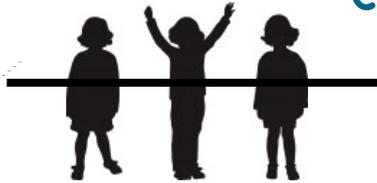


Kids Resource Network

Of Colorado Springs
Winter 2013/14 Newsletter



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Director's Chair



The air is getting crisp and cooler.....the leaves are beginning to change colors.....school is back in session.....football has started again.....I have begun my baking frenzy.....as many of you have too....this must mean that fall is here and the holidays are right around the corner. I love this time of the year!!!! We are in full swing of planning this year's holiday party. It will be at the same location as last year and we hope to have a magical Santa present again. We look forward to sharing a lot of laughter and new memories with each and every one of you! More information is soon to follow and we hope to see you all there ☺

KRN is adding even more therapeutic programs and supports, in addition to more training, to those we already offer. We are hoping to be a Medicaid approved agency in the next 45-60 days. What this means for you is that we have therapist on staff to help assist with the needs of the kiddos and families placed in your home. We are hoping that by having inside therapist to choose from, it will be more convenient and supportive to each and every one of you as you meet and exceed the needs of the children that you have reached out to and made a part of the family. We would love to hear more from you as to what might be helpful and beneficial. Please call (227-7477) or email (kmcsst@hotmail.com) with ideas and suggestions ☺

As many of you have heard, EPCDHS presented the community with an RFP(bidding proposal) regarding case work services, as they decided to consolidate the providers, and have one entity conduct all case management for El Paso County, instead of the child placement agencies (as we have done for the past 12 years). The county has decided that they no longer want agencies to focus on in house case work and foster care/home supervision. Rather they requested that agencies pick one. KRN made a proposal that would allow for both; however EPCDHS is confident that this is not the direction they are going. We will fully embrace this change, as we are not KRN without our foster and adoptive families and we remain committed to providing a superior foster care program with your dedication, love, and support and that of our staff. Savio was presented the winning proposal, whereby they will solely conduct foster care casework services. This means some changes for all of us at the beginning of the New Year. Much of the case management will transfer from in house to Savio. We are hoping to make this transition as seamless as possible. We will be here to iron out the kinks and support each and every one of you along the way as this change happen. Savio has done great things in our community and has a good understanding of case work. They have reached out to all of us and are seeking insight and information from the child placement agencies, to best meet the needs of all of the parties, to each of the current cases. We are reaching out to each of you and encouraging you to share how things go and what needs are being met as well as which ones need to be better addressed.

We at KRN will support you every step of the way! Though this will bring some big changes, I am confident things will work out for all involved.

Many of you have also heard that our amazing team mate, Rashida, is moving to sunny California. We are very excited for her to move back home, where all of her family is. We will miss her tremendously as she has always been a strong advocate for all of the children and families she works with and has always gone above and beyond. She has a way of making us all smile and see things from a bigger and brighter perspective. We will miss her dearly and wish her a fond farewell.

Some things are changing, many will stay the same. The one thing that is certain is that each and every one of you is an amazing member to an amazing team. We could not do this without you. The children you work with have been blessing with families that are truly the exception!

Thank you for all you do!

Shawntel Tucker

Support Group

All groups and trainings are held at Kids Resource Network. Foster Parents please remember that you need 20 hours of training a year to keep your certificate; this is a great way to network and to meet other parents! We encourage you to attend and as always, we will have snacks ;)

- November 27th 9:00am-11:00am
- December 20th Holiday Party!
- January 27th 9:00am-11:00am
- February 27th 9:00am-11:00am
- March 28th 9:00am-11:00am
- April 28th 9:00am-11:00am
- May 28th 9:00am-11:00am
- June 27th 9:00am- 11:00 am

Keep your children entertained this Christmas break!

Fun ideas for you and your children while they are home

Have a lazy pajama day!

Kids love being in their pajamas! Take a day where everyone lounges and relaxes around the house, you can make popcorn and everyone can pick out their favorite holiday movie to watch

Baking day!

Spend the day making all your favorite holiday cookies and desserts. Gingerbread men are great for children to decorate however they like; sugar cookies are also good for decorating. You may also want to spread the joy around the neighborhood by making up plates of cookies and taking them to your neighbors.

Decorate the house!

Make it a family event! Have all the kids help put up decorations for the holiday season while Christmas music is playing. Great way for family bonding and older kids can help younger kids with ornament placement.

Christmas Caroling!

Pick a night, make some hot cocoa, put on your gloves, get some neighbors together and go house to house and spread some holiday cheer by sharing your favorite holiday songs ☺

by Jessica and Mark Salas

Christmas light road trip!

There are so many houses around neighborhoods that light up all out during the holiday season and decorate every inch of their house in lights. Have everyone get in their pajamas and pile in the car. You can make the trip into a game and have everyone rate the decorations from 1-10 or have everyone say their favorite decoration on the house.

Treasure Hunt!

Turn your house into Santa's toy shop and have your children search for different items around the house so that the elves can finish making the toys. You can make up your own story line of what has happened to the elves' toys and send the children around following clues to find the lost tools and ultimately save Christmas!

Holiday Cards

Help your children identify people they wish to send a holiday card to; friends at school, teachers, other siblings or they might even want to write one to you. Give them all sorts of crafting supplies so that they can truly make it their own and have them deliver them either in person or send it in the mail.

Money for College

By the time your child is about to graduate High School you have probably already thought about where the money for college will come from. Since we know that there is no magic money tree below are two helpful links that show you what your child needs to do to receive different grants. What type of GPA they need, what clubs could help and different deadlines. It's never too early to start thinking about college!

The Colorado ETV Program

<https://www.statevoucher.org/state.shtml?state=CO>

The Colorado Education and Training Voucher Program is a federally-funded, state-administered program designed to help youth who were in foster care. Students may receive up to \$5000 a year for qualified school related expenses.

Grants for Colorado Graduates

<http://www.denverfoundation.org/grants/page/colorado-high-school-students>

This website directs people to many different grants that are available for kids in Colorado.



Kids Resource Network



of Colorado Springs

We are the Exception!

Mission Statement

To provide the best quality care, education, and programs for children and families; and to serve the community in which we live and work!

About Us

Kids' Resource Network was founded in 1985, moving into El Paso County area in 1992. In 2001 Kids' Resource Network broke into two separate offices making Kids' Resource Network of Colorado Springs its own Child Placement Agency. Since the beginning it has been our goal to grow gradually and to focus on a solid and stable program. Our outstanding resources are proof of that. Kids' Resource Network of Colorado Springs is the exception! We work with many diverse children and families, who all have different and special needs. We work with children from ages 0-18 and sometimes help young adults up to the age of 21 should there be special circumstances. KRNCS works to reunify children in a safe and stable family environment. Should a child be unable to return to their biological family, KRNCS helps to locate and finalize a permanent placement. In addition to Foster/Adoptive success, we also have a list of services that we provide such as CPR and First Aid and Family-to-Family involvement where a staff sits on various committees to ensure our full participation and voice in the community.



Jessica and Mark are very new providers with KRN, however they have provided care through another agency in the past. They became interested in providing care in hopes of adopting, but at this point are most interested in providing respite care. Jessica works in the school system as a classroom aid and Mark is a realtor. They are very dedicated, loving and caring individuals who really seem to enjoy caring for children. They have no children of their own and have an immense amount of love to share with others. Jessica and Mark truly understand the difficulties in providing foster care and the challenges that many foster parents face; they would like to slowly work their way back to having children in their home full time.

Mark and Jessica have a good support system built of family and friends, but have shown interest in networking with other foster parents as well. Jessica and Mark, you are truly the exception and very valued new members of our great team! Keep up the great work!!!! Your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed and we look forward to you assisting us with many more children to come.



Quotes about Foster Parents

Adopting one child won't
change the world;
but for that child,
the world will change.

"What we have learned from fostering is that a child who has suffered abuse from an adult can still give trust, can be wholehearted about life, and so keen to please. We learned kids are still kids no matter what their background."

Foster Carer