

Foster Parent Monthly

March 2019

Notes from Nadean

March is Social Workers' Appreciation Month. I saw the letter below and thought I would share it. It was written by Susan Mankita, LCSW and Adjunct Instructor at Florida International University. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.



Dear Social Work,

I cannot say it was love at first sight for me, though you undeniably found your way into my heart. Ours is a romance of 25 years ... & like relationships of any length, it's certainly complicated. ...You have become a comfortable life companion, though occasionally you challenge me beyond reason. When we first met, I wasn't sure you were my type... I mean, face it – you didn't have the best reputation – the whole taking away kids thing... the bleeding heart bit... the salary...but once I started taking you seriously, my thinking changed forever...

Because of you, I bear witness to people's pain on a daily basis. Because of you, I take the visions and hopes of people seriously. Because of you, I have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to truly impact lives. We've taken some incredible journeys... stood in the shoes of abused children – and the parents who've lost custody (often abused children once themselves). We've visited high crime neighborhoods where we were welcomed into homes where we were afraid to sit down.

Social work – you and I have held the hand of a hospital patient, dying alone with no family or friends in sight. We've walked along side people who were newly diagnosed with terminal illnesses and born witness to their grief. Although we've seen unimaginable suffering, together we've also learned to NEVER underestimate the power within any individual – you and I have seen first hand that people have strengths and resources I couldn't possibly have imagined. Thank you for a career rich in meaning, and filled with challenges and possibilities.

Suggestion Box

- Submit ideas for this newsletter & in-service trainings to George. This will also allow us to better serve your family's needs.
- Want to toot your own horn, another foster parent's horn, maybe a social worker's horn? Email George and don't forget a photo!



Contact Information

George	Montgomery	704.216.8467	George.Montgomery@rowancountync.gov
Nadean	Quarterman	704.216.8462	Nadean.Quarterman@rowancountync.gov
Social Work Services		704.216.8440	
After Hours & Holidays		704.216.8500	Ask for the DSS On-Call Social Worker



Board Payment Schedule

- February's payment will be mailed on March 20, 2020.
- March's payment & Clothing Allowance will be mailed on April 24, 2020.
- April's payment will be mailed on May 22, 2020.

Foster Parent In-Service Training

- March 23, 2020, at Rowan County DSS from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For child care please email Social Worker Montgomery the age and gender of each child for which care is needed.
20 hours of continuing foster parent educational training are required every two years for re-licensure.

Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group

- *If you have not attended this group you are missing an invaluable resource. This is a great time for families to build relationships with others in similar situations, obtain information on community resources, and engage in topics, such as, 504/IEP school planning, bullying, and positive parenting.*
- March 9, 2020, 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM. **Dinner and childcare are FREE.** Dinner is served at 5:30 PM. The meeting is held at the Mount Tabor UMC located at 4520 Old Mocksville Road in Salisbury and will begin at 6:00 PM. This group is open to only foster and adoptive parents. RSVP if attending to Sarah Shrewsbury at shrewsburysarah@yahoo.com. Child care is provided upon request with RSVP.

Foster Parent Recruitment Informational Meeting

- April 7, 2020, at 5:30 PM. RCDSS will host an Informational Meeting for those in the community interested in becoming licensed foster parents. We are always in need of quality families interested in making a positive, lifetime impact through fostering. Inform us if you know of a local organization or group that is willing to give us time for a brief presentation.
- **Do you have ideas for Recruitment?** Share your thoughts with: George.Montgomery@rowancountync.gov, Nadean.Quarterman@rowancountync.gov, or Holly.Mullins@rowancountync.gov.

LINKS Meeting

- March 18, 2020, from 4:00 PM until 5:30 PM at RCDSS. The topic will be "Your Checklist for College." Please encourage your teenage foster children to attend. **LINK\$ BUCK\$ (incentive)** will be given to youth who attend and participate in the LINKS Meetings.

Save the Date: After the Adoption... What's Next 2020 Conference

- **FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE INVITED!** Bring the kids! Teens can participate and child care is provided free of charge. A continental breakfast, full lunch, and snacks are provided.
- Saturday, May 16, 2020, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM at Winston-Salem State University Anderson Conference Center.
- Topics for Adults: Transracial Families-How to best care for your child, Early Childhood Trauma & Parenting, Fostering Overall Child Health-Impact from Trauma, Stress Reduction & Self Care, Birth Parent Connections, Working with MCOs-Advocating for your child, Managing the Internet & Social Media, Developing Healthy Relationships, Identify Drugs at Home, From Momma's House to College, Adoption Assistance, Adoption Tax Credit, Legal Aspects of Adoption
- Topics for Teens: Education, Money Management, Healthy Relationships, Rap Session-Guys & Girls, Vaping

March 2020 is Social Work Month-Social Workers: Generations Strong

Our nation's almost 800,000 social workers have amazing tenacity and talent. They confront some of the most challenging issues facing individuals, families, communities and society and forge solutions that help people reach their full potential and make our nation a better place to live. We celebrate the contributions of social workers during National Social Work Month in March. [NASW News link](#)



Social Worker Spotlight

- **Carla Johnston, Permanency Planning since September 2019 (6 months).**
 “Carla Johnston... gets her job done quickly and amazing worker.” –The Adams
 “She always goes above and beyond to advocate for our foster daughter and her needs, answers questions in a super timely manner, backs and supports us when involving shared parenting correspondences, and keeps us abreast to what is going on regarding our case. Our case has been lengthy and has had many social worker changes and Social Worker Johnson has transitioned extremely well and we have been pleased to get to know her and we wanted to highlight the Awesome job that she is doing. We appreciate you Carla!!” –The Marshalls
- **Kim Murray, Permanency Planning since January 2019 (1 year).**
 “Shouting out Kim Murray for just being who she is. And loving all her kids like her own.” –The Adams
- **Beverly Dupree, Social Worker since May 1998 (21 years).**
 “Beverly Dupree is funny, loving and very supporting. Helpful through this new journey we’re about to begin.” –The Adams
- **James Morgan, Social Worker & Supervisor since March 2006 (13 years).**
 “Mr. Morgan always showed professionalism and knowledge when dealing with our children. Although he no longer works directly with our children, he still goes out of his way to speak to us when we see him. Great guy, social worker, and now friend!” –The Smiths
- **Mariah Kennedy, Permanency Planning since August 2019 (7 months).**
 “Ms. Kennedy is good about talking with the boys.” –The Russells
- **Sarah Godfrey, Permanency Planning since July 2019 (8 months).**
 “Ms. Sarah is good about handling appointments and making sure things are handled.” –The Russells
- **Michael Kendall, Permanency Planning since June 1993 (26 years).**
 “Mr. Kendall has always answered me in a timely manner and he really takes an interest in the children. I trusted him that he would always have the best interest of the whole family and treated my husband with inclusion even though he was the step grandparent. He is a very honorable man whom I truly respect.” –The Weavers
- **Amber Wellmon, Permanency Planning since July 2018 (1 year).**
 “She was there for us every step of the way with our soon to be adopted son. She never gave up and strived to make sure he was going to have the best life possible. She is truly an amazing, caring individual and we can't thank her enough for all she does.” –The Gambrells
- **Christy Belk, Permanency Planning since August 2014 (5 years).**
 “Christy Belk is a dedicated social worker who works hard with parents to help ensure reunification. She truly cares about the kids on her case as well as the foster parents.” –The Thompsons
- **George Montgomery, Foster Home Licensing since August 2017 (2 years)**
 “We would like to give a shout out to Mr. Montgomery for working with us for the last couple years. Mr. Montgomery has gone above and beyond to keep us motivated in fostering, making sure that we are doing ok, being supportive when we as a family dealt with the loss of loved ones, checking in from time to time just to say hello, and overall being a positive inspiration to the department and the families served by DSS. Mr. Montgomery we wanted to highlight you because your inspiration and dedication doesn't go unnoticed. We appreciate you!!” –The Marshalls



Happy Anniversary

James & Whitley Albertson	03/29/2018	1 Year
Brian & Anna Smith	03/15/2017	2 Years
Dennis & Mavis Marshall	03/03/2016	3 Years
Reed & Georgianna Karriker	03/22/2013	6 Years
Walter Purdy	02/05/2013	6 Years

Thank you for your commitment to the children of Rowan County!

**STATISTICALLY
SPEAKING**



53 of our 188 children in foster care are placed with relatives or parents.



Parents adopting children with special needs are eligible for reimbursement of non-recurring costs of the adoption up to a maximum of \$2,000 for each adoptive placement.

Policy Brief