

Foster Parent Monthly

May 2020



Rowan County
Department of Social Services

Declaration from Donna

Approximately 30 years ago, I was a college graduate establishing myself in the world as an independent young adult. I moved to Charlotte with a fresh, bright, motivated enthusiasm, eager to save the world. I initially worked as a waitress to pay rent on my brand new apartment until I could find a professional job. I was hired at Mecklenburg County DSS in my first post-graduate position. In addition to serving the public by day, I advocated with local shelters and Room at the Inn programs to allow me and a colleague to work in the evenings with the homeless population. At that time, females were not allowed to work in homeless shelters for male residents. Helping the homeless was my passion at the time. I arranged an outreach fund from my home church to assist in my efforts. My heart had the desire to ensure that everyone had a home, a place to lay their head.

Why am I sharing this with you? Because, you, as foster parents, ensure that our foster youth have a home and a place to lay their heads each day. "Home" is defined by Webster's dictionary as "the place (such as a house or apartment) where a person lives". However, a 5th grader from British Columbia defined it much more broadly and with the depth of wisdom unusual for a boy that age. This young man, Wynn, says that "home means a secure, cheerful place where you are respected and love. He notes that when you look at it from the outside, home is just a house (just like Webster's says). But on the inside, it is much more than wood and bricks. Home is where your memories, your hopes and dreams are." Another 5th grader, Sooke, says that home is where you feel loved and safe. (Excerpted from <https://meaningofhome.ca/category/2020/british-columbia/>)

Out of the mouths of babes!

As our foster parents in Rowan County, YOU make those homes for our children, those who have been abused or neglected, traumatized. YOU are helping to create a new meaning of "home" for them. YOU are building their resilience so that they grow into healthy functioning adults. YOU provide them that comfort and safety that they so need and deserve. YOU make a difference in the lives of these children.

As we move into May, the month set aside as National Foster Care Month, we find ourselves in a pandemic. With all of the challenges before us, I am so very grateful that YOU have chosen to be a foster parent. YOU have opted to be a support to vulnerable children. YOU have opted to show them the true meaning of "home" which will help them build their own "home" one day.

I guess my passion and calling 30 years ago still holds true today – I truly believe that there is no place like home. Thank YOU for giving this same fulfillment to our children. Thank you for fostering hope, healing and "home".

Donna

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

- April's payment will be mailed on May 22, 2020.
- May's payment will be mailed on June 19, 2020.
- June's payment & Clothing Allowance will be mailed together, date TBD.



COVID-19

coronavirus

Ctrl+Click for more
information from
Rowan County

ROWAN COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Be an original.

We are so thankful that you are here to help us care for our children! Know that Rowan County DSS is taking the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Please continue to practice safety, and we will all get through this together. Please note that ALL group events for foster parents and youth have been cancelled. Details of each are below. Each foster child's social worker will be making arrangements to use Skype, Facetime, or whatever video chat technology is available. THANK YOU for your continued dedication to each child and your flexibility during this crisis.

Foster Parent In-Service Training

- All in-person training meetings are CANCELLED until further notice. You are still responsible for ensuring each foster licensed adult completes their bi-annual training requirements. **20 hours of continuing foster parent educational training are required every two years for re-licensure.** Fostering NC provides FREE online training.

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Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group

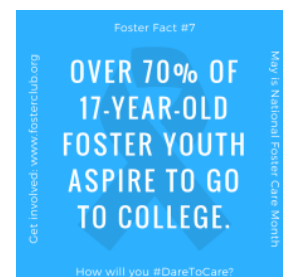
- Weekly Virtual ZOOM Group meeting Sundays at 9:00 pm. The late night time is to give everyone a chance to get the kids off to bed so the parents will have uninterrupted time. Email Sarah Shrewsbury at shrewsburysarah@yahoo.com for a link to the meeting. You can request to be added to a private Facebook group which is updated regularly with the zoom meeting id.

Foster Parent Recruitment Informational Meeting

- June 2, 2020, at 5:30pm. RCDSS plans to 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?** Zip us an e-mail at Fostering@rowancountync.gov.

LINKS Meeting

- LINKS meetings are suspended at this time. Our coordinator continues to send out the monthly newsletters. If you have a foster child over the age of 13 and are not receiving the newsletter, please contact LINKS coordinator, Tisha Warren, at (704)216-8488 or Tisha.Warren@rowancountync.gov.



Foster Fact #1

Call involved: www.fostercub.org

LGBTQ FOSTER YOUTH ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE PLACED WITH A FAMILY.

May is National Foster Care Month

How will you #DareToCare?

Foster Fact #2

Call involved: www.fostercub.org

MORE THAN 1/2 OF FOSTER CHILDREN WILL REUNIFY WITH THEIR PARENT.

May is National Foster Care Month

How will you #DareToCare?



MARJORIE TROY

Marjorie, who prefers to be called Lee, is a native of Elkview, West Virginia. She relocated to North Carolina 25 years ago to provide a better life for her and her 3 small boys. Today she is the proud mother of 3 successful adult sons. Her hobbies include spending time outdoors, feeding ducks, going for walks and putting puzzles together. Lee has two longtime friends in her pet dogs, Precious and Joey. Holiday traditions for Lee include her and her three sons watching ballgames on television, playing cards and telling stories from their past. Lee decided to become a foster parent to provide care for her great niece.



Foster Fact #6

Call involved: www.fostercub.org

30% OF FOSTER CHILDREN ARE PLACED WITH A RELATIVE.

May is National Foster Care Month

How will you #DareToCare?



TABITHA BENFIELD

Tabitha is a native of Salisbury and a graduate of North Rowan High School. She is the mom to one adult child and three younger children. Her home is filled with activity as they enjoy the love and attention of their two German Shepard dogs, Jax and Keira, and one cat named Callie. When Tabitha is not busy enjoying her children, you may find her working in your neighborhood delivering mail to your home. She has worked as a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for the past 20 years. Tabitha and her family are beach lovers and can often be found at the beach soaking up some fun in the sun. She also loves reading, gardening, putting puzzles together, and almost anything that allows her to spend time in the sun.



Suggestions

- 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!



STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Rowan County had
215 children in foster care
on April 1, 2020.

This is the highest foster care population
since the late 1990s!

Youth, 13 or older, who are or were in foster care after the age of 13 are eligible for LINKS services, except youth with more than \$10,000 in personal reserves or are undocumented residents.

Policy Brief

