"It's amazing to see the changes in behavior," stated Gabby. "Although the kids would never admit to being a bully, or that they struggle making friends, I could see their behaviors improving every time we met. It was great to see that they were listening, even if it doesn't always seem like it."



FOSTER PARENT SPOTLIGHT

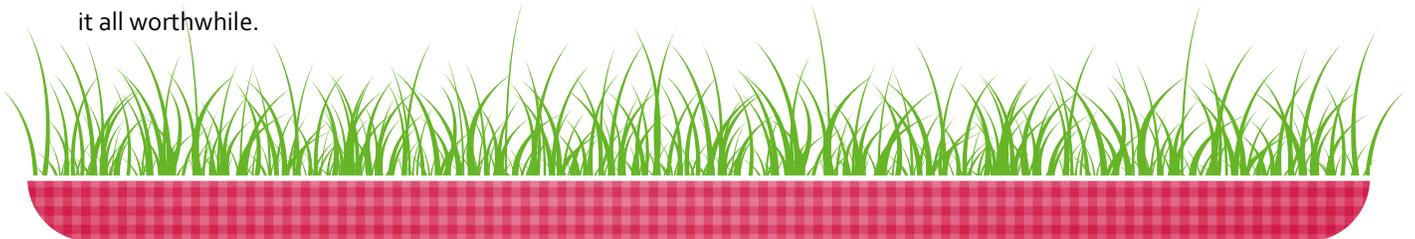
This quarter's FCSVA's spotlight is the Blouin family. Brad and Tonya, who have been fostering since 2011, and they love it so much they are even planning to build a bigger house! (Fostering may not be the only reason for the new house, but this family does have A LOT of love and support to share) . When asked why their family decided to foster, Tonya replied, "We feel that if people have the ability and desire to share good fortune and blessings, they should. That belief, along with our special love for children, led us down this path. We want to help those children who are struggling to find love, comfort, and security have a chance to experience what so many of us take for granted."

Brad and Tonya have 4 biological children of their own.; Kyle who is 24 years old, twin boys Cortland and Connor who are 15 years old, and baby Avery who is 1 year old. The Blouin's enjoy going to the movies and camping when they have spare time. They are also big football fans (Go Steelers!) and often enjoy watching the game together and making trips to see the players during training season. The boys are involved in sports such as basketball, track & field, and other extra curricular activities such as performing arts. Connor has been accepted into PAVAN governor's school for the 3rd year and we really enjoy watching him perform.



Throughout their years of fostering, the Blouin's have learned that every child is unique and special in his/her own way. The Blouin's stated that they have "expanded, challenged, and even altered our ideas and expectations on what is suppose to happen and understand it is never a 'one size fits all' when it comes to meeting a child's needs." Tonya believes that their "children have really learned to appreciate the little things in life and have learned how simple gestures such as sharing a smile or giving a high five to a foster child, can mean so much more than we may realize. "

The Blouin's advice for incoming fosters parents is to always expect the unexpected. Fostering can be really difficult and also an emotional roller coaster at times. However, in the same breath-it is very rewarding and joyful. Meeting a child for the first time and knowing that you are part of his/her journey to a better future, makes it all worthwhile.



WE ARE EXPANDING OUR FCSVA FAMILY

WE ARE HIRING! PLEASE REACH OUT TO :

KELLEY WILLIS

703-817-9890 / KWillis@fcsva.org

Family Support Partner:

FCSVA is hiring for Family Support Partners to support, advocate for, educate, and guide families who are in crisis during the Intensive Care Coordination process in the Northern Virginia area. Candidates must be a birth parent/foster or adoptive parent/caregiver to a child who has received mental health services in the past.

Intensive Care Coordinator:

FCSVA is looking for Intensive Care Coordinators to work with youth and families who are in crisis in the Northern Virginia community. Experience in Intensive Care Coordination or High Fidelity Wraparound services is preferred.

Outreach and Events Intern:

FCSVA is seeking a summer/fall events and outreach intern! We are looking for a motivated and detail-oriented individual with a passion for non-profit work.

Community Based Counselor:

FCSVA is looking for part time Community Based In Home Counselors to work with children, adults and families in the Fairfax, Chantilly, Prince William, Stafford and Loudoun areas. Staff would meet with clients in their home settings and work on effective communication, family dynamics, independent living, healthy coping skills, social skills and other areas of need. A QMHP is required for this position.

"We do not need to know the beginning of a child's story to change the ending."

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

volunteer
do good, feel good

WE WOULD LOVE MORE ASSISTANCE WITH:

- MENTORS FOR OUR FOSTER CHILDREN
- EVENT ASSISTANTS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- COORDINATING A DONATION DRIVE OR HOST A FUNDRAISER
- IF YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS/FAMILY WHO SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN FOSTER CARE AND WOULD LIKE TO SET UP AN FCSVA PRESENTATION AT THEIR LOCAL GROUP GATHERING SUCH AS A BOOK CLUB OR A CHURCH GATHERING, PLEASE REACH OUT USING THE INFORMATION BELOW.

IF ANY OF THESE POSITIONS INTEREST YOU OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kelley Willis

KWillis@FCSVA.ORG / 703-817-9890

WE CAN ALWAYS USE MORE OF:

- SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACK PACKS
 - ART SUPPLIES AND CRAFTS
 - GIFT CARDS
 - BOARD GAMES
 - APPRECIATION GIFTS FOR OUR FAMILIES
 - NEW CAR SEATS, CRIBS, etc
- ***PLEASE CALL PRIOR TO DELIVERY

Gabby Grimaldi

GGrimaldi@fcsva.org / 703-817-9890

Interested in Becoming a Foster Parent?

ATTEND PRIDE TRAINING

PRIDE Training is a required training all foster and adoptive parents in the state of Virginia are required to take in order to become licensed. We will be hosting classes on the following dates . If interested in attending, please RSVP to Gabby at: GGRIMALDI@FCSVA.org or 703-817-9890

Location: TBD

Tuesday June 13 – 6:30-9

Tuesday June 20 – 6:30-9

Thursday June 15 – 6:30-9

Wednesday June 21 – 6:30-9

Saturday June 17 – 9-5

Saturday June 24 – 9-12

Upcoming Training Dates for Established Foster Parents

Dinner and Childcare provided

**June 14th – 6pm Woodbridge office
GANG EDUCATION AND PREVENTION**

June 21 – 6pm Woodbridge Office – Support Group

June 22 – 6:00pm Chantilly Office—Support Group

**July 12 – 6pm Woodbridge Office – Normalcy Training
Mandatory for Foster Parents

**July 13 – 6:00pm Chantilly Office—Normalcy Training
Mandatory for Foster Parents

Please RSVP to Gabby Grimaldi at GGrimaldi@FCSVA.ORG or (703) 817-9890

Where will FCSVA be in the Community?

Saturday, June 10 &
Sunday June 11
Celebrate! Fairfax, Fairfax
Government Center
10am-6pm

Wednesday July 19
Northern Virginia Swim League
ALL STAR relay
2pm

Saturday August 5
Northern Virginia Swim League
ALL STAR relay
9am

Saturday September 16
Falls Church Fall Fest
10am

Saturday November 7
Manassas Fall Jubilee
9am

Have an idea of where you'd like to see us? Let us know!
Email Gabby at
GGrimaldi@FCSVA.org

SELF-ESTEEM TRAINING

This training focuses on helping kids and teens develop self-esteem. Please use the following article as a guide to complete this training. (1 hr)

<https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/child-psychology/self-esteem/#.WRnxouvvyIU>

What are 3 possible behaviors of a youth with high self-esteem?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are 3 possible behaviors of a youth with low self-esteem?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are some ways that you promote high self-esteem in your household?

What behaviors of low self-esteem have you noticed in your household?

How might you address these concerns with the children in your home and help to build high self-esteem?

Please mail completed trainings to the office, or email to Gabby Grimaldi at :

GGrimaldi@FCSVA.ORG