

# For Children's Sake of Virginia

## *Winter 2019 Newsletter*

With our first snow days of the year, I think we can all agree that winter is here! And what a busy start to winter it's been. Since our last newsletter in October, we've had 10 children placed with us, three children finalized their adoption paperwork, one new foster family joined us, one new case manager and a new community-based counselor joined our staff, and we've enjoyed our staff holiday party, foster parent holiday party, and all of the season's holidays! We hope that all of our amazing supporters, whether a donor, volunteer, foster parent, or advocate, have all had an incredible holiday season with their families as well.

### Inside this issue:

Our People: New Staff & Our Family	2
Our Celebrations: Holiday Parties	3
Get Involved!	4
Our Support: Thank You To Our Donors	5
Foster Parent Trainings	6-7



# Our People

## Renee Edwards

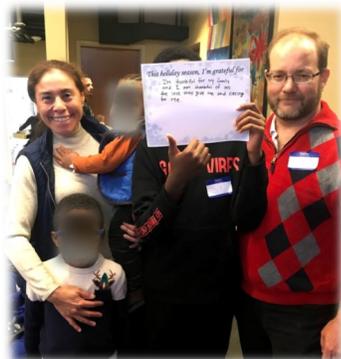


Renee Edwards is FCSVA's newest case manager. She was born in Jamaica and raised in the U.S. since the age of 4. She originally resided in West Palm Beach, FL and recently moved to the NOVA area. She completed my undergraduate degree in Health Science with a concentration in Occupational Therapy. However, that was simply not where she found her passion. She's worked in the Human Services field for the past 3 years in various settings. Prior to leaving Florida, she was a Child Protective Investigator for the Florida Department of Children and Families. Once she relocated, Renee realized she wanted to work on the opposite side of children services

because she always questioned if the children that were being removed were in a home that was safe and would allow them to thrive in society successfully. Having an older brother that was adopted by her biological dad and stepmother allowed Renee to see that every child, regardless of the situation they were once in, can be welcomed in a home filled with love and succeed. She would like to give hope to children like her older brother. Welcome, Renee!

## Our Family

In this season of giving, we asked all of our foster families, community-based families, and staff what they are grateful for. We loved seeing all of the amazing things our FCSVA family is happy to have in their lives! The Webbs, a foster family, and their foster youth (far left picture) are grateful for 'family and all of the love they give and caring'. Mary Hakim, our Administrative Assistant (pictured middle) is grateful for 'expecting a baby', and one of our community-based families and their worker (pictured far right) are grateful for 'learning to be kind' and 'family'.



# Our Celebrations!

## *Our Holiday Party!*

On Saturday, December 8th, we held our annual holiday party, which included many of our foster families, staff, and community-based clients. We enjoyed this holiday party at Uptown Alley, and everyone had a great time bowling, eating, catching up, and, of course, opening their holiday gifts! We're so glad to be able to have kicked off our families' holidays with a thank-you for all they do!



## *Staff Holiday Party!*

Every year, our staff holds a holiday party. This year, we had a White Elephant gift exchange, door-decorating contest, and enjoyed a potluck and holiday movie together! We're glad to have such an amazing team to support each other's work.



# Get Involved!

## *Become 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](mailto:cgallant@fcsva.org) or call 703.817.9890 to learn more and get started!

*Get a \$500 referral bonus when the person you refer becomes an approved foster parent and receives their first placement!!*

## *Volunteer!*

We're always looking for great volunteers to work with us! Here are some of our volunteering opportunities:

**Fundraising:** host a clothing 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, putting our flyers where you work, etc.

**Training:** Have a skill that our teens with Independent Living Goals could benefit from? We're always looking for trainers to come in and help them learn!

*Interested? Reach out to [fcsvanow@gmail.com](mailto:fcsvanow@gmail.com) to learn more.*

## *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, and you must be a registered QMHP.

For more information, or to send your resume, please contact Kelley Willis at [Kwillis@fcsva.org](mailto:Kwillis@fcsva.org).

# Our Support

*Thank you to our holiday angels!*

We're so lucky to have such a supportive community in our area. Gathering gifts for more than 30 children for our holiday party can be challenging, but with the amazing donors in our area, we were lucky to have almost all of our gifts this year purchased by local families or companies. We'd like to give a huge thank you to everyone who purchased from our Amazon Wishlists, as well as those families that reached out and sponsored children, including the Murray family (pictured above). The Murray's sponsored 6 children, and we had other families sponsor children as well or buy for many of the children in our care. Our children smiled brighter this holiday season because of you! Thank you!



## *Donate!*

Call 703-817-9890 or email [cgallant@fcsva.org](mailto:cgallant@fcsva.org) to set up a time to drop off any of the following *new* items: arts & crafts supplies, toys & board games, diapers, car seats, cribs, or high chairs, Gift cards for groceries or gas for our foster parents or to video game stores or clothing shops for the children in our care.

You can also visit our website to donate online, or visit our Amazon Wishlists to gather inspiration and shop for specific items to be delivered to our front door! Be sure to set your Amazon account to donate a percentage of the proceeds from your cart every time you order by going to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and adding For Children's Sake of Virginia as your charity of choice!

Supporting: For Children's Sake Of Virginia  
Departments -  
2024

**For Children's Sake Of Virginia** [Change](#)  
Location: Chantilly, VA | Year Founded: 1997

**Mission:** For Children's Sake of Virginia is dedicated to promoting positive environments for children and families that develop trust, stability, and independence.

**Programs:** Therapeutic Foster Care, Home-Based Therapy, Out Patient Therapy, Emergency Diagnostic Center

[About AmazonSmile](#)

# Training: Questions To Ask During a Potential Placement Call

As a foster parent, receiving a call for a potential placement can be nerve-wracking, and it's easy to forget to ask all the questions you need to make an informed decision. To help address this, FCSVA has put together a list of questions to consider when receiving a call from our staff. View it here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ViWVJHb\\_vsKj96wBM8d0WJW3JToTdfzf/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ViWVJHb_vsKj96wBM8d0WJW3JToTdfzf/view?usp=sharing) Once you've reviewed this, fill out the questions below and return to your case manager or to Charlotte Gallant at [cgallant@fcsva.org](mailto:cgallant@fcsva.org) for **one training hour**.

What are three questions you can ask that you may not have thought of before this questionnaire?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Consider which two questions may be most important for you to consider for a child in your home. Which questions are they, and why are they important for your home?

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Where will you put this list in your home, at work, or on your person, so that you have this available most of the time you'll receive calls?

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*True or False:*

You will always have all of the answers to these questions before a child is placed. \_\_\_\_\_

They will always be able to guarantee transportation for all children to daycare/school/bio family visits, before placement is finalized. \_\_\_\_\_

# Training: How To Talk to Kids About Difficult Subjects

Use the following article to answer the questions below, and submit this to your case manager or Charlotte Gallant at [cgallant@fcsva.org](mailto:cgallant@fcsva.org) for one training hour. <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-difficult-subjects>

What are two strategies to addressing difficult subjects with 2-6 year olds?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What are two strategies to addressing difficult subjects 7-12 year olds?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What are two strategies to addressing difficult subjects with teens?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What are two ways you can use these tips to talk about topics specific to the children in your care (bio family, therapy, etc.?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_