



Kinship Newsletter

Thurston-Lewis-Mason Counties

July - 2020

Someone can love you desperately with their feelings and still not know how to love you correctly with their actions.



Join the Kinship Group on Zoom

Take a much needed break, meet up with your fellow Kinship Caregivers & enjoy some well deserved "Me Time."

Meetings are: Tuesday Afternoons 2-3:30 pm

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-8 pm

Contact Tammara for signup information:

Tammara@familyess.org



Welcome to the Kinship Team Anatha Attar!



Anatha Attar joined the Kinship Team at Family Education & Support Services on July 1, 2020. Anatha brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our

program. She has a BA from Evergreen State College and a Masters Degree from St. Martin's University. She has experience in a variety of social services and brings a passion for serving others to this position. Anatha will be focusing on our Pilot Kinship Navigator Research Program, which is currently focused on Thurston County Caregivers. She will be completing initial interviews and quarterly reviews with Pilot participants. In her spare time, Anatha is learning Italian and when able, she loves to travel and hike. Welcome Anatha!!

- Lynn Urvina



Join us for the 2020 Summer Library Program Online!

From June 1 - August 31 ~ for kids, teens, and adults ~
Sign up and participate online at trl.beanstack.org

Stay Updated with th Kinship Navigator Program

Notifications during COVID-19 on our Facebook Group Page



Lewis-Mason-Thurston Kinship Caregivers Group



Family Education & Support Services
Supporting Families...Strengthening Communities



Julianna (6) →



Jase says . . .
 I love my family
 And I love Little bit
 And Honey (our puppies)
 We pray everyday at the dinner table.
 Cause its safe here.
 My dad won't hurt me
 I have lots of toys and hugs and kisses from my family and we eat good food.
 I like my school.
 I like my teacher

Jase (5) →



← Zaphera (9)



Congratulations 2020 Voices of Children

Winners!

5-7 Year Old Category:

Julianna(6) from Olympia, WA

Jase(5) from Yakima, WA

8-12 Year Old Category:

Zaphera (9) from Vancouver, WA

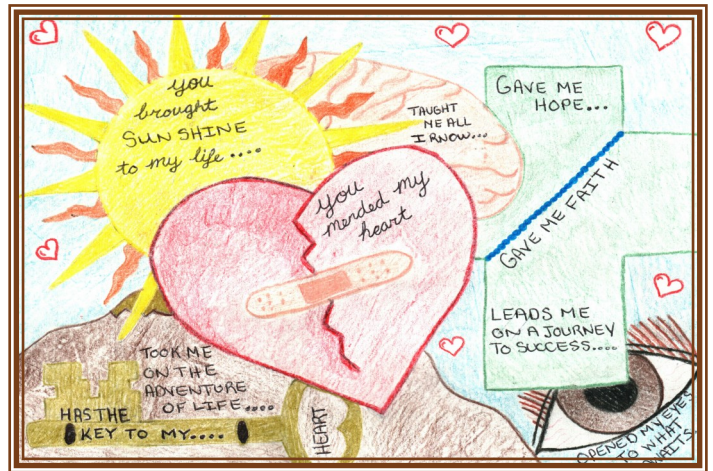
Kylee (12) from Forks, WA

13-19 Year Old Category:

Micaela (15) from Granger, WA

Chelsea (13) from Snohomish, WA

Hi my name is Micaela and I go to Vancouver Washington deaf school. I go to school Monday-Friday. I come back home on Friday and my aunt waits for me at the Branding Iron restaurant. I was born under 2 lb and am hearing impaired. I read people lips to understand them. I was raised by my grandparents my mom and step-dad would come and go into my life. My real dad is in state prison in Spokane the reason I know because my aunt told me. I have one brother and two other sisters. I just wish my mom would be a mom to me like I see other people out there with there parents. My mom & step dad are drugs addicts they choose to be with there friends than her own kids. Just maybe they will start being parents to us before it's to late. When my grandpa passed away from stage 4 cancer it was on March 24, 2016 my birthday is on March 22, 2004. I was so heart broken because my grandpa said to me he would be home on my birthday it couldn't happen because he got so sick he couldn't leave the hospital and my grandpa passaway on March 24, 2016 so that just left our grandma to take care of us. Well that same year my grandma started getting sick but my grandma would tells us she ok. On Nov. 18, 2017 my grandma had stage 4 cancer and they told my grandma she only had 6 months to no more than a year to live. My aunt Rebecca had moved in with us so she can take care of her mom and us. My aunt would take my grandma to her doctor's appointment any other places she had to go. So my aunt took care of my grandma until she passed away my grandma passaway on Jan. 8, 2018 and my grandma birthday was the next day we were all hurt when our grandma left us especially my aunt my sister's will hear her cry at night saying mom I need you more than ever what am I going to do without you. The reason I know because my sister will tell me. The hardest part is that we didn't know who was going to take care of us. We found out by the state that my aunt Rebecca was going to raise. I need to tell you a little about my aunt she go out and beyond for us. She puts us first then herself. She takes us to our doctor appointments, dentist, eye exam, myself, my sister and brother had made honor roll she tells us your education comes first don't be like your aunt getting her GED diploma at age 46 year old it was hard for me to get my diploma. If my aunt wins the contest she will be my first on the list. Thank you, Micaela



← Micaela (15)

↑ Kylee (12)

↓ Chelsea (13)

I was young when I was adopted by my grandparents. I remember being so little, rocking in my baby bouncer, listening to my parents argue about courts and custody. She was always leaving me, not remembering to feed me, so my grandparents had to take care of me. When my mom left and never came back, I was so sad. I was so worried for her. I later found out that my mom was on drugs, including when she was pregnant with me. This has affected my life negatively, as I now struggle with depression, anxiety, and ADHD.

The first time I went to visit her in jail, I ran up to hug her and they wouldn't let me hug her because they still needed to file paperwork so I could be able to even touch her. It was a very long process. Thankfully now, my mom is recovered and actually being a mom to me, but I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for my grandparents. She was going to give me up for adoption, but my grandparents said, "no, we're taking her!"

They gave me my own room, they fed me and bought me everything I needed. They've pretty much done everything for me and I am so grateful. Because of them, I've been able to get a good education. I have freedom. My grandparents have been sweethearts since the first grade. They have been together for 74 years! My grandpa has endured over 42 surgeries. Even though he is in pain and been through a lot, he is always there for me, playing with me outside, taking me places. He is amazing. I am so lucky to have such strong, loving role models as them.



Family Education & Support Services
 Supporting Families...Strengthening Communities

The Brookdale Foundation Group

The Brookdale Foundation The Glendale Foundation Ramapo Trust
 Supporting today's seniors and tomorrow's leaders in aging