

COMMUNIQUE Fall 2022



Communiqué is published in both English and Spanish language four times a year by the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families, Inc.

CAFAF is a non-profit organization devoted to the strengthening of foster, adoptive and relative care families through support, training, and advocacy with the aim of nurturing child safety, well being and stability in partnership with childwelfare professionals and the community.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Fall 2022

I hope that you each had a wonderful summer and were able to play outside and enjoy the warm weather. Our families had fun attending games at the Hartford Yard Goats, attending free New Haven Symphony performances, obtaining Brownstone Adventure Park tickets, and more.

Over the summer, we were able to add to our post-licensing training offerings. We now have 56 modules for families to choose from! That is quite an expansion of trainings from the original modules 1 -10 that were part of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) post-PRIDE training program! We continue to support the Quality Parenting Initiative (“QPI”) that DCF is integrating into its work with foster families. QPI is a refocus of child welfare to return to making the child the center of any interventions and expects that all adults involved will bring attention to what works best for the child. Please check out Modules 48 and 57 which are components of QPI. Please check out our ever-increasing training offerings using the link below!

<https://cafafct.org/our-services/foster-and-adoptive-training/post-licensing-training-1/>

We are currently planning our next online module which will focus on the following legal & judicial areas: the court process from the 96 hour hold and Order of Temporary Custody (OTC) through adoption; the role of the children’s attorney; Open Adoption contracts; and, recent legal decisions around visitation by biological parents. We plan to video graph this training in late October and we should have more information in the Winter newsletter. Stay tuned! A reminder that DCF counts modules (not hours) of post-licensing training and the requirement is 6 modules per year. Also, please save the date for our next Avenue of Dreams event on Saturday March 11, 2023. We will be returning to Rentschler Field’s stadium in East Hartford. Please help us recruit for volunteer hair stylists, barbers, photographers, seamstresses and Fairly Glam-Mothers and Shining Knights! Please contact Krystal Hernandez at krystal.hernandez@cafafct.org or (860) 882-8134

Enjoy the autumn weather and stay safe!

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Are you interested
in joining our
Board of
Directors?

Visit [this link](#) to
learn more!

Become a Buddy!

Are you an Experienced Foster Parent

When you were newly-licensed, do you remember all the questions you had when your first foster child came into your home?

Do you remember wondering what resources were available to you?

Do you remember thinking if I only had another foster parent to talk to who has shared the same experiences as me?

If you remember all of these times, then you might enjoy supporting newly licensed foster parents.

To learn more about becoming a **CAFAF Buddy**, call
the Buddy Coordinator at the number below!

Training and stipend are provided.

Do you feel like you need the support from a CAFAF Buddy?

You can call the Buddy Coordinator at the number below to ask
about getting a CAFAF Buddy assigned to you for support.



Call Wendy Sander, Buddy Coordinator at 860-258-3400

at the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families (CAFAF) Office.



Donation Announcements



Ticket to dream is a non-profit dedicated to providing hope and opportunity for foster children across the nation. They partner with over 200 non-profit foster care agencies, reaching 186,000 children across all 50 states, to help foster youth quickly and efficiently in the community.



Thank you Ticket to Dream Foundation for the recent donation of makeup and clothing for adults and children.



SAVE THE DATE
2023 AVENUE OF DREAMS
SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
PRATT AND WHITNEY STADIUM, EAST
HARTFORD, CT
615 SILVER LANE



Community Support



Montage and Altera Apartment Community residents along with the Leasing Team donated backpacks and school supplies for foster and adoptive children. Kelly and Megan representing the leasing team shared that the residents are very community based and like to take part in occasional drives to benefit the local population. Thank you everyone for helping many children get the school supplies they need for a great start to the school year.

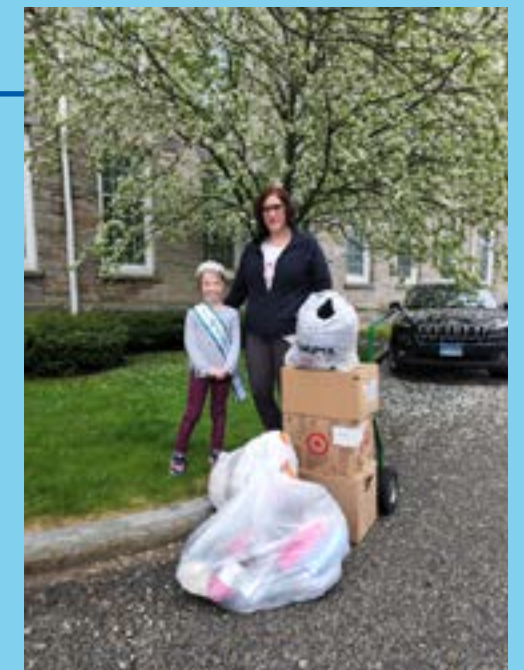


Community Support



CAFAF and Sheraton- Hartford Hotel partnered to host an ice cream social with face painting, balloon animals, and delicious ice cream!

In May we got a wonderful donation of new blankets and books collected by Skylee, Miss Connecticut Junior Pre-Teen in honor of National Foster Care Appreciation Month. In August we got another amazing donation, Skylee and her family collected backpacks and school supplies in time for back-to-school! CAFAF and the Foster/Adoptive Families from the Willimantic DCF Office want to send a huge THANK YOU to Skylee and her family for devoting their time and energy to making such thoughtful and helpful donations!! Good luck at your next pageant Skylee! We know you will shine!



Regional Events



Region 2 had a back-to-school event August 20th. We gave away backpacks filled with school supplies, had balloon magic, face painting, lunch and ice cream from local small businesses and food trucks.



CAFAF Liaisons Marian Russo, Deb Candelora, and Sam Heltke joined DCF at their "Best Dads by Par" Golf Event celebrating and honoring Biological, Foster, and Adoptive Fatherhood engagement at Lyman Golf Club in Middlefield, CT.



Region 2 CAFAF Liaisons Sam Heltke, Marian Russo (not pictured) and CAFAF Outreach Coordinator Krystal Hernandez attended the "Fathers are People Too Cookout" hosted by the Urban Community Alliance.

CAFAF Outside the Office

CAFAF Staff Deb Candelora, Krystal Hernandez, Diane Orlando, and Brian Candelora attended the recent Daniel Memorial Institute Conference to grow our STARRS! Support, Training, Advocacy, Recruitment, Retention Services



Hartford Yard Goats



We would like to give a shoutout to the Hartford Yard Goats as they finish up their 2022 season. Our families enjoyed going out to catch a game and had a wonderful time!

Brownstone Adventure Park



CAFAF's liaisons Samantha Heltke, Dora Poma and Liza Ortiz at CAFAF's Family Fun Day at Brownstone Adventure Park on July 30th in Portland, CT!

Thank you CAFAF for the Yard Goats Tickets.
We had a great time!



Order a FREE cake for your child!

Cake4Kids provides free cakes, cupcakes, cookies, bars, and brownies for foster children ages 1-24 for the following events:

- Birthdays
- Graduations
- Adoptions
- Academic Awards
- Biological Parent Reunifications



To request an order form, please contact Krystal Hernandez at krystal.hernandez@cafafct.org

bikes for Kids

Bikes for Kids is located in Essex, CT. They repair donated bikes to later give these bikes away with a helmet for children.



Learn more at www.bikesforkidsct.org

The Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families thanks the Department of Children and Families for its support and funding!



Happy Fall from the CAFAF family!

