



Aloha from the FCSVA Family!

A letter from our Foster Parent Specialist:

For Children’s Sake of Virginia strives to help find a nurturing home environment for every child in the Virginia foster care system. We would not be able to do this without our amazing foster parents who have opened their hearts and their homes to children who need stability and structure. We would also like to thank our community partners for their continued support on our donation projects and initiatives.

One concept FCSVA has found and used successfully in creating such a strong team of foster parents is “inclusive recruiting.” When we meet a potential foster family or community partner, we do not let their color, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation define them as a parent or supporter. We look at their ability and willingness to welcome a child into their home and love them unconditionally as one of their own children, or their ability as a community support to provide our children with the tools they need to thrive in their environment. FCSVA is a blended family. It is a diverse community with one goal—to help children. If we as an agency are asking parents and communities to open their hearts, we are happy and willing to do the same.

- Gabby Grimaldi, Foster Parent Specialist



Looking to join our foster parent team?

Schedule a phone consultation with our Foster Parent Specialist today!

Gabby Grimaldi

(703) 817-9890

Table of Contents:

- Page 1 Letter from FCSVA
- Page 2 Family Spotlight
- Page 3 Community
- Page 4 Staff Spotlights
- Page 5 Fall Picnic
- Page 6 Training



Foster Family Spotlight—Marlon Waters

Q: What made you want to be a foster parent?

A: One of the reasons I wanted to be a foster parent was to give back to those who really need a loving and caring home that could offer stability, security, and a healthy environment to thrive in. Growing up in a single parent home was hard, and it had its challenges, but one thing that we always had was love, if nothing else. Now, being a single father myself, I know what kind of role model and father figure I need to be from what I lacked growing up. When I first started this process, I would read different stories about foster care and adoption, and saw so many sad faces that were looking for love. I said to myself that I “not only wanted to be a foster father, but wanted to be an adoptive father” because I know my heart would have so much love to share. I decided to give fostering a try, and to this day I do not regret it.

Q: How did you feel when you were about to get your first placement?

A: I was really nervous, scared, and excited. I was trying to figure out what I should do, and how to approach my foster son at the time. Once he arrived at my home, I just felt the connection and wanted to fit in as the father that he needed at the time. Now, since I have been his foster father for about a year now, I would not change it for anything, and I would not change anything about being scared to step into something that I am called to do, and able to do.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge while fostering?

A: The biggest challenge for me was working with his family at first, wondering and second guessing what they really thought about me as a different race caring for their child. The visits were a little concerning at first, but we got through it. The greatest lesson I have learned is how to share love, peace and happiness with my (foster) son. It has helped me to become a strong father, not only for my foster son, but for my biological children. Having the role as a father does not come with a user manual nor a guide, so I had to learn how to be more of that role model that I needed and wanted to be.

Q: What has been your favorite memory as a foster parent so far?

A: I have so many favorite memories with my (foster) son. We have laughed together, and enjoyed spending time with each other, but my favorite moment is just having him in my life, and watching him grow and mature into the young man that he has become. Recently, we went to Kings Dominion and my (foster) son stated, he is a “big boy and he was going to ride every ride there.” When we got to the park, he chickened out. We just laughed, and as I hugged him, I told him, “it will be alright.”

Q: What was it like becoming a “multi-ethnic” household?

A: Life is all about love, and what is on the inside, not on the outside. I consider my foster son my son, and he will always be my son, no matter what or where he is in life. He will always be a little brother to my children, a grandchild to my parents, a nephew to my sisters and brothers, and a cousin to my nieces and nephews. The dynamics in our home are great, and we don’t notice color differences, just how much we have grown to love one another unconditionally.



Q: What advice do you have for future foster parents?

A: I would say, “open up your heart first and then your home next.” Once you open up your heart and pour out the love that you have for the children it all will come together. Building the trust between the two is also more important than materialist things with a child. Show them that you’re there for support, and that you want to love them like they are your own, and treat them like they are your own. I always tell my (foster) son, that he is not a foster child, he is my son, and he will always be my son, and he treats and introduces me to his friends as his father. The bond that we have together will only be a distance away, but not a heart away. So, therefore I would say open your heart, and allow that to take place, and never forget to love.

Upcoming Community Involvement

NOVA Pride Festival

Bull Run Special Events Center

October 1, 2017

11am-6pm

Manassas Fall Jubilee

Historic Downtown Manassas

October 7, 2017

10am-5pm

Clifton Day Festival

October 8, 2017

9am-5pm

Fairfax Fall Festival

Historic Downtown Fairfax

October 14, 2017

10-5

Home 4 the Holidays

Reston Town Center

November 4, 2017

11am – 4pm

Have an event you'd like to see us at? Email Gabby at ggrimaldi@fcsva.org



PLEASE CONTACT:

KELLEY WILLIS

703-817-9890 / KWillis@fcsva.org

FCSVA is looking to fill the following positions:

Case Manager—Fulltime: FCSVA is looking for a full-time case manager to work with our foster youth and families. A bachelors or Masters degree in social work is preferred.

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.

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.



Congratulations on your new position Mary!

“I’ve enjoyed working with and supporting all of our foster families and youth in care as a Case Manager, and am thrilled to continue supporting our families and youth as a Case Manager Supervisor. Our Case Managers are responsible for providing support to our families 24/7, and we take that commitment to supporting our families very seriously. I hope that all of our families know how much we appreciate them, and how wonderful they are! As the Case Manager Supervisor, I will help all of our Case Managers continue to provide an excellent level of support for our families, kids, and all of the counties we work with. I am thankful to be part of such a wonderful team of staff, and part of the extended family that is FCSVA!”



- Mary Goe, Case Manager Supervisor

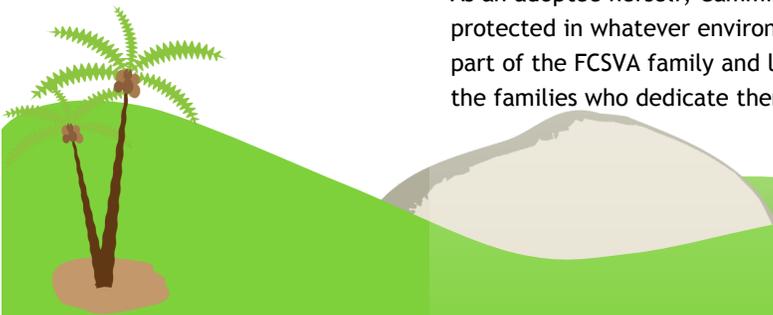
Meet the newest member of our team!



Cammie Wires graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology with a minor in Applied Behavior Analysis. During her undergraduate years, Cammie volunteered in many non-profit organizations such as the Prince William Special Olympics, Casa Chirilagua, the local fire department, and different campus ministries at George Mason. In 2013, Cammie traveled to Israel on advocacy trip and helped paint and restore an elementary school in a small town close to the Gaza and Israel border. Cammie also spent time with children in the program called “Operation Save A Child’s Heart,” an organization that provides pro-bono life-saving surgery to children from developing countries that, don’t have the medical care available.

Previously, Cammie worked at an alternative school that serves students with Autism, behavioral, and a variety of developmental disabilities. During this time, Cammie worked closely with Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBA), to provide ABA therapy for the students who attended the school. Cammie will be sitting for her board certification to get her BCaBA in November 2017.

As an adoptee herself, Cammie feels it’s important to ensure that children feel safe and protected in whatever environment they may be in. Cammie is super excited to be a part of the FCSVA family and looks forward to working with all the children, as well as the families who dedicate themselves to provide and nurture the children in our care.



Foster Family Appreciation Luau Picnic



Date: September 30, 2017

Time: 11-2

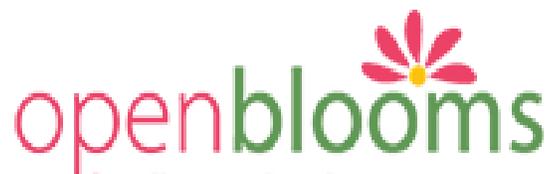
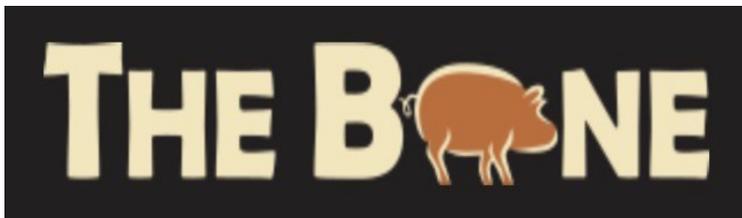
Location: Details have been emailed out to attending families

RSVP by: September 22, 2017

Hawaiian shirt optional, but highly suggested!



A special Thank You to the following businesses for their generous picnic donations!



Back to School Training (1 hr)

(If you don't have a placement or school aged child, you can complete this with bio children or for daycare)

1.) How are your foster children adjusting to the new school year? What are their favorite classes? Why?

2.) Do your foster children have any concerns about their classes? Why?

3. Who are your children's friends this year? Have they made any new friends? What does your child like about their friends?

4. Does your child play sports? Participate in band? After school activities? How are their activities going? What do they like about them? What are their concerns? If they aren't involved, what activity might they like to do?

5. How often does your child go to the school counselor? Have they met the counselor?

Please return trainings to:

Gabby Grimaldi

GGrimaldi@FCSVA.org

Or by fax to: (703) 817-9860

