Every day more and more relatives are stepping up to care for their grandchildren and other related children. We call this Kinship Care. Our State and Federal government have several programs that support Kinship families in some way, and local and national Foundations also provide resources and funding. Our Kinship program at Family Education & Support Services is fortunate to have the support of so many Agencies and Foundations. Each of these funding sources have specific requirements that we are contractually obligated to fulfill in regard to how the money is to be used. Our contracts include requirements to establish Kinship Caregiver Support Groups that include training components; and they set guidelines regarding who can attend and when childcare should be provided. Grants have brought us money for Inter-generational events, book clubs, and additional staff hours. Grants and government contracts require us to document activities and complete reports in a timely manner. When you are asked to sign in at meetings and activities, or to answer questions in a survey, that is helping us capture the data that is needed. We appreciate your cooperation with these requirements.

We are grateful for the agreements that we have with The Hands On Children’s Museum in Olympia, the Mason Transit Center in Shelton, and the Unity Center for Positive Living in Centralia. Each of these organizations have their own specific guidelines and regulations that we have agreed to follow. Sometimes the situation may not work for everyone, but we are trying hard to serve as many Kinship families as possible. Please be patient with us as our programs grow, and please ask questions if there is something you do not understand. We may not be able to change certain aspects of our program, but we promise that we will explain the reasons behind our policies and practices.

I appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive to continue to serve your needs. Thank you.

-Lynn Urvina
Welcome To Our Kinship Team!!

Family Education and Support Services Kinship Program is currently participating in a Kinship Navigator Pilot Project, in partnership with the University of Washington and two other Navigator sites in our state. This project’s goal is to develop a statewide, evidence-based program that will allow Federal dollars to be added to existing statewide Kinship programming funds. Our Kinship Program currently serves Thurston, Lewis and Mason Counties, with the Pilot being focused on Thurston County.

Due to the importance of correctly gathering data for this research project and the increased demands on our Kinship Navigator, Lynn Urvina, we have added additional staff to assist our Kinship families in Lewis and Mason Counties.

Effective immediately, Clint Claw dus will be scheduling and completing intakes for Kinship caregivers in Mason County. Most of his appointments will be scheduled at our Shelton office on the second floor of the Mason Transit Center.

Jamie Lucus will be scheduling and completing intakes for our families in Lewis County, with most appointments being in Centralia or Chehalis.

Clint and Jamie will be establishing set days of the week to meet with Kinship caregivers. We ask for your patience as we transition to a more structured program that will allow us to provide services and resources to more Kinship families in the future.

Are you interested in gaining more Tools? Learning better skills to address the challenging needs of Caregiving? Are you searching for answers?

Free to you with no long-term commitment.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 4th, 2020; 10-11:30 am
Contact: Tammara Newbill–Kinship Special Projects
@360.754.7629 or Tammara@familyESS.org

The Kinship Team at Family Education & Support Services

Shelly Willis – Executive Director at Family Education & Support Services

Lynn Urvina – Kinship Program Manager and Kinship Navigator. Lynn has worked as the Kinship Navigator for over 11 years. She is a Kinship Caregiver that has adopted one of her grandchildren, who is now 16 years old. Lynn also serves on the Washington State Kinship Care Advisory Committee and is the representative for Washington State on Generations United’s GRAND Network of advisors. Her position is part-time, and she usually works Monday – Thursday. You can reach her at Lynn@Familyess.org.

Rosa Venancio – Spanish Speaking Kinship Navigator Assistant and Pilot Project Data Entry Specialist. She serves our Spanish-speaking clients in the three-county area. Rosa has been in her position for 8 years and was previously a Kinship Caregiver. Rosa works part-time, usually Monday – Thursday from 9:30 – 3:00pm. Her email is Rosa@Familyess.org.

Tammara Newbill – Kinship Special Projects Assistant. Tammara is a Kinship Caregiver who has been raising her grandson for the past ten years. She has worked with us as a Volunteer, an Intern and now a part-time employee. Tammara is also pursuing her Master of Social Work degree at the UW Tacoma. Her schedule varies, depending on the current project and her schooling. Contact her at Tammara@Familyess.org.

Clint Claw dus – Mason County KCSP Specialist and Kinship Program Data Entry. Clint has worked with our Kinship Program, entering data for us, for three years. Clint can be reached at Clint@Familyess.org.

Jamie Lucas – Lewis County KCSP Specialist. Jamie is a Kinship Caregiver that is new to our program and will be assisting our Kinship families in Lewis County. She can be reached at Jamie@Familyess.org.

Joyce Mallinger – Joyce is a Kinship Caregiver who currently facilitates our Kinship Support Group in Lewis County and our evening Thurston County group.

Trista Mason–Substitute Support Group Facilitator

Kelli O’Reilly – Children’s Program Leader for our Support Group in Lewis County. Kelli has worked with our Lewis County group off and on for many years. We are happy to have her back with us, coordinating children’s activities in Lewis County.

Ben Michaelis – Children’s Program Leader at The Hands On Children’s Museum in Olympia.