



# Kinship Newsletter

Lewis, Mason, & Thurston  
Counties

Resources for Families  
**Lewis County**



### Kinship Picnic

Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties

August 6, 2022 11:30-2:00

Come for Food, Fun & Friendship



Please bring chips or cookies.  
Small subs, pinwheels, salads  
and beans will be provided.



Carnival games/prizes



Please call Bobbi at (360) 701-3979 or  
email to [bobbic@familyess.org](mailto:bobbic@familyess.org) to let her know how  
many to expect. Thank you!

-Pioneer Park-

555 Israel Rd SW Tumwater, WA 98501  
(Off of Henderson BLVD)



## Garlic Fest 2022

August 26th - 28th

August 26 - August 28  
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

[Garlic Fest 2022](#)

Southwest Washington Fair 1909 S Gold St,  
Centralia, WA

**Thank you to our partners in  
supporting Kinship in Lewis,  
Thurston and Mason Counties.**



LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON  
AREA AGENCY ON AGING



## Thurston County

### **WET SCIENCE CENTER**

The Wet Science Center is a **free** hands-on fun place to visit and learn.

Click on the link below to take a virtual tour.

(ctrl button down and click mouse)

[Take The Virtual Tour - WET Science Center](#)



## **Mason County**

### **Back to School Festival 2022**

Starts at

Sat, Aug 27, 5:00 AM

Ends at

Sat, Aug 27, 8:00 PM

Venue

3301 N Shelton Springs Rd, Shelton, WA

Description

Families are invited to the 2022 Back to School Festival! When: Saturday- August 27, 2022, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Where: Oakland Bay Jr. High (3301 N Shelton Springs Rd, Shelton, WA 98584) **FREE**

## Voices of Children

**July 14<sup>th</sup> was a very special day for kinship children and Kinship caregiver winners of the Voices of Children contest. Each participant shared their written or artistic entry via ZOOM with First Lady, Trudi Inslee and family members. Last month we honored the first three winners. This month, we honor the final 5. We are so grateful for your entries.**

16 years ago, I met a little girl who taught me about true unconditional love. She calls me Auntie. I took her in the day after my first child came home from the hospital. I loved her more than I loved myself and it was a very easy choice to make. Five months later, her little brother was born, premature and fighting for his life in the NICU. Without any hesitation I brought him home from the hospital after 3 months, he weighed 5 pounds and had a feeding tube in his nose. He taught me the true meaning of how to overcome your circumstances and be great.

Loving my brother's children as I love my own is the easy part. Getting them through the struggles of not having their own dependable parents and wading through the trauma is the hard part. My niece and nephew continue to thrive in my care, and I am just amazed every single day by their resilience.

I am a single parent, raising them along with six of my own children. There are mountains, there are valleys. But every single moment is worth it. To give these children a safe place to be and a person who is entirely invested in them has been one of the greatest joys of my life.

Samantha—Aunt

## "An angel for another angel"--poem of my life

I, Alison was born on March 10, 2009, I was born with a physical and mental disability. There was a lot of emotion awaiting my arrival, I cried and then didn't cry anymore, a silence came over the hospital room and the doctors began to act, and when I opened my eyes, I saw myself without a mother and so alone in a hospital crib, with tubes in my nose so I could breathe. My mom asked, what happened? The doctors answered your baby is not well, your baby is not healthy, she was born with a mental and physical disability, when she heard that, she cried! She was tormented! I was waiting for her with a kiss and a lot of love, but little by little she pulled away from me, leaving me without her warmth. My mother may have abandoned me but never God, sending me an angel, the purest and softest angel, like the clouds that exist in the sky! My great-grandmother Maria, that's her name... a noble and good person who God gave me, the sweetest and most tender, why ask for more!

She came to be my hands, my feet and eyes, I learned little by little to walk and half run, but the most beautiful thing is to feel her love and refuge under her wings...

I came to fill the love and the void left by my great-grandfather when he passed, her husband. I arrived at the precise moment to fill her empty heart, here I am, grandma, hug me, I need you!

She left her home, family and her own life to dedicate herself to me, for which I thank her with all my heart. She gave her body and soul to my whole being.

Thank you beautiful grandma and thank you more my lord for putting such a big heart in my path, the best angel out of your collection.

*Allison--Age-13*

You spend your nights asking why? Why you were never good enough? Why you never mattered, why they hated you? When your done screaming and sobbing your left with the why. And no one can ever answer you. No one ever will. With time it gets easier. With time you learn how to breath again. My nights are no longer filled with fighting. I no longer question my worth. I no longer ask if anyone would care. I've been living with my grandparents the last year and its saved me. I wasn't sure if I'd make it to my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but I did. I graduate high school in 65 days, something I was told I'd never do because I was too stupid to do. I've screamed and cried asking questions I'll never have answers to but I've made peace with it. My dad told me he would always be there and for a long time I believed him. He protected me from my pszologic mother, who let her boyfriend rape me for awhile. I knew who I could count on. But when I had tears streaming down my face and blood on my arm I knew he no longer cared. The day he told me I was no longer his was the day I broke. I cant say I understand because I don't but I've made peace. If I went through what I did because someone else didn't have to then okay. I'm not able to change what happened and I'll never be able to answer but I do know I'm almost one year self harm free, I have a future, and my goals will be met with ful force.

*Carmin--Age 18*