

Kinship Connections

(formerly called Support Groups)

*In Person - **Lewis, Mason, and Thurston** counties once a month - Food is provided during the first 30 minutes, then children's activities provided while caregivers meet in person to share joys, challenges, and support one another.*

Please RSVP to Danaet@familyess.org (include children's age(s))

MASON COUNTY

THURSTON COUNTY

TBD

LEWIS COUNTY

TBD

QPR Class for our July Meeting!

Please RSVP with Danae:
DanaeT@familyess.org
or text 360-720-3930



Monday

July 13th

5-7 PM



Shelton Family YMCA

3101 N Shelton Spring Rd.
Shelton, WA 98584



MEET VIRTUALLY VIA **ZOOM WEEKLY**

Every Wednesday

6:30 pm-8 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Hosted by Lynn Urvina

Meeting ID: 446 048 833

Passcode: 006845

Link is the SAME every week

Drop in - no RSVP needed.



KINSHIP PICNIC 2026



Aug. 4th, 4-6pm

Tumwater Historical Park



**777 Simmons St. NW,
Tumwater, WA, 98501**

**FREE Food, Games,
&
Giveaways!**

**Please RSVP to:
DanaeT@familyess.org
or text 360-720-3930**

**Gas cards available for
Mason and Lewis families
that attend!**



Kinship Caregiver Support Program (KCSP)

The Washington State Legislature made funds available to assist lower income kinship caregivers with some basic needs. Eligible families may qualify for a one time Financial Grant to help with:

- **Food, Clothing and Basic Needs**
- **School and Youth Activities**
- **Emergency Utility Assistance**
- **Emergency Rental Assistance**
- **Transition Counseling**
- **Transportation Assistance**

Funds subject to availability.

Funds are available for **3 years in a row**, then families must take **1 year off**. Our year is July 1 – June 30. For many caregivers, this year – July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, will be their 3rd year in a row being served.



2026 Annual Kinship Survey

Hello AMAZING Kinship Caregivers - thank you for taking the time to fill out our annual survey. We need your input to serve you better! Once you complete the survey, make sure you click done and you will be asked for your email to be entered into a **drawing for 1 of 10, \$20 gift cards!** Put "**N/A**" if you do **NOT** want to be entered into the drawing.

LINK: [2026 Annual FESS Kinship Survey](#).

Question Persuade Refer

*Three steps anyone can learn
to prevent suicide*

We can all save lives

QPR is a 90 minute research-based training providing practical and proven suicide prevention strategies for work, school, at home, and in your community.

What to Expect

Through presentation, videos and practice, you will be able to respond confidently to emergency situations.

Skills and topics include:

- Recognizing Risk Factors & Warning Signs of Suicide
- Understanding the Myths & Facts of Suicide
- Question - Learn How to (and not to) Ask About Suicide
- Persuade - Learn How to Influence a Person to Seek Ongoing Help
- Refer - Learn How to Refer and Navigate a Person to Resources

Thank you to our Sponsors



*Ask a question,
save a life!*



July Kinship Connections In-Person Meeting!

★ QPR Suicide Prevention Certification Course

SHELTON YMCA

3101 N Shelton Spring Rd. Shelton, WA 98584



**Monday, July 13, 2026
5:30 - 7:00 pm**

**Please RSVP with Danae:
DanaeT@familyess.org
or text **360-720-3930****

Navigator Corner

Happy National Culinary Arts Month

National Culinary Arts Month is celebrated throughout July, with National Culinarians Day observed on July 25 to recognize and appreciate cooks and chefs. This special observance encourages families and friends to come together over a shared meal, try a new recipe, enjoy a picnic or dinner, and celebrate the joy of cooking and connecting around the table.

[Click Here to Learn More](https://familyess.org/navigatorcorner0726)

familyess.org/navigatorcorner0726



TBRI Summer Connection Tips:

Keep children connected and supported by spending daily one-on-one time together, maintaining some consistent routines, using play to build relationships, meeting physical needs, offering positive encouragement, and preparing them for transitions. Most importantly, be present and intentional—small moments of connection can have a lasting impact.

This week's challenge: Plan a simple family activity—such as a walk, picnic, game night, or ice cream outing—and enjoy the time together without distractions to strengthen connection.

[Click Here to Learn More](https://familyess.org/navigatorcorner0726)

familyess.org/navigatorcorner0726



Kinship Contact Information:

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Anatha Atthar

Navigator/Case Manager
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Trista Mason

Director of Kinship Services
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(360) 701-3979

Join us on Social Media!



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



Family Education & Support Services



[instagram.com/familyess.org](https://www.instagram.com/familyess.org)



Kinship Perks



Olympia, WA

Reduced Rates - \$3 admission fee for families with **EBT Card**

www.hocm.org



Olympia, WA

Entry is always FREE!

www.wetsciencecenter.org/events

Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship Care (LAARK)

LAARK lawyers offer free legal advice and referrals to Kinship Caregivers over the phone.

Call Danae to complete your application by phone

Free State Park Camping for Kinship Families



WA State Park Foster Family Pass gives free camping and admission to Kinship Families

parks.wa.gov (Search: Kinship)

Contact Danae for verification form

Seattle, WA



Free Admission for Kinship Families

www.seattleaquarium.org

Up to 2 Adults, 5 Kids present Kinship Card

Seattle, WA



Free Tickets Available for Kinship Families

www.zoo.org

Contact Danae for availability

Seattle, WA



Free Admission for Kinship Families

Call (206) 443-2924 or email membership@pacsci.org

Present your Kinship Card

Tacoma, WA



Eatonville, WA



Reduced Rates

for Kinship and Foster Families

- \$6 - Daytime Admission Tickets
- \$45 - Annual Memberships

www.pdza.org

www.nwtrek.org/wild-access/

present Kinship Card at ticket window



Discounted: 45% off

YMCA Memberships

Available to Kinship Families

FESS can pay for 6 months while funds are available
Contact Danae to apply

If you have issues accessing any Kinship perks,

email: **Kinship@familyess.org**

or text Danae: **(360) 720-3930**