



February Newsletter 2025

Support Groups

What's Happening at FESS?

Thurston, Mason, Lewis Events

Resources

Fun Holidays



The Brookdale Foundation Group

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

ZOOM Support Group

Join Zoom Support Group Meeting

Every Weds 6:30-8pm

<https://zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 446 048 833

Passcode: 006845

Facilitated by Lynn Urvina

kinshiplynn@gmail.com

Are you interested in more
in-person meetings?

Please let us know your
county, preferred meeting
days, and a good method of
contact so we can set up a
meeting that suits your
needs!

February- Thurston

County Briggs

YMCA -

CANCELLED

March - TBD



[Lewis-Mason-Thurston Kinship Caregivers](#) | [Facebook](#)

What's Happening at FESS?

Voices of Children Contest and Kinship Caregivers Contest 2025!

WE WANT YOUR VOICE HEARD!

The Voices of Children and Kinship Caregivers is your chance to help your kids tell their story and for you to share how Kinship Care has positively impacted you.

Our statewide annual contest was started 22 years ago to bring awareness to Kinship Care in WA state.

The book is shared with Leaders around the state to help them understand Kinship Care and ideally become supporters and advocates for you and your children.

Please consider entering this year's contest - Our area has been low on entries the last few years and I would love to include you!

Here is a [Link](#) to last year's book to give you inspiration or courage. If confidentiality is a concern we can change the names of the entrants.

2025 ~ 22nd Annual

Voices of Children Contest AND Kinship Caregivers Contest



What are the Contests?

Voices of Children

Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives is a contest for *children* in Washington State, who are being raised (now or in the past) by a relative – other than their parents.

Voices of Kinship Caregivers

is a contest for *Kinship caregivers* in Washington State, who are raising (now or in the past) a relative child not their own.

The contest honors both, the more than 57,000 children, and the more than 47,000 grandparent & relatives in Washington State who are raising them.

How Do You Enter the Contest?

Children: Write a poem, short essay, or draw a picture that **describes how living with a relative** (such as a Grandparent, Aunt, or Uncle) **has made a positive difference in your life.**

Caregivers: Write a poem or short essay that describes your **positive** experiences as a Kinship Caregiver. Entries will be judged in 3 categories: Reflect Kinship? Thought Out? Goosebumps?

Age Groups: 5-7 year-olds; 8-12 year-olds; 13-19 year-olds; and Kinship Caregivers

What are the Rules?

- All participating children must live in **Washington State** and children must be **5-19 years old**.
- Poems should be 21 lines or less.
- Essays should be 200 words or less for **children**, 500 words or less for **caregivers**.
- Make your art as big and bold as possible and add a statement that explains your drawing.
- **Artwork must be submitted on the enclosed entry form.**
- Do not include any names within the artwork.
- Artwork must be flat and submitted within the box on the entry form (Other side of this page).
- Winners will be notified in early May and the decisions of the judges are final.
- The Award's Ceremony will be Time & Date TBA.
- We reserve the right of first publication and use of the writings and drawings submitted.
- All entries may be published in a 2025 Book entitled: **"Voices of Children & Voices of Kinship Caregivers"**

What are the Prizes?

The **Two Top** Entries in each Child Age Division and the top 3 Adult Entries will receive:

* \$100 from Twin Star Credit Union



2025 ~ 22nd Annual

Voices of Children Contest AND Kinship Caregivers Contest



Write an essay, poem, or submit a drawing **describing how you have benefited by living with a relative.** Poems should be 21 lines or less.

Essays should be 200 words or less for **children**, 500 words or less for **caregivers**. Writings may be submitted on this entry form or a separate piece of white paper.

Drawings should be **BIG, BOLD, and COLORFUL** images. **ARTWORK MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM.**

Artwork not submitted on this form will be ineligible for the contest. Do not include any names within the artwork.



Child's Full Name: _____ Age: _____

Adult/Caregiver Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(Address) (City) (Zip Code)

Email Address _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Mail or Email Your Contest Entries to:

2024 Voices of Children Contest
c/o Family Education & Support Services
P.O. Box 14907
Tumwater, WA 98511 or kinship@familyess.org

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE
SUBMITTED OR POSTMARKED BY
APRIL 15th, 2025**

Questions? Call: 360.754.7629
OR
Email: kinship@familyess.org

Privacy Note: The information above is for the Award's committee members to contact you and will not be shared with any third parties.
All entries will be published with the child's first name only and age. All other personal information will be withheld.



FREE
GUIDING GOOD CHOICES
PARENTING TOGETHER SERIES

Weekly Gatherings
Feb. 12, 2025 - Mar. 19, 2025

Wednesdays
5:30 - 7:30 PM



LOCATION:
VIRTUAL ON ZOOM
(link sent upon registration)

MEET & CONNECT
WITH OTHER
PARENTS

Join us for a nationally-recognized, evidence-based parenting workshop series. Topics include positive discipline tools, communication skills, child development and stress/anger management.

LEARN PRACTICAL
TOOLS, TIPS,
STRATEGIES

ENROLL WITH A FRIEND, YOU BOTH
RECEIVE A \$50 FRED MEYER GIFT CARD

For more information or to register:

www.familyess.org
or call (360) 754-7629



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Washington State
Health Care Authority

Family Education & Support Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider and does not discriminate.

SAFE CHILDREN | STRONG FAMILIES | HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT



Did you live in Washington State for at least 183 days in 2024?



Are you at least 25 and under 65 years of age OR have a qualifying child in 2024?



Did you file a 2024 federal tax return with a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?

If YES, you could be eligible for a tax refund up to \$1,290



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Contact Mark Goebel
markg@familyess.org

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT

Crédito Tributario para Familias Trabajadoras

Department of
Revenue
Washington State



¿Vivió en el estado de Washington durante al menos 183 días en 2024?



¿Tiene usted al menos 25 años y menos de 65 años de edad O tiene un hijo calificado en 2024?



¿Presentó una declaración de impuestos federales de 2024 con un Número de Seguro Social (SSN) o un Número de Identificación Personal del Contribuyente (ITIN)?

Si la respuesta es SÍ, podría ser elegible para un reembolso de impuestos de hasta \$1,290



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Contacta con
Mark Goebel
markg@familyess.org

THURSTON

Valentine's Cardmaking

Feb. 1 - 14

11:00 am - 3:00 pm



HANDS ON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

EBT: HOCM participates in the Museums for All program and accepts EBT/SNAP and WIC as proof of eligibility. You must show proof of eligibility at check-in.

\$3 only!

<https://www.hocm.org/event/valentines-cardmaking/>

First Friday Night at Hand's On Children's Museum

February 7, 2025 4:00 PM –8:00 PM

\$1 Admission exhibits, activities & guests!
FREE admission if you reserve a dental health screening.

414 Jefferson St NE Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 956-0818
info@hocm.org

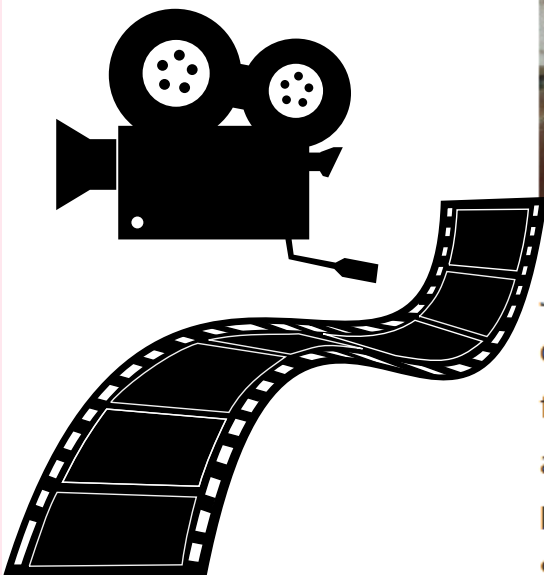


MASON

SHELTON FILM SOCIETY

Friday, February 14, 2025
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

217 West Cota Street, Shelton, WA,
98584, United States ([map](#))



Join the Shelton Film Society! We'll be screening cool flicks at Marmo on the second Friday of every month including classics, Italian films, art films, horror, & more! Wine, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Spend a cozy evening with us, bring a cushion or blanket if you'd like. Free, all ages. Produced in partnership with the Shelton Timberland Library and Kanopy

LEWIS



White Pass Country Museum

The museum is generally open 11am to 4 pm. Thursday, Friday and Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays through the remainder of the year. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

12990 US 12

Packwood, WA, 98361

RESOURCES

THURSTON

Childcare Action Council: 3729
Griffin Ln. SE, Olympia, 98501
360-786-8907 x 100 |

www.ccacwa.org

-Keeps a list of Day Care
Openings

Catholic Community Services: 148
Rogers St. NW, Olympia, 98502
360-878-8248 | www.ccsww.org

-Long Term Care and Family
Behavioral Health; Child, Youth,
and Family Services

South Sound Clothing Closet:
5501 Wiggins Road SE, Olympia.
It is open Saturdays from 10:00
a.m. until noon.

-FREE for Kinship Families

MASON

United Methodist Church

Clothing Bank

Wednesdays

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

South Hall

*Our clothing closet is open to all
those in need of clothing throughout
the community. No intake is needed,
just show up and find your new
items!*

organization.

*Contact: Call our office with
questions 360-426-4174*

Senior Services for South Sound
360-586-6181 |
www.southsoundseniors.org

Gift for Special Children: PO Box
193, Matlock, 98560
360-427-7058 |

www.agiftforspecialchildren.org

-Play Groups, Parent Education, and
Community Provider Training

LEWIS

Gather Community Services @ 408 W
Main St., Centralia, WA

-Clothing order forms available Mondays
and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 10:30
am with pick-up ready by noon, same day.

Lewis County Gospel Mission @ 72 S.W.
Chehalis Ave., Chehalis, WA

-Clothing available Monday through Friday
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Love Inc. Phone 360-748-8611

-For assistance including rent, utilities,
furniture, gas vouchers, laundry vouchers,
etc. When seeking assistance, call and
leave a message detailing the need and
you will receive a follow-up phone call.

Lifeline Cell Phone Service: Cell phone
service at no cost to qualified participants.
Qualification includes enrollment in Apple
Health Insurance or other assistance
program. Limited to one phone per
household. Various providers including:

- Get Started with Access Wireless -
Lifeline/ACP Free Cellphone Service
- Lifeline Phone Service | Assurance
Wireless
- Free Government Phones Washington
State | enTouch Wireless
- Free Government Cell Phone Lifeline
Program - Life Wireless
- Q Link Wireless - Free Phone Service
with Lifeline and ACP
- SafeLink Wireless
- Free Cell Phone Service, Free Cell
Phones | TerraCom
(terracomwireless.com)

Fun Holidays

Lunar New Year
Year of the Snake
February 7th



National Pizza Day
February 9th



Valentine's Day
February 14th



President's Day
February 17th

