



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))

SAVE THE DATE!

KINSHIP PICNIC

**Thurston County
Tumwater Historical Park
Aug. 4th, 4-6pm**

Mason and Lewis Picnics TBD

LEWIS COUNTY

TBD

THURSTON COUNTY

TBD

MASON COUNTY

2nd Monday of each month

**Monday
June 8th**

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

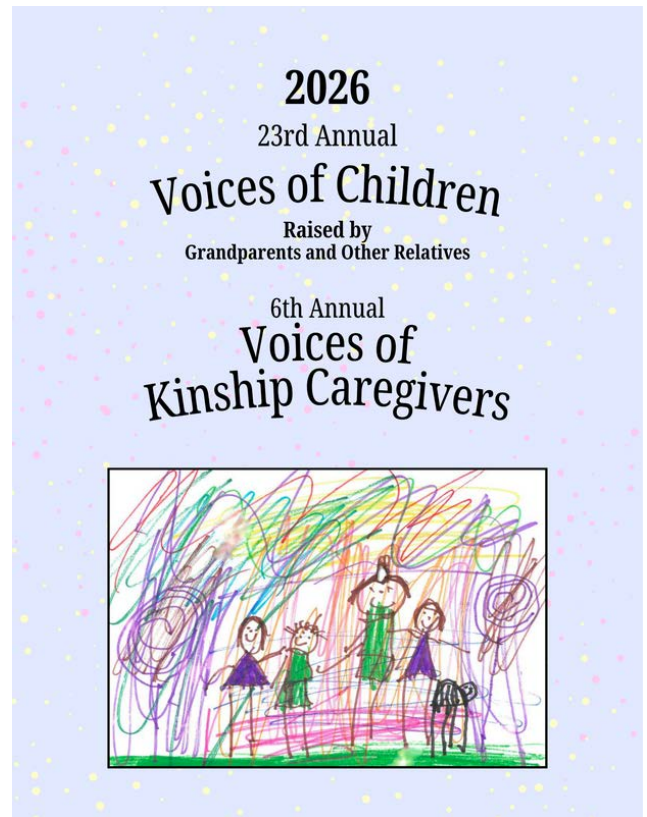
Link is the SAME every week

Drop in - no RSVP needed.



Congratulations to the
Voices of Children Local
Winners!

Susan and Zenya!



[Voices of Children Ceremony Pictures 2026 – Family
Education & Support Services](#)

[Commentary: 'Voices of Children' statewide contest
celebrates kinship care | Thurston Chronicle](#)

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 one 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.



Navigator Corner

National Pen Pal Day

June 1 is National Pen Pal Day, a celebration of friendships built through letter writing. Having a pen pal can improve writing skills, teach us about other places and cultures, and encourage patience in a fast-paced world. Families interested in starting a pen pal friendship can explore [Postcrossing](https://www.postcrossing.com/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) for ideas and connections.



[Click Here to Learn More](https://www.postcrossing.com/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[familyess.org/navigatorcorner0626](https://www.postcrossing.com/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

Behavior is Communication



TBRI® teaches that behavior is often a child's way of communicating unmet needs, fear, stress, or past trauma. In kinship care, responding with calmness, curiosity, and connection instead of punishment helps children feel safe and learn regulation. The key idea is: connection before correction.

[Click Here to Learn More](https://www.postcrossing.com/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[familyess.org/navigatorcorner0626](https://www.postcrossing.com/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

Kinship Contact Information:

Danae Tanner

Kinship - Admin Support
danaet@familyess.org
(360) 720-3930

Penny Michel

Navigator/Case Manager
pennym@familyess.org
(360) 721-5924

Anatha Atthar

Navigator/Case Manager
anatha@familyess.org
(360) 999-8253

Trista Mason

Director of Kinship Services
trista@familyess.org
(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)



The Brookdale Foundation Group

FREE
GUIDING GOOD CHOICES
PARENTING TOGETHER SERIES
TUMWATER



Weekly Gatherings
May 13 - June 17, 2026

Wednesdays
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Enjoy a FREE meal before class!

LOCATION:

**Family Education and
Support Services**
6840 Capitol Blvd. SE
Bldg. 3

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

**Take home practices that can be applied
immediately.**



**MEET & CONNECT WITH
OTHER PARENTS**



**LEARN PRACTICAL
TOOLS, TIPS,
STRATEGIES**

For more information or to register:
www.familyess.org/ggc
or call (360) 754-7629

NEW TRAINING **YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**



Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is a practical, skills-based training that teaches adults how to recognize, understand, and respond to mental health and substance use challenges in young people ages 12–18. This training empowers adults to make a meaningful difference by offering early support when it matters most.

Jun 15th, 2026
Mon: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Family Education and
Support Services
6840 Capitol Blvd. SE, Tumwater,
WA 98501



Register Here : <https://fess.coursestorm.com/course/youth-mental-health-first-aid>

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!*



SIGN UP TODAY!

QPR Suicide Prevention Certification Course

LIVE VIRTUAL TRAININGS

Upcoming Classes

May 13th Wednesday 11:30am-1:00pm

June 3rd Wednesday 5:30pm-7:00pm



**Register NOW
for FREE:**

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

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

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