



WASHINGTON COUNTY CYS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Strong Communities Strengthen Families!

June is National Reunification Month

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June is family reunification month, a time to celebrate parents and caregivers successes in bringing their children home following an out-of-home placement. When children and youth are unable to remain safely at home and enter into kinship/foster care, the ultimate goal is for safe permanency to be achieved through reunification. Research shows that children do best when raised in their own families, whenever possible. To achieve safe reunification of children with their families, a strong partnership between birth parents, foster parents, the child welfare system, courts and other community partners is critical.

We celebrate reunification month by acknowledging the hard work of parents who achieve reunification as well as the team of individuals that help make reunification possible. Thank you for your role in supporting the reunification of children and youth with their families this year.

June is Pride Month!



June is recognized as Pride Month, a time to celebrate LGBTQ+ identities and cultures and support LGBTQ+ rights.

According to the Administration for Children & Families, youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning (LGBTQ+) are “3.8 times more likely to experience childhood sexual abuse, 1.2 times more likely to be physically abused by a caregiver, and nearly 2.5 times more likely to enter foster care than their heterosexual peers.”

Through support, education, and community outreach the risk of abuse to this diverse population of youth can be lowered. Organizations such as the Washington County gay straight Alliance facilitates and provides resources for LGBTQ+ youth. In addition, they facilitate a monthly social gathering for

Healthy Families Research Project

Recognizing Family Strengths and Needs in Southwestern PA (Greene, Fayette, and Washington Counties) During COVID-19

COVID-19 has challenged all of us. Parents and caregivers are important to helping children continue to thrive during these tough times. Share your experience to help make sure resources are available where they will do the most good. **Please take the Healthy Families Survey every month** from May to October 2021 to help improve our communities’. At the end of the survey, you will have the choice to enter your name and contact information to receive a \$15 gift card.

Thank you for working with us to help support families and children in southwestern PA during this pandemic. To learn more or take the Healthy Families Survey please go to: www.chp.edu/healthyfamiliesproject



You can be a hero to a local child.
Become a Foster Parent.

Washington County is in need of loving, supportive, and committed foster families to provide a safe, stable home for children and youth ages birth – 21 years. For more information on how you can make a difference in a child’s life through foster parenting, please contact WCCYS, Kate Grant, at (724) 228-6884 or e-mail: grantkat@co.washington.pa.us

Washington County CYS Monthly News and Updates

- Congress passed a new law called “**Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act**”, which provides extended support for young people who left, or might be leaving, the child welfare system during the pandemic. This law allows us to provide youth with aftercare services such as room and board assistance, as well as other services like Housing, Education, Employment, and Life Skills. If you are between the ages of 18-27 years, are involved or previously had involvement with a child welfare system and would like information regarding the services that may be available to you, please contact CYS Supervisor, Ashley Blake, at (724) 228-6884.

- Washington County Children and Youth 5 Year Strategic Plan for Keeping Kids Safe while Supporting and Preserving Families is available on our website: <https://washingtoncountyhumanservices.com/agencies/children-youth-services>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Washington County Children and Youth Services is looking for caring individuals who are committed to helping us achieve our mission. We currently have positions available for County Caseworker 1 & 2, County Caseworker Supervisor, and Fiscal Officer III. Please contact Carrie Taylor in the Washington County Human Resources Department at (724) 228-6738 for more information.