

KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

May 2007

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Kitsap County Foster Parents...we appreciate your hard work and dedication to the children of our community who need the safety, stability, and love provided by your care!

Please join us at the KFCA Dinner Meeting...

On May 23, 2007 the Kitsap Foster Care Association will vote to elect it's new officers. Your vote counts, please participate in this process. Dinner includes pork chops/grilled chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes/gravy, summer blend veggies, and dinner rolls.

Join Kitsap Foster Care Association NOW!

Kitsap Foster Care Association offers support and activities for local foster children and their foster/relative care providers. General membership meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Silverdale Community Center. Dinner is at 6pm and training at 7pm. Members pay \$4 for dinner, a 50% reduction. Childcare is available. Monthly Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at rotating locations, contact any board member for the given month's location. Annual dues are \$15 and may be paid at any membership meeting. The newsletter is available on line at www.kitsapfostercare.org on a monthly basis. If you would like it emailed to you, contact the webmaster via the website. See page 2 for more details.

If your foster children are in need of duffel bags to carry their belongings, please contact Rick @ 876-1994. Please don't send a child from your home or store their belongings in trash bags!

If you have information you would like to share with fellow foster parents, or thanks you would like to offer to someone who has gone above and beyond, please email Jennifer to add it to the newsletter!

Kitsap Style Fashion Show

By
Lucky Star
Consignment
Clothing

Sunday,
May 20, 2007
3:00pm

@
Kingston
Community Center
Tickets are \$12

Lucky Star is again hosting a fashion show that will raise funds for Kitsap Foster Care Association/

Dream Project!

Mark your calendars, invite your friends and support local foster children. This will be a fun afternoon. Snacks provided. Questions...

Stacy Patrick
Lucky Star Consignment
Clothing
360-297-6721



Join Us Now!

Kitsap Foster Care Association membership is open to foster parents and others interested in foster care.

Make \$15 check payable to: KFCA, PO Box 4542, Bremerton, WA 98312

Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

foster parent agency staff renewal?
Affiliation: _____

KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

• GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- **Where:** Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale, WA 98383
- **When:** Fourth Wednesday of each month, Dinner 6pm, Guest Speaker and Discussion 7pm.
- Free child care available on site.
- Members pay \$4 for dinner (50% off) and receive a free raffle ticket to win great prizes (additional raffle tickets may be purchased in support of KFCA).

• BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

- **Where:** Changing locations, contact any board member for this month's location.
- **When:** First Tuesday of each month @ 5:30pm.
- KFCA Board Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend. If you'd like to add an item to the agenda, please contact Rick Williams two days prior to the meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Williams, *President*
president@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Vice President*
vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*
Phone 876-1994
treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org

Erin Post, *Secretary/Membership/Community Awareness*
secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Resources*
resources@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Dream Project*
Phone 876-1994

Sharon Williams, *Historian*
historian@kitsapfostercare.org

Lesa LeClair, *Child Care*
childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

Debra Converse, *Education/Training*
education@kitsapfostercare.org

Chuck Converse, *Webmaster*
webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

Teresa Walton, *Foster Parent Liaison*
Cell (360) 990-9995
liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

Jennifer Martin, *Newsletter*
newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events Coordinator*
Phone 275-5725
events@kitsapfostercare.org



Upcoming Training

PRIDE Pre-Service Training

May 21, 22, 23, 24, (9:00am-4:00pm), & 25, 2007
(9:00am to noon)

OR

June 7, 8, (5:30pm-9:30pm), 9, (9:00am-4:45pm),
13, 14, & 15, 2007 (5:30pm-9:30pm)

OR

July 10, 11, 12, (5:30-9:30pm), & 17, 18, (5:30-
9:30pm), & 21, 2007 (9:00-4:45pm)

Engaging Biological Families for Change

May 16 & 17, 2007 (6-9:00pm)

FOUNDATIONS for Parenting

Someone Else's Child

May 21-25, 2007

9:00am to 4:00pm daily

Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment Program

July 24, 2007

6:00-9:00pm

Engaging Biological Families for Change

July 27, 2007 9:00-4:00pm

OR

November 1 & 2, 2007 6:00-9:00pm

The above trainings are held at

Bremerton First Methodist Church

1150 Marine Drive; Bremerton, WA 98312

Contact Hildegard Stone to pre-register @

475-3586 or 1-800-423-6246

Autism & Aspergers Syndrome

Saturday, May 19, 2007

9:00am to 4:00pm

DCFS (CA) Building, Tahoma Room

1313 West Meeker Street, Kent, WA 98032

To register, contact Shelly Myers @

mysh300@dshs.wa.gov

Working with Developmentally Disabled Children

May 4, 2007

All of these trainings are offered in Kitsap County through the Online Foster Parent Education Workshops, Grow & Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents. In addition to online classes, land-based classes are being offered locally through this Pierce College Program at no cost to foster or relative care providers. Check the website for titles, times, and locations.

For logistics, call Geton Peters @ 360-782-1113

For Program questions, call Pierce College @
1-877-353-6763 or distedu@pierce.ctc.edu

Grow and Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents

www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/

Check this website for fall 2007 updates!

DSHS Electronic Forms Link

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html>

First Aid/CPR Training for Foster Parents

The Resource Family Training Institute sponsors First Aid training free of charge to all currently licensed and perspective foster parents. For a complete schedule and registration please visit the website at:

www.keepthebeatcpr.net

Or call (253)217-1105

Check out this web site:

www.familieslikeours.org





Kitsap County Resources...

- 1) **ABRAHAM'S HOUSE (405-0488)**
*free furniture, household goods, etc.
- 2) **DR. CHARLES BROWN (779-7115)**
*children's dental care with med coupon
- 3) **FIRST (foster intervention prevention support team) 1-800-391-2273**
- 4) **KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION (475-3513 or 876-1994)**
*free duffel bags for foster children
WWW.KITSAPFOSTERCARE.ORG
- 5) **MARY BRIDGE Center for Child Safety (360-662-1198)**
*Free child safety seat checks, bicycle helmet sales & fitting, free loaner life jackets
- 6) **NK FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (206-842-2362) or Sufisher@aol.com**
*meets as needed, call for support
- 7) **NORTHWEST ENTERAL SUPPLY (1-888-885-2386)**
*free pull-ups for foster children
- 8) **OLYMPIC PHARMACY & HEALTH CARE (1-253-858-9941)**
*free delivery of diapers, medical supplies
- 9) **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (337-4738)**
*Youth Services Program
- 10) **SKILLS CENTER (478-5168)**
*free hair cuts for foster children
- 11) **Anointed Hands Hair Care (782-2409)**
*Dewanda Evans welcomes any/all questions re: African American hair care. Located on 6th Street in Bremerton.
- 12) **Christine Njoroge (475-3527)**
*For foster/relative care providers needing support for FASD children.

Calendar of Events

May 2007:

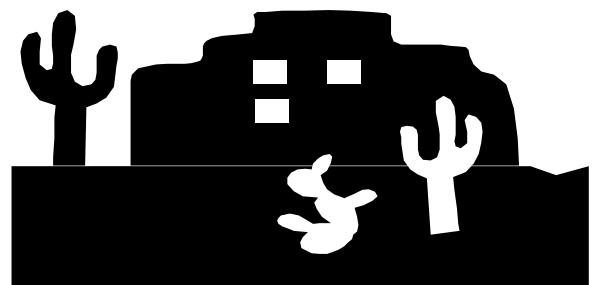
- 1: KFCFA Board Meeting
- 3: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 4: Working with...
- 13: Mother's Day!
- 16: Engaging Biological...
- 19: Autism and Aspergers...
- 20: Kitsap Style Fashion Show
- 20: Skateland skate party
- 21: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 21: FOUNDATIONS for...
- 23: KFCFA Dinner Meeting (Membership votes)
- 28: Memorial Day

June 2007:

- 1: Mariner's Event
- 5: KFCFA Board Meeting
- 7: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 17: Father's Day!
- 27: KFCFA Dinner Meeting (New Board takes office)

July 2007:

- 3: KFCFA Board Meeting
- 4: Fourth of July! Be Safe!
- 10: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 24: Ansell-Casey Life Skills
- 25: KFCFA Dinner Meeting
- 27: Engaging Biological! Families



Make It A Safe Kids Summer!

Kitsap County - The local chapter of the Safe Kids Worldwide is joining with its members organization and similar coalitions throughout the United States to celebrate the coming summer recreational season during National Safe Kids Week (April 29 – May 5) by helping families to prepare for enjoying warm weather activities as safely as possible with a countywide helmet and life jacket sale on Wednesday, May 2 from 3:00 until 6:00pm at the following locations:

- North Kitsap Fire & Rescue in **Kingston**
26642 Miller Bay Road NE
- Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue in **Silverdale**
10955 Silverdale Way NW
- Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Center in **Silverdale**
1780 NW Myhre Road, Suite G220
- Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force in **Port Orchard**
South Kitsap Fire & Rescue, Station 31 – Tremont Avenue
- Kitsap County Health District in **Downtown Bremerton** –
Lobby of the Norm Dicks Government Center
345 6th Street.
- Jackson Park Child Development Center –
90 Olding Road in **Bremerton**.
- NBK Bangor Child Development Center – **Military Families Only**.

Safe Kids Kitsap members are committing time and resources to this annual event because it's clear that helmets and life jackets save children's lives. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, the risk of childhood drowning increases during summer months by 96%! Year around, drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children between 1 and 4 years; in children between 4 and 14, drowning is the second leading cause of death.

While personal flotation devices are an important measure in drowning prevention, life jackets are most effective when paired with vigilant adult supervision. In wheeled sports incidents, head injuries are the leading cause of death. Helmets can reduce the potential of fatal or debilitating head injury by as much as 85%. Wearers must be present for a custom fit. Most agencies welcome donations of \$7.00 for helmets and \$12.00 for life jackets and, in addition to the special May 2nd event, make these vital safety items available by appointment throughout the year.

Microsoft Youth Programs 2007

DigiGirlz Programs

<http://www.microsoft.com/about/diversity/programs/digigirlz.mspix>

At Microsoft we take pride in our ability to reach out to many diverse groups and provide opportunities for people to learn more about and engage in technology. Our DigiGirlz programs provide high school girls with opportunities to learn about careers in technology, talk with Microsoft employees about their life experiences, and enjoy hands-on computer and technology workshops. DigiGirlz programs are offered worldwide at several Microsoft locations. All programs are free of charge for attending students.

DigiGirlz Day

<http://www.microsoft.com/about/diversity/programs/digigirlzday.mspix>

Microsoft DigiGirlz Day is a one-day event designed to provide girls in eleventh grade with a better understanding of what a career in technology is all about. The students interact with Microsoft employees and managers to learn what it is like to work at Microsoft. Through DigiGirlz Day, young women realize the variety of opportunities available in the high-tech industry and explore future career paths.

DigiGirlz High Tech Camp

<http://www.microsoft.com/about/diversity/programs/camps.mspix>

Microsoft DigiGirlz High Tech Camp is a multiple-day experience for high school girls that is designed to give them an in-depth look at Microsoft and careers in technology. Girls have the opportunity to participate in hands-on technology courses, product demonstrations, tours, job shadows, and discussions with employees.

High School Internship Program

<http://www.microsoft.com/college/highschool/default.mspix>

The high school internship program is available for local students in the Puget Sound area. Students work on cutting-edge technology that will make a difference in people's lives all over the world. To participate, students must apply and be accepted into the program.

Microsoft in Education

<http://www.microsoft.com/education/default.mspix>

Get information about programs and resources for educators, students, administrators, and technical staff in school settings.

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Safe Kids Kitsap County Offers Window Safety Tips

Kitsap County — Every year, in the United States, nearly 5,000 children — mostly toddlers — fall out of windows; 28 percent require a hospital stay and approximately 20 die. A child who falls 10 feet can suffer spinal injury, paralysis and fatal head injury. Safe Kids Kitsap County strongly recommends window guards on all windows above the first floor, preferably guards equipped with an emergency release device in case of fire.

“A screen is not a safety device,” says Michele Jennings, Safe Kids Kitsap County coordinator. “It’s designed to keep insects out, not to keep children in. Proper safety guards on windows save lives.”

Window guards were shown to reduce fatal falls by up to 35 percent.

Still, no safety device can take the place of active adult supervision. Always keep an eye on kids around open windows. Toddlers have been known to fall out of windows open as little as five inches. Statistically, we see many of these injuries in early spring. People open windows on that first sunny day after a long, cold winter and inevitably a child will fall out of one. Not only in Kitsap County, but in Washington State as well falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries.

Safe Kids Kitsap County also reminds parents and caregivers:

- Keep windows locked when they’re closed, and keep furniture away from windows so kids can’t climb to the ledge.
- If you have double-hung windows — the kind that can open down from the top as well as up from the bottom — it is generally safer to open the top pane, but growing kids may have enough strength, dexterity and curiosity to open the bottom pane. Don’t assume an unlocked window is childproof.
- Tie the curtain pulls or blind cords out of reach — kids have been strangled while playing with dangling cords. Install safety tassels on the ends of the curtain pulls, or cut the loops, so a child is less likely to get entangled.

(continued)

- Do not move a child who appears to be seriously injured after a fall — call 911 and let trained medical personnel move the child with proper precautions. (Of course, if a child is not breathing and you are trained in CPR, follow your CPR training.)

For more information about window safety, falls and childproofing, e-mail Michele Jennings at Michele.jennings@multicare.org or visit www.usa.safekids.org.

National Window Safety Week is an annual program of the National Safety Council; for more information, call 800-621-7619 or visit www.nsc.org/aware/window.

Safe Kids Kitsap County works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. Safe Kids Kitsap County is led by Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital.

Dear Foster Parent,

I received a letter from Washington State University back at the end of March. The letter was from John Tarnai and stated that some foster parents in Washington State will be contacted during April or May for a telephone survey. The survey is being conducted by Children’s Administration for the Braam Settlement, and the purpose is to insure that foster parents are getting the training and support that they need to care for children. The results will be shared with Children’s Administration and be available on the Braam Panel website.

Participation is voluntary. The interview will take a short while, and all information will be kept confidential and no identifying information will be shared with anyone.

We just wanted you to be aware of this survey. If you are contacted, feel free to participate or not participate.

Community and Family Services Foundation

Phone: 360-275-9255 or 888-664-9255

Fax: 360-275-2066

Web site: www.cfsf.net

Resources for Foster Parents, Caregivers and Foster Children Mental Health Crisis Lines

If your foster child/youth is experiencing a **mental health crisis**, Crisis Lines are available Statewide through the Regional Support Networks (RSNs) for assistance during the crisis. Most of the lines are available 24 hours a day and have trained staff knowledgeable in the mental health system, mental health crisis, the acute hospital system and the county Designated Mental Health Professionals (DMHP's).

There are community mental health centers in most areas of the State which have on-going mental health treatment capacity for children and youth. The Crisis Line can also assist in identifying mental health resources in your community.

The DSHS Mental Health Division website for Crisis Lines can be found at: <http://www.1.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/crisis.shtml>. Below are the Crisis Line telephone numbers listed by County.

If your foster child is experiencing a **non-mental health crisis**, support for foster parents can be found on the Foster Parent and Caregiver Support Line at 1-800-301-1868. This Support Line is available 4:30 pm – 8:00 am, Monday – Friday and 24 hours a day on weekends and state holidays.

“The mission of the Mental Health Division is to promote recovery and safety.”

If there is a life-threatening emergency, please **call 911.**

Suicide Prevention **1-800-273-8255** TTY
Users **1-800-799-4TTY (4889)**

For all other mental health crises, please call the number listed below for your county.

Kitsap County RSN 1-800-843-4793

Pierce County RSN 1-800-576-7764

Mason County RSN 1-800-627-2211

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College Internship Program

http://www.microsoft.com/college/ip_overview.msp

As an intern at Microsoft, you'll have real responsibility, real work, and real opportunities to jumpstart your career. (You'll get paid, too!) It's an experience you'll never find in a classroom. You'll be given manageable assignments that you can complete while you're here, and your efforts will likely take shape in Microsoft products-or be used by Microsoft teams-long after you return to school. You could help create a Web application, a marketing plan, a prototype, a user guide-the possibilities are endless. And just imagine millions of customers, not to mention your classmates, seeing your work! Some interns even parlay their experience into a job offer.

College Scholarship Program

<http://www.microsoft.com/college/default.msp>

We're making it easier for future computer scientists to excel in what they love to do. A Microsoft scholarship provides a leg up so you can pursue studies in computer science and related technical disciplines. You'll join other scholarship recipients from the United States, Canada, and Mexico who share the passion for software and academic excellence. It all adds up to achieving your primary goal-to make a real difference in the software industry. Microsoft has set aside more than \$500,000 in scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. Some of that could be yours. We offer four types of technical scholarships to current undergraduate students: General Scholarships, Women's Scholarships, Underrepresented Minority Scholarships, and Scholarships for Students with Disabilities.

Imagine Cup

<http://imaginecup.com/default.aspx>

World's Premier Student Technology Competition Global competition invites students to apply technology and artistic talents to enable a better education for all. More than 65,000 students from 100 countries competed in Microsoft Corp.'s Imagine Cup 2006 competition, using their technology skills and talent to address these and many other health issues. Now in its fifth year, Imagine Cup continues to challenge students around the globe to imagine a better world empowered by technology and created by their talent and innovation. Today Microsoft opened registration for Imagine Cup 2007, extending an invitation to the most talented students from all over the world to embark on the challenge to "Imagine a world where technology enables a better education for all."

Students will compete in nine categories spanning software design and short film to challenges involving algorithms and programming. Students' work will reflect valuable, real-world solutions that address the pressing global issue of education while giving them the opportunity to compete for generous cash prize

From the President...

This is the second to last president's page that I will make. Yes, I know that I said that about one and a half years ago but things change in ways that we don't see coming. After Ron Piper suddenly resigned due to health concerns, the board was left with no President or Vice President. A non-profit cannot legally operate in that condition. Just as I was announcing my commitment as the Special Events Coordinator for my motorcycle chapter of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association at a dinner social, I received a call from John Vail that my wife, Sharon had given permission for the remaining Board to reinstate me to the position of President and would I say yes? How could I say no to a cause that I had worked for, for the past eight years? I truly didn't want the position. I was done, lost my spark and wanted someone else to carry on but I couldn't turn my back on my friends so there I was again. It is important to remember that some of us do lose that gleam that we once had and recognizing that is important to those that you still care for. You are among them as is my Board and our many kids so I needed to answer that call. (darn!)

I wish to say that I am no one special. I do not possess any great qualities or abilities above any of you. I am just a person that was in a place, at a time and if I were to give credit or blame, I would say that God said I will do this as my small part to help Foster Parents and the kids we care for. I cannot find any other reason for my involvement as I always felt that I should be the last person in this position. My greatest credit goes to the incredible Board members that have supported and lifted me in all these years. The very select members of DCFS that gave me encouragement, support and the guts to rise up can never know the strength that I derived from them. I hope that they know who they are and hear my Thanks!

The story reads from a best seller in my memory and I feel that the past ten years have given my life special meaning that requires a big thanks to all that helped me be there.

One of those special people just passed on to the other side. John Vail was a friend, mentor and a rock of a man that few truly knew. He didn't look the part and the truth be known, he could talk you to..... distraction but he knew what he was talking about and was passionate in his beliefs. John always guided based on the principals of honesty and what was good and right. He was unshakable in goodness towards all people. He was KFCA's expert Non-profit resource as well as our budget cruncher. As a man, he was a devoted father and husband, brother and friend. KFCA, his family and friends will greatly miss him and his likes will no doubt, never be replaced. I want to thank those that reached out in sympathy and support to his family. You deeply touched Luanne and the kids with your love. I am happy that Sharon and I, along with family, had a chance to see John just days before he suddenly died. It wasn't expected this soon. He was to have had maybe 6 short months left. He died from complications of cancer at age 61.

Henry and Dianna Castanares have given KFCA over 10 years of continued service and greatly helped us to be the wonderful Association that we are today. They have given 110 percent at all times and never missed an event or meeting. They always had happy, smiling faces and a can do attitude that served each of you much more than you may realize. I have been blessed during these past ten years with wonderful, giving and caring people that have made KFCA what it is today. They deserve medals!

Luanne Vail and my wife Sharon are also in this special category of giving, special people. The devotion to their jobs and to you are remarkable and beyond anything that you will ever see or know. Sharon, as the Treasurer, set up a record keeping system second to none. The State loved doing business with her because her books were always easy to understand and always accurate to the penny. Sharon never hesitated to do the many other things that needed to get done and always did so with a smile. She and Luanne would shop for all of the raffle items as well as the Holiday Party gifts. She and Luanne wrapped the 100 and more holiday gifts each and every year and were fortunate to have help, some of those times. Luanne came up with the Mariner's Event idea and manages the entire affair. It has become a yearly event that many look forward to. No small feat! She is still doing it today. Lastly, I thank Erin Bowman for offering to fill John Vail's position as Secretary until someone else is appointed or elected. She is neither a foster parent or KFCA member now but did hold the position back when she was our Case Aid. How about that for helping out! Thank you Erin! (hint....it should be one of you)

The success of KFCA has always been with it's Board members. Committed people with one goal and that was to make your lives just a little better. I believe that they have done more than that. Don't you?

The changing of the guard is upon you.

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Phyllis Bishop went from the Special Events Coordinator (which she is exceptional at) and is now your Vice President. She accepted the position when her husband, Jeff couldn't fulfill his duties due to being a long haul truck driver but non the less, I thank him for filling this position when we needed him. Thank you Jeff! Lesa Leclair is now in charge of Child Care. A challenging position for sure. Lara Marshall is Culinary Goddess making sure that you are served tasty meals each month and she is doing just that! People stepping up to make a difference for you!

Luanne Vail and Sharon are going to continue to shop for raffles as well as the Holiday party and other various things. Sharon will take over as Historian as well.

Onward to the two most generous people. Your new President will be Debra Converse and your Treasurer will be Chuck Converse. They run unopposed so I say with certainty that they will be elected. Their positions are no small challenges and for over the past year as Board members, they have learned what KFCA is all about. Now is their turn to add their own flavor to how it will be run. I encourage each of you to give your membership and support to them for a successful transition. I believe that you will be very happy with their enthusiasm and energy. I thank them for stepping forward. KFCA is very fortunate to receive them. I am also very happy!

This month will be a regular meeting with Check and Debra speaking to you concerning themselves. Next month will be elections for their positions as well as voting on the budget and standing rules. Please turn out because in addition, DCFS Staff and leaders will be there for Foster Parent Appreciation and will once again bring and serve desert! How cool is that? We always have a great time!
That's it for this month folks.....please say a prayer for John Vail and his family.
Your President Rick Williams



Kitsap Foster Care Association's Annual Mariner's Event Friday, June 1, 2007 @ 7:05pm

The association has purchased 125 tickets and will have two buses available for transportation.

Tickets may be reserved for active foster parents, relative caregivers, and the children in their homes.

This event is to support foster and relative placements, please do not invite friends, relatives, or have your children invite friends.

Reserve your tickets now! Both buses will leave from the East Bremerton Walmart parking lot.
Time to be announced.

To reserve your tickets and space on the bus now, Call Luanne Vail at 876-5207
Please join us for this fun, family event!
Thank you for all that you do!



KFCA Newsletter
P.O. Box 4542
Bremerton, WA 98312

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