



K.F.C.A.
P.O. Box 4542
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www.kitsapfostercare.org

Mission Statement: To support and inspire foster, kinship & adoptive caregivers through educational opportunities, enrichment activities & by advocating for foster children in our community.

Dear Community Member,

Kitsap Foster Care Association (KFCA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1991. We are dedicated to foster parents, kinship caregivers and foster children living in Kitsap County. Our membership is strictly voluntary and is comprised of foster and kinship parents licensed by the State of Washington and certified by private agencies. KFCA board members are volunteers. They accept no wages or compensation. We exist to support foster, adoptive and kinship families. KFCA is a registered Washington State non-profit agency with 501©3 status. Our Federal ID is 91-1586465. We are registered under the Charitable Solicitations Act RCW 19.09. All donations are tax deductible. Donors are provided written donation receipts.

The State of Washington provides for the basic needs of each child in the foster care system. However, there are many additional things that the State does not have the ability to fund. As an association we are committed to meeting additional needs that are essential to the well-being and positive growth of children in care.

Kitsap Foster Care Association supports children in care in our community in a number of ways. KFCA maintains a '**clothing closet**' at the Bremerton Department of Child and Family office to provide for children coming into care on an emergent basis who have little or no clothing resources. In addition to new pajamas, socks and underwear and either new or gently used clothing for up to three days KFCA provides diapers and formula too to help bridge the gap until the caregiver can find the time to purchase needed supplies.

Kitsap Foster Care Association hosts **dinners** often **with free training** and daycare throughout the year (except June, July and August). The meals are offered for a very low cost – only \$4 for adults. Educators from the community and the state inform and enlighten caregivers on a variety of pertinent topics to assist caregivers in meeting the training requirements for tri-annual relicensing.

Kitsap Foster Care Association host several **fun, family activities** each year for kids in care and their caregiver families such as swimming at the Bainbridge Aquatic Center, roller skating and /or bowling, just to name a few. All activities are free or very low cost and include healthy snacks.

Kitsap Foster Care Association observes **National Foster Care Appreciation** month in May by providing a **special dinner** with entertainment for the kids and a **FREE** trip to a **Mariner's** game.

Kitsap Foster Care Association partners with the Independent Living Skills provider and the state in celebrating **high school graduation** and the transition of youth to young adulthood. KFCA solicits goods to benefit youth aging out of care such as household supplies and luggage. Typically, a catered tea and guest speaker is provided and a photographer on hand to capture the memories.

Kitsap Foster Care Association raises **awareness** of the needs of foster youth in the community by participation in community activities including annual events such as the Armed Forces Day Parade in Bremerton; Fathoms of Fun Parade in Port Orchard and Whaling Days Parade in Silverdale.

Kitsap Foster Care Association takes the lead and partners with other community members in providing **school supplies** for foster children and youth in Kitsap County. Each year in August an afternoon is dedicated to distributing backpacks filled with school supplies and provides a picnic lunch to the foster youth and their caregivers.

Kitsap Foster Care Association supports youth by offering the **DREAM project grant**, up to \$75 towards the purchase of enrichment activities such as summer camp; sports fees; music lessons; prom costs; year books and school photos once a year per child in care. KFCA membership is required.

Kitsap Foster Care Association hosts a **holiday party** for youth in care and their families each December. All children in care receive a gift purchased just for them or for the older youth a gift card. Santa is on hand for pictures and treats and a light lunch are provided.

Kitsap Foster Care Association board members work tirelessly to partner with community members; solicit donations to benefit foster youth and to support caregivers throughout the year. They meet regularly to discuss and brainstorm ways to continue to support and to improve the lives of foster youth and their families. Some fundraising activities include Tee It Up for Kids Golf Tournament in Gig Harbor; the Ghost Train in Port Orchard; silent auctions and fast food restaurant 'takeovers'.

Together we can change the lives of our Kitsap County children in care.

If you are interested in supporting foster youth and families please contact us.

Thank you for your generosity!

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