



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM NV DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



2025 WITH DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

This past year, we witnessed countless stories of resilience and triumph within our Rural Nevada QPI community. From successful reunifications to teens thriving in school and extracurricular activities, your efforts make a tangible difference every day for families all across the state of Nevada. For the third year in a row, we present to you a "DCFS year in review" where we explore key data points that make up our child welfare system. We were so excited to welcome 19 new general foster homes in 2024. We are also taking time to shout out our extraordinary Rural NV QPI Champs. As we embark on this new year, we remain committed to our vision of ensuring every child has excellent parenting every day. Your efforts and collaboration fuel this mission and create brighter futures for children and families. We look forward to seeing what QPI in Nevada and nationwide will accomplish this year!

Here's to a 2025 filled with connection, growth, and shared success. Together, we can achieve more than we ever imagined.

LINKS & VIDEOS

[NEW SAFEWATCH APP DESIGNED TO MAKE IT EASIER TO REPORT HUMAN TRAFICKING](#)

[ONLINE HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH](#)



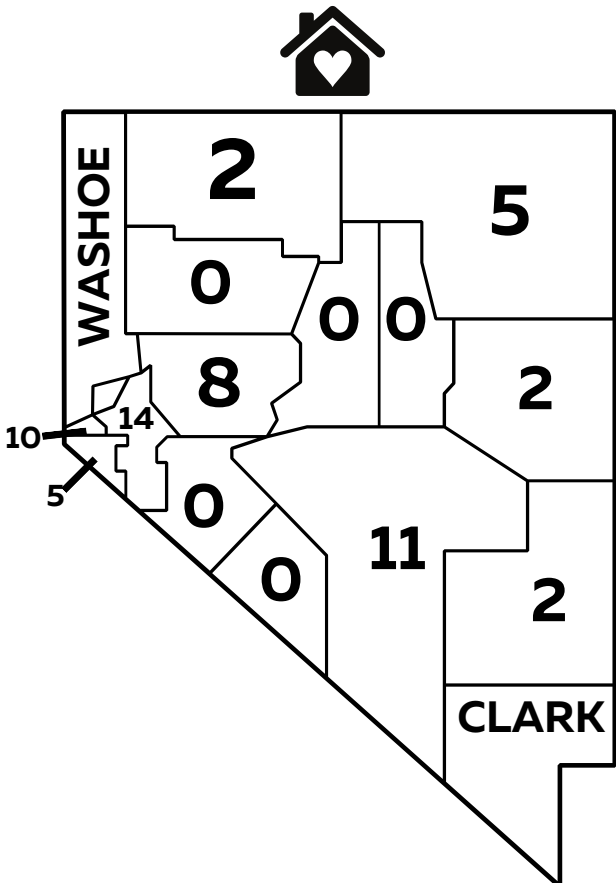
YEAR IN REVIEW

Our Year in review is a time to reflect on the landscape of child welfare in Rural Nevada. Having a general information on the makeup of our foster homes, why kids enter care and other subjects can help better inform your own fostering experience or what to expect to face. More data points can be found [here](#).

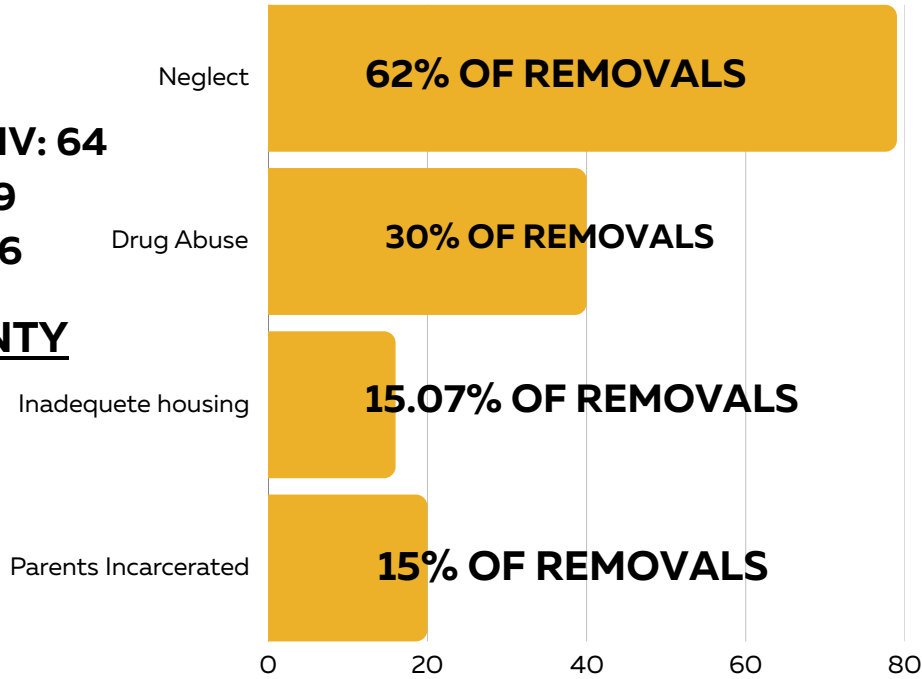
2024 FOSTER HOME STATS

TOTAL FOSTER HOMES IN RURAL NV: 64
FOSTER HOMES GAINED IN 2024: 19
FOSTER HOMES CLOSED IN 2024: 16

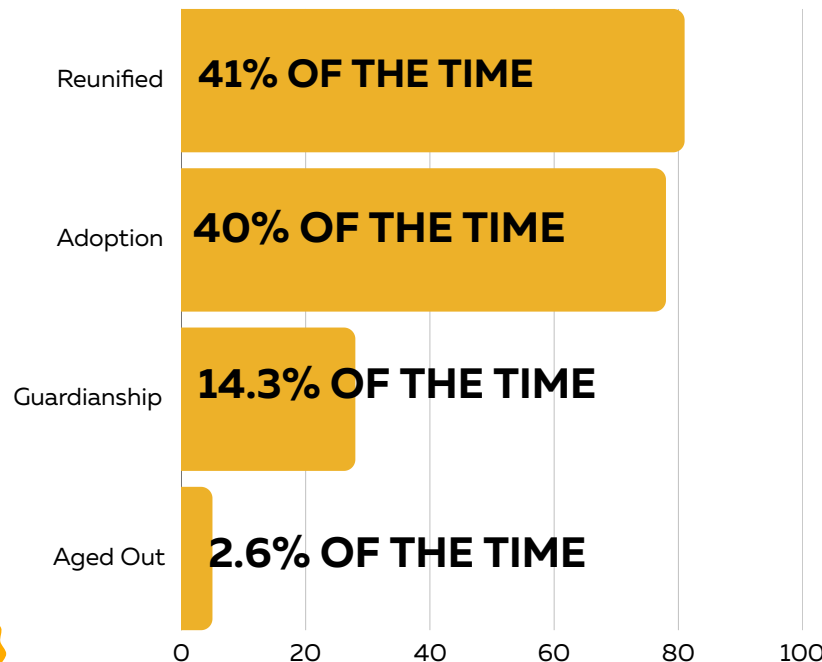
HOMES BROKEN DOWN BY COUNTY



TOP REASONS FOR ENTERING CARE IN 2024



TOP REASONS FOR EXITING CARE IN 2024



LONGEST HELD LICENSE
FRANK & LYNN SCIALABBA
20 YEARS OF FOSTERING

Thank You

SUPPORT GROUPS TRAININGS & PROGRAMS



RESPITE CO-OP: NOW LAUNCHED!

THE RESPITE CO-OP IS A VOLUNTARY LIST OF LICENSED FOSTER PARENTS & NON-PRIMARIES IN DCFS THAT ARE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR NAME AND CONTACT INFO WITH OTHER LICENSED FOSTER HOMES TO REACH FOR RESPITE PURPOSES. RESPITE OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE LARGE & SMALL.

UTILIZE IT FOR THINGS LIKE:

- OUT OF STATE TRIPS
- PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
- ARRANGE SCHOOL CARPOOL
- REST & DESTRESS
- IN BETWEEN DAYCARE/SCHOOL SPOTS
- ETC.

REGISTER



NEXT RURAL NV QPI MEETING:

1/15/2025 @ 11 AM

Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 277 708 469 865

Passcode: imUvnT

OR

Email sguzzetta@dcfs.nv.gov for meeting link

TBRI CORNER

A FREE INTERVENTION FOR ALL NEVADA FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES CONTACT NVFAMILYSUPPORT@RAISETHEFUTURE.ORG

CLICK TO WATCH: [TBRI TIP: DANGERS OF OVER RESPONDING](#)

TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION

TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors.



Family Support Program



Connect Youth. Support Families. Create Hope.

TBRI TRAINING VIEW UPCOMING TBRI TRAININGS



IN HOME COACHING IN HOME OR VIRTUAL COACHING FOR TBRI TRAINED FAMILIES



SUPPORT GROUPS TRAININGS & PROGRAMS



Family Respite Care of Nevada

RESPITE PROGRAM IN CARSON & ELKO

Family Respite Care of Nevada provides respite care services for children aged three months to 22 years, including daytime, evening, and Saturday services at our Family Center and Jr. & Teen Center.

[CLICK TO FILL OUT FAMILY INTEREST FORM](#)



Let's cowboy up for the kids

RENO RODEO FOSTER FAMILY DISTRIBUTION EVENT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025 FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM.
KIDS KOTTAGE TOO 2075 LONGLEY LANE RENO, NV 89502

[REGISTER](#)

QPI MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES:



QPI NATIONAL MONTHLY WEBINAR

QPI 101: FUNDAMENTALS & CORE PRINCIPALS OF QPI
JANUARY 16TH AT 11AM PST
VIA ZOOM

[REGISTER IN ENGLISH](#)

[REGISTER IN SPANISH](#)




JUST IN TME TRAINING LIVE WEBINAR

DISCOVER THE THRIVE SPACE: A WEB FOR SURVIVORS BY SURVIVORS

JANUARY 17TH 11:00 AM
VIA ZOOM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TRAININGS, EVENTS AND OTHER




Nevada Statewide Support Group on how to provide calm, connected, and consistent care to children who are healing from past trauma.

Facilitated by Michelle Rupe, TBRI® Practitioner
MRUPE@FOSTERKINSHIP.ORG

With support from Family Advocates Alisha McIntosh and Cindy Tarrant

"Understanding the trauma our children have been through allows us to understand as caregivers how to meet the need behind the behavior"
-Michelle Rupe



STATEWIDE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
Third Thursdays of the month @6PM
In person or via Zoom
8691 W Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89117
offered by DCFS partner Foster Kinship
<https://zoom.us/j/5655501139>
Passcode: kinship



THRIVING AFTER POST -PERMANENCY
Provided by Foster Kinship
Offering a Variety of Services to support families who have achieved permanency through a guardianship or an adoption.



JANUARY FINANCIAL LITERACY

Banking & Budgeting
Learning About Credit
Building Credit
Taxes

FEBRUARY RELATIONSHIPS

Safe Sex Education
Boundaries & Consent
Money in Relationships
Improving Relationships

UPCOMING INDEPENDENT LIVING WORKSHOPS

For youth age 14 & up on [ZOOM](#)

Wednesdays from 4:00pm-4:30pm
Zoom ID: 487 374 3854



NEVADA QPI JUST IN TIME TRAININGS

WWW.JITNEVADA.ORG



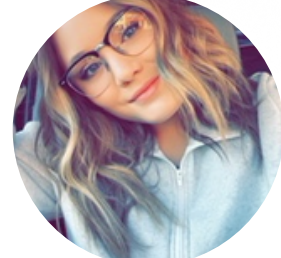
FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR FOSTER FAMILIES



[JOIN](#)

RURAL NV CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

OUTSTANDING CAREGIVERS



JACKIE LAWSON

Jackie Lawson is an amazing foster parent. She understands that family preservation is important. She is attentive to the kids that are placed in their home and advocated for them when needed.

JADE HASSEN

Jade Hassen Has gone above and beyond to ensure that her foster child's educational and medical needs are being met. Reaches out for support and is willing to try different parenting approaches.

LENA RAMOS

Lena Ramos-Gonzales is an amazing foster parent. She goes above and beyond for the children in her home and takes all steps to get them the care/assessments they need. She also is also willing to work with bio parents and extended family more than the average home. She is just overall wonderful.

THE FAVAROS

They have fostered so many children even when her house is full and will always make room for siblings to stay together. They have a really great perspective of bio parents and has helped mentor me as a newer foster parent. They really care for the children of the community and has told me that she does this because these kids need to know that someone cares and loves them.

SHAE TRAVIS

Shae goes above and beyond with all of the children placed in her care to ensure she is following the case plan, engaging with bioparents, and making sure the Childs needs are met. She stays in constant contact with the caseworkers to ensure that they are aware of anything they need to be. She also holds the agency accountable in regards to transition plans and ensuring things are communicated to the court.



JUDY ELLIS

She has been an outstanding Foster Parent. She has assisted many other foster parents in the community and has also helped with recruiting efforts. Judy goes above and beyond for youth placed with her and her husband. She recently re-opened her home due to an emergency with youth who was previously placed with.

TAMMI

SMITHBURG

She is a vice principal and takes the time to foster with her husband Jason. They go above and beyond making sure they make memories with their kiddos like going on a cruise to Mexico, Disneyland, and camping at the beach. They treat the kiddos as their own. They are compassionate and loving. Their hearts are really about the kiddos. They also take the children to Dr appts out of town with out hesitation to like Reno and SLC.

THE BARLOWS

There is so much love in their home. They truly embrace the children as part of their family and continue to be a significant support to children and their families that have reunified.

SUNNI WOOD

Not only is she the owner and operator of a thriving full time daycare, she currently cares for 8 foster children in her home and is a passionate advocate for their wellbeing and permanency needs. She is also in the process of adopting 5 children in her home (sibling group of 5) and is very communicative and committed to their permanency and care. Other youth she has fostered in the past, she was able to form postive relationships with their bio families, and still maintains contacts and assists as needed for those parents and youth. She is the epitomy of the gold standard in foster care and QPI.

XAVIER COUCH

He works very hard in everything he does to put his family first and that includes the foster baby he has. He is an amazing father to his own girls but he is also an amazing fictive kin parent. He goes above and beyond for everyone in his home.

RURAL NV CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

OUTSTANDING AGENCY STAFF



RYAN DIXON

Ryan is dedicated to his role as a case worker. I have learned a lot from Ryan with how he handles various situations and appreciate that he treats the parents, children, and relatives with dignity and respect in all aspects of his job.



JENIFER JONTE

Jennifer goes above and beyond for the youth on her case load she is real and does not sugarcoat anything she. Working with youth and foster parents. She is involved with her cases (she sees the people behind the case). Jennifer is compassionate and has a passion for the job she does.



BRISTOL SHARP

Bristol is amazing. She truly cares and goes above and beyond making sure all the kids are cared for. She drives them where they are needed. She calls and checks on them. She makes sure they are taken care for presents, Reno Rodeo clothes, Dolly books and so much more. It is so refreshing to see a social worker who cares as much as she does!!



ADELA BRACAMONTES

Adela goes above and beyond to support the foster parents where she has kids in their care. She supports them with communication, providing transportation, and ensuring all of the children's needs are met by working closely with the foster parents. She also communicates with licensing when there are issues so they can be sorted out prior to anything drastic occurring. Even with one case she was able to get the biological parents to bring home cooked food for the child in care because their food was different then what the foster home was used to cooking and the child was not wanting to eat.



BRITTANY BEST

She did an amazing job interacting with our foster son, making him feel safe, but also keeping him informed with his case. She was fun and friendly, but also always professional. She was quick to respond to our questions and concerns and always kept us updated on the case. She went above and beyond ensuring our foster son kept in contact with his brothers and always had fun sibling visits planned for them. Brittany is a special person and an excellent case worker!



KATIE MALONEY

Katie Maloney is kind and caring towards the children, parents and placements. She understands the importance of maintaining the family bond and works hard to manager this. She will help others when needed.



TAWNEY ASHLEY S & SHEILA

They are a hardworking and well run team in the Carson office's licensing unit!



ROSE SAVEA

Bristol is amazing. She truly cares and goes above and beyond making sure all the kids are cared for. She drives them where they are needed. She calls and checks on them. She makes sure they are taken care for presents, Reno Rodeo clothes, Dolly books and so much more. It is so refreshing to see a social worker who cares as much as she does!!



RAVEN VAZQUEZ

She is a case worker who prioritizes her client's needs. Often in our work we try to delegate some tasks that we can. She recognizes the needs of the care providers and will do things herself to support them and give them extra attention and support when they need it even if that was not the plan. She is respectful and responsive to her families.

RURAL NV CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNERS



RENNERVATION FOUNDATION

The RF foundation has brought so much exciting programming to our families. From their help with the Carson City 5k to the amazing camp they invited our youth to attend last summer. My favorite thing about RF is their willingness to work with youth where they are at. When there was worries or hesitation of certain youth being a right fit for camp, the RF team welcomed them with open arms.

They offered accommodations like KTs Quiet space and options on activities. RF proved that everyone in our agency was ready for sleepaway camp We are so excited for the amazing things that Jeremy Renner's team will bring to our families in Nevada,

MELANIE MCCORMICK

She is the director of Carson City CASA organization. She works hard to train her CASA volunteers about the Child Welfare system and the need to work with parents, children, workers, and other stakeholders. She sees our families for who they are and is a support to all of the team. She wants everyone to collaborate and will step up and help anyway she can and challenges others to do so as well.

MOUNTAIN HOUSE CHURCH

We appreciate their back to school backpacks program

SLOTHOWER'S PEDIATRICS

This doctor's office Responds promptly to request to ensure children's needs are being met.

NO TO ABUSE

In Pahrump, we have limited resources; however, No To Abuse assists community members and the families we work with. No To Abuse staff is great to work with and they care about the individuals they are assisting.

CHAMPIONS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

ZANDER L

Zander was in care for many years and lived in several foster homes or group homes. He overcame a multitude of challenges throughout his journey in care. He was described as aggressive, misbehaved, and hyperactive. In November 2023 he was placed in a home where he was shown love and thrived emotionally, and educationally. On October 2nd 2024 he was finally secured in his forever family after over 3 years of bouncing around the system.

CORDELL H

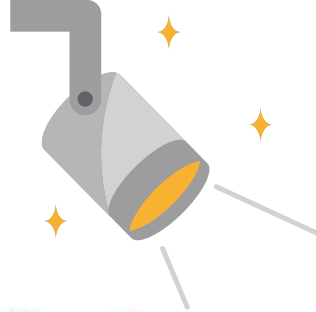
He was in foster care the majority of his teen years. With all the odds against him, he was ultimately placed in a wonderful foster placement who loved and supported him unconditionally. He eventually graduated high school on time, went into trade school, and now has a successful career. He is married to his high school sweetheart and they have two beautiful children. He has been able to buy a home and vehicles, and proudly provide for the needs of his wife and children. He has remained out of law enforcement troubles, and has refrained from substance use - all which he experienced while living with his parents and dabbled in as a teenager. I could not be more proud of this young man for achieving so much since aging out of DCFS care and custody.

ASH F

Ash is a former youth in foster care that has payed it forward to other youth and foster families over the year. He manages the Winnemucca branch of Northern NV Moses Project and equips the local homes with resources and support. He was also recently awarded as a 2024 Outstanding young leader by FosterClub. Ash has so many good ideas about improving foster care for future generation and we hope he keeps up the great work because the child welfare field needs him!

JESSICA P

she actively made changes in her life, went above and beyond her case plan goals / intervention services. Jessica went back to school to continue her education and achieve personal goals. She relies on natural supports, former foster parents, and community providers, as needed, to provide stability for her children.



Adoption Spotlight

William
11 YEARS OLD

This is a happy, loving, and excited young man. He loves soft blankets, inflatable decorations, screen time, and animals. He is ready to find his forever family.



For more information email

AdoptionRecruiter@dcfs.nv.gov

[CLICK TO SEE ALL WAITING CHILDREN IN DCFS](#)



JANUARY IS TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

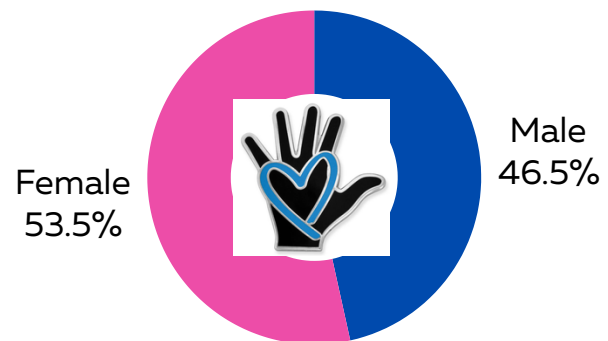
Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. It's estimated that nearly 60% of trafficking victims have been in foster care at one time. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations. Nevada is home to one of the largest trafficking markets in the world in Las Vegas.

[HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATS IN NEVADA](#)

[ONLINE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS: SEX TRAFFICKING RECRUITMENT](#)

[NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE](#)

[HUMAN TRAFFICKING & FOSTER CARE RESOURCE IN NORTHERN NV](#)
[RESOURCE IN SOUTHERN NV](#)



In 2023, 7,593 children in Nevada were screened for potential CSEC involvement. This is lower than the 10,955 screened in 2022. The average age in this population was 13.5 years old. More girls were screened (4043) than boys (3550). (NV CSEC Final Report)

ANNOUNCEMENT & OTHER NEWS

Welcome

NEW FOSTER HOMES

HEATHER AND JASON PENGELLY
(WELLS)

HEATHER FORSYTH (MINDEN)

HELPFUL LINKS:

[Agency Forms and Documents for Foster Parents](#)

[Just In Time Training](#)

[NEVADA LICENSED CHILD CARE DIRECTORY](#)

[CONTINUING AND SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION FOR FOSTER FAMILIES](#)

[DIGITAL FOSTER PARENT HANDBOOK](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO THE NATIONAL QPI NEWSLETTER](#)

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

RURAL NV FOSTER PARENTS & PARTNERS OF QPI



CLICK TO JOIN

