

FosterlineBC

BC Foster Parents Association



Pictured: Joanne Link, Foster Caregiver

**Happy Foster
Family Month**

**A Message from
the Honourable
Jodie Wickens**



Summer 2025 Volume 23, Issue 3

**Foster Family
Spotlights**

**Camps for Kids
Online Auction**

BC FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION (BCFPA)

208 - 20641 Logan Avenue
Langley, BC V3A 7R3

We are located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui and Semiahmoo peoples.

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President's Report



Happy Foster Family Month to all of the amazing foster families throughout the province. Caregiving is an undeniably tough job that requires an open heart and open mind each and every day. I feel such happiness seeing so many people still wanting to be a part of the community, and I celebrate the work that each caregiver does in fostering.

With the return of fall comes back-to-school transitions once again. I hope that this season brings excitement to your home, and I wish you and all your kids a smooth return and an exceptional year.

The team at BCFPA has been working tirelessly to bring you another unforgettable AGM & Conference this year in Delta. In spite of an unexpected venue change, things have been falling into place beautifully. We're bringing back some hits from our 2023 event, including our caregiver wellness event, caregiver craft room, and the wonderful DJ Stacey. We're incredibly excited to see everyone and enjoy a few days of fellowship and activities with all of you who are able to make it out. In-person registration will be available, along with new payment options, so last-minute guests are encouraged to join us!

Last year, we launched an online auction to round out our Camps for Kids Fundraiser and give folks who aren't attending the AGM an opportunity to bid on exciting prizes. In light of its success, we're bringing it back again this year with prizes such as the Whistler Package, Formation Studio gift certificate, Necklace by Pernilla Vancouver Goldsmith, and more! You can access the auction

and place a bid any time between October 1st and October 31st at app.galabid.com/bcfpa/items. Following the AGM, BCFPA will see some shifts within our board. Whilst these changes will be officially addressed at the AGM on October 4th, I want to take a moment to recognize our outgoing treasurer, Marcy Perron. To Marcy, thank you for your years of service to BCFPA as a board member. Though you will be missed greatly, I hope that you enjoy every moment of your board retirement.

Last but certainly not least in terms of news, our next round of regional calls has been postponed until November. Those who have faithfully attended our previous calls, and those who know of them, know that we aim to host these calls on a quarterly basis while alternating between the regional and provincial groupings. With this next call having been set to occur in the busy month of September, we collectively made the decision to postpone it to a (hopefully) less eventful time. We hope that this allows more caregivers to attend once kids are settled back into school and AGM is wrapped up for the year. If you're interested in attending, you can find more information on [page 12](#).

Rocky Hindmarch
BCFPA Board President
Foster Caregiver, Prince George

Disclaimer — The views and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the author's employer, organization, committee or other group or individual. While many of the individuals we feature are experts in their field, specific advice can only be given by professionals who are fully aware of your circumstances. Any action you take upon information on this newsletter is strictly at your own risk.

OUR MISSION

To represent and support all foster parents who provide quality in-home family care in BC.



OUR BELIEF

Supported and resilient caregivers raise empowered children and youth.



OUR VISION

Supporting children and youth to reach their full potential through exceptional care.



BC Foster Parents Association (BCFPA) is a provincial organization for foster parents, run by foster parents. We are a registered non-profit charity which aims to bring together foster parents, social workers and other stakeholders who are working to continuously improve the standard of care for children and youth in our province.

We provide information to the general public about fostering and recruitment services to the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies. We offer our community a support network through our local Branch affiliations and our Solutions Program, accessible fostering information and education, a hub to share news across our sector and insurance resources for foster caregivers. For over 50 years, we have consulted about the revision and development of policy and practice within BC's child welfare sector.

BCFPA's structure facilitates contact with all foster parents in the province. We provide funding to our Branches and Regional Councils, and we maintain a Board of Directors that represents the diversity of our province. BCFPA's Board of Directors provincially, regionally and at a community level are all volunteers, elected by their foster parent membership community.

Notes from the Office



Happy Foster Family Month! I always look forward to the opportunity to express my admiration and appreciation for the work foster caregivers do every day. Over the years, I have met hundreds of foster caregivers, and I'm always amazed by their commitment, investment, and determination to ensure that children and youth receive the love and support they deserve. Thank you for sharing your hearts and homes. Your knowledge and skill are vital resources, and your commitment to raising resilient children makes BC's communities stronger.

BCFPA continues to fulfil our mandate through direct service, networking, and collaboration with foster caregivers, and also through committee work with both the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Representative of Children and Youth's office. We are involved in ongoing discussions that are specific to fostering practice and also that concern shifts in the social services sector. Recently, we've attended meetings about administrative changes to contracting processes, expanding partnership within Indigenous and Métis communities, the future of the social services sector workforce, Indigenous jurisdiction as more communities work toward Coordination Agreements, foster caregiver recruitment campaigns, the toxic drug crisis, and consultation with the Representative of Children and Youth's office.

Even though the number of foster caregivers is far less than 20 years ago, BC still has kids in the foster care system, and we always need skilled caregivers. Recruitment is an ongoing goal for the Ministry and certainly for BCFPA. Many in our community are also providing care through the out-of-care stream with kinship-related and 54.1/54.01 arrangements. In the past 5 years, the fostering and out-of-care streams have been increasingly connected, and we are doing our utmost to provide support to both. The shifts in our community inform our strategic planning, and our intention is that BCFPA will adjust accordingly to

meet the needs of our province's foster and out-of-care caregivers.

MCFD has been working toward contract continuity across the province so that your agreements and payments are standardized. They have also successfully tested the DocuSign platform so that future fostering agreements can be completed more efficiently without having to visit your local MCFD office. We hope to have more information about this in the coming months.

Since our last FosterlineBC issue, we have launched our Kinship (out-of-care) support program. Our support team has completed training to understand the similarities and differences between fostering and out-of-care policies and are working under the wise guidance of Amanda Oliver, our Director of Advocacy and Provincial Community Strategist.

And the work continues. There is always more to do – more analysis, more advocacy, more networking, and more partnership. We're here to represent the interests of foster caregivers. Please be sure to join the networking calls hosted by our team ([page 12](#)) to share your experiences and let us know what we can do to improve the fostering environment in your communities.

In the meantime, thank you again for all of your hard work and dedication, and have a tremendous and celebratory Foster Family Month!

Jayne Wilson
Executive Director

Interior Delegate Report by Raquel Lesieur

Hello, and happy Foster Family Month to all of our caregivers across the province!

Many of us have spent this past season in a bubble of summer fun and, now that fall has arrived, are working on getting back into school routines. Which is to say that things have been pretty quiet in the region since my summer update. Slow times can be a blessing, though, giving us the space to appreciate the things around us a little more.

In exciting news, the Kamloops BCFPA branch is holding monthly meetings. We'd love to have some fresh faces and hopefully some new regulars. If you're a caregiver in the area and are interested in attending, please reach out via email to kamloops@yahoo.ca. You're always welcome to join us!

I've been receiving questions recently about extended health and dental offered through Green Shield Canada's Health Assist program. For anyone interested in taking part or learning more, you can reach out to



our contact, Candace Dodson-Willis, at candace_dodson@icloud.com. You can also find more information here in the newsletter ([page 12](#)).

At the time of the newsletter being published, we'll be a few days away from our 2025 AGM & Conference in Delta. To those able to join us this year, the entire BCFPA team is excited to see you there! To those who weren't able to make it, you'll be dearly missed. We hope to see you next year in Victoria and trust that we'll see your wonderful faces virtually in our regional and provincial calls in the meantime ([page 12](#)).

Fraser Delegate Report by Catherine Clutchey

Hello again, everyone!

I hope everyone had a lovely summer. I know that we did out here in the Fraser Valley. There have been a number of outings for foster families over the course of the season in the Surrey and Langley area. Most recently, there was a lovely beach day as well as a smore night, which aimed to reach some families with older kids in care.

Updates for the region include the continuation of regular placement calls, with a number of homes closing, though we're not seeing more than what is typical for this area.

Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association will be offering Safe Babies training again in November, depending on the waitlist. If you or anyone that you know is looking



to have their Safe Babies course completed, and are near the Surrey area, please reach out to your resource worker.

We are thrilled to see everybody at the AGM this year and are especially excited about the wellness room for foster parents that is making its big return this year. Looking forward to seeing you all at the updated Delta location!

Island Delegate Report

by Sarah Scorey

Hello, fellow Islanders!

Over the past three months, foster parents on Vancouver Island have experienced a summer filled with both challenges and opportunities. As the demand for foster homes remains high, support agencies and organizations have worked tirelessly to provide resources, training, and community for caregivers. This report highlights the key developments in foster care on Vancouver Island and offers valuable insights for those considering or currently engaged in fostering.

The demand for foster homes on Vancouver Island continues to be high. As communities grow and more children and youth enter the foster care system, there is an ongoing need for caring and dedicated foster caregivers. If you are considering becoming a foster caregiver on Vancouver Island, please visit fosterhope.ca to learn more about how you can make a difference in a child's life by opening your home and heart.

Our local support agency has been proactive in building a sense of community and offering opportunities for foster parents and children to connect. Over the summer, a series of park playdates was organized across the island. These informal gatherings allowed caregivers to meet, share experiences, and provide mutual support. They also gave children an opportunity to socialize and enjoy outdoor activities in a safe, welcoming environment. These events were a hit, offering caregivers both a break and a chance to network, while children could bond with others in similar situations. These social gatherings are a reminder that community support plays a vital role in the overall well-being of foster families.

To further support foster caregivers, the Caregiver Learning Network (psacli.ca) remains available to caregivers at any time. This online platform includes a variety of on-demand courses, designed to help foster caregivers navigate the unique challenges of fostering. Whether you're a new foster parent or have years of experience, these resources provide valuable training on topics like trauma-informed care, child development, and building strong relationships with foster children. Caregivers are encouraged to utilize



these resources to expand their skills and knowledge. The platform's flexibility means you can access courses at your convenience, making it easier to fit professional development into your busy schedule.

While there have been many positive developments, some foster parents faced difficulties over the summer, particularly in finding adequate relief care. During the warmer months, when families take vacations and regular caregivers may be unavailable, many foster parents struggled to secure the relief care they needed. Relief care is essential for caregivers to maintain their own well-being and prevent burnout. It is vital that the system finds more ways to support foster caregivers in securing this much-needed relief. If you are a foster caregiver facing these challenges, it's important to reach out to your local support agencies for assistance. Additionally, connecting with other caregivers in the community may open up options for peer-to-peer relief care.

As we move into the fall, we hope the support and resources available to foster families will continue to grow and evolve. The need for foster homes is still pressing, but with continued community building, training, and dedicated support, we can work together to ensure that every child in need of care has a safe, loving home.

To foster families across BC, thank you for the invaluable work you do every day. Your dedication makes a real difference in the lives of children and families.

Northern Delegate Report by Tanya-Lea Nault

Hi everyone! I hope you're all as excited to welcome back fall as I am. Leaves are turning, the pumpkin spice is flowing, and the backpacks are (mostly) packed again, which can only mean one thing... school is back in session!

To all of our amazing foster parents: whether you're sending littles off for their very first day, juggling teenagers with homework, or just enjoying the peace and quiet for a few hours, we see you. Back-to-school season is exciting, exhausting, and everything in between. Thank you for the patience, love, and stability you bring to your homes during this busy time of year.

Local caregivers, mark your calendars for November 1st! Our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Gala is just around the corner. This is a special evening where we come together to celebrate the dedication, resilience, and compassion of foster parents across our community. Stay tuned for more details, and get ready for a night of connection, recognition, and fun!



We are thrilled to once again host our annual Foster Families Christmas Party this December. Details regarding date, time, and location will be shared soon, but you can count on laughter, festive cheer, and plenty of joy for the whole family.

As the seasons change, we want to pause and remind each of you how much you matter. Foster parenting is not always easy, but it is always impactful. The safe spaces you create, the encouragement you give, and the love you share make a lasting difference. You are the heart of our community, and we are grateful for you every single day.



Renew Your BCFPA Membership for 2026

It's that time of year again! Renew your BCFPA membership for the upcoming calendar year. Complete your renewal from now through January 31st, 2026, to remain a member in good standing and maintain your access to exclusive membership perks, engagement opportunities, bursaries, and more.

Membership signups and renewals completed from October to December will roll into the next calendar year, making them valid through December 31st, 2026, for one-year memberships and December 31st, 2027, for two-year memberships.

Want a chance to win free AGM & Conference attendance for 2026? All membership signups and renewals completed in October will be eligible for entry in our early bird AGM bursary draw.

Visit bcfosterparents.ca/membership/ to sign up or renew today!



Apply for a Camps For Kids Grant

Fall/Winter Cycle

The Camp For Kids grants were established by BC Foster Parents Association to alleviate some of the costs member foster caregivers encounter when sending their foster, adopted, or birth children to camp.

Amount of grant:

An annual grant of \$300 per family.

Who can apply:

- You are a current foster caregiver and BCFPA member who requires assistance to send their foster, adopted or birth children to camp.
- The child/youth attending camp must be between the ages of 6 and 18 years old.

Application requirements:

Proof of deposit or full payment for the camp that the child/youth is enrolled in.

When to apply:

Applications will be accepted from **August 1 – October 31**.

How to apply:

Complete an online application form at bcfosterparents.ca/form-camps-for-kids-grant-application/. Don't forget to fill out all the information and include all required documentation at the time of application. Contact our staff at **1-800-663-9999** or office@bcfosterparents.ca if you need any assistance.

Next steps:

Once the application has been reviewed, Applicants can expect to be notified in November, regardless of application status. Cheques are issued payable to the applicant and sent to the applicant's mailing address. Please allow four weeks from the date that you receive the notification for your cheque to arrive.

A Message from the Honourable Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development

This October marks the 35th anniversary of Foster Family Month. I believe with all my heart that every child deserves a fair chance to reach their full potential—and I know you share that belief.

Since I'm still relatively new in this role, I'd like to share a bit about myself and why this work matters so much to me. Last November, I was appointed Minister of State for Child Care and for Children and Youth with Support Needs. In December, I was honoured to take on the Ministry of Children and Families portfolio, following my colleague Minister Lore. Prior to my current role in public office, I was an advocate for quality, accessible public education and social justice, and I worked with non-profit organizations delivering health and social services to children and families. I'm also a mom of two and an aunt to children with support needs, so I know firsthand some of the challenges families face when trying to navigate the system.

In my time as Minister of Children and Family Development, I've quickly come to appreciate the dedication and devotion that foster caregivers bring to each day. Thank you for supporting B.C.'s most vulnerable children and youth. You step in during some of the hardest and most uncertain times a child's life. You provide stability when there's turmoil, and compassion when there's loss. By listening, nurturing, and advocating, you help young people feel seen, valued, and safe. That sense of belonging can't come from policies or programs—it comes from the care and commitment of people like you.

I also want to recognize the challenges you face. Supporting children who have lived through trauma or instability takes resilience, patience, and strength. Many of you balance these responsibilities alongside work, family, and other commitments, yet you keep



giving of yourselves—often quietly and without recognition. Please know your efforts don't go unnoticed. This ministry, this government, and your communities are truly grateful for all that you do.

Once again, thank you. Your love and commitment changes lives every day, and it's an honour to recognize and celebrate this with you.

Sincerely,

Jodie Wickens
Minister of Children and Family Development

Provincial Strategy Initiatives:

Message from Amanda Oliver, Director of Advocacy

As I write this, we are four weeks away from our AGM and conference in Delta. Even before I joined BCFPA I looked forward to this conference each year. I like to think of all the new and seasoned caregivers coming together to reaffirm old friendships and to establish new connections. Networking and reaching out to other foster caregivers for support and guidance are important keys for staying engaged and committed to this work. We know caregiving can be stressful, confusing, and demanding work, and having the support of others who truly understand what you are going through is vitally important.

And so, in my role as Director of Advocacy and the staff I support in the Solutions Program, we do listen attentively to your concerns to better understand all that you are experiencing both individually and collectively before working with others to try to address the issues you identify within the sector.

Here are some of the updates on the work we started earlier this year.

There are unique challenges and opportunities facing caregivers and staff living in the far north of our province. I have concentrated my efforts in this region by reaching out to both caregivers and MCFD staff to offer our support. We conducted a questionnaire and based upon the feedback we received, we offered workshop and networking opportunities for all caregivers in Terrace and Smithers on the 16th and 18th September.

As of writing this, we have a consultation meeting with MCFD staff from both regions also scheduled for 17th September. We hope to host a productive discussion and future planning session with staff and leaders in those areas. We also administered questionnaires to caregivers in the East Kootenays, and we heard that caregivers would appreciate more in-person training and networking opportunities. I am in the process of collaborating with agencies and staff to develop a plan in response to those requests. I hope we can visit the region in spring of 2026.

In response to several important motions carried forward from our previous AGM, BCFPA staff and board representatives met with Minister Jodie Wickens and other senior MCFD executives to present the issues impacting our sector and provide potential solutions to address concerns. My colleagues and I also outlined our advocacy goals and priorities in a letter following those meetings for MCFD executives to review.

We have expanded services in the Solutions Program to include kinship caregivers across the province. Access to support and resources varies greatly for kinship caregivers, and we are providing services to fill those gaps. As I also support the Solutions Program team, I wanted to share that the Solutions Team provides a range of services. If you have not accessed our support before, here are some examples to show the range and benefits of the program. One member of staff who is also a foster caregiver with 27 years of experience, recently provided direct support, mentorship, and guidance to another foster caregiver to enhance her skills and knowledge. Another staff member was required to carefully mediate between a caregiver and a ministry team to resolve ongoing conflict and misunderstanding associated with their contract and other payment issues. And our third member of staff dedicated support and advocacy to a kinship caregiver to assist in preparing her for the permanent placement of her grandchild. The Solutions Team continues to provide support and advocacy for all caregivers across the province. If you require support, please reach out to the Solutions Team or me directly.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming AGM.

Warmly,

Amanda Oliver, Director of Advocacy &
Provincial Community Strategist
amanda@bcfosterparents.ca

Contact our Solutions team at 1-800-663-9999.

BCFPA members have access to discounts through our partnership with Canada's leading perk program!



Step 1: Go to Perkopolis.com and click 'Register' in the top right corner.

Step 2: To access all perks, you must register by using a valid email address. Then, you will receive an email to activate your registration. – click the link within this email that says "Complete my profile".

Step 3: Enter your member ID code which is BCFPA + your 5-digit membership number (e.g. BCFPA12345). Once you are logged in, click on your name in the top right corner of the screen, then choose 'Profile'. Your BCFPA Membership Number will appear as the first item under 'Your Information'. You can now navigate back to perkopolis.com.

Step 4: Enter the required information. Click the 'accept terms and conditions' box. Click 'Confirm'.

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KitchenAid	Landmark Cinemas
La-Z-Boy Furniture	LEGOLAND
Lenovo	Matt & Nat
Panasonic	Reitmans
RW & CO	Samsung
Sennheiser	Sorel
Sonos	Telus
TurboTax	UGG
Universal Studios	Vitamix
WeightWatchers	WestJet

Don't foster in isolation!
Our Solutions Program Team is here for you. We can all do so much more together than we ever can alone.

Call 1-800-663-9999 for support and advocacy.



BCFPA Regional & Provincial Calls

BC Foster Parents Association hosts a set of regional discussion groups via Zoom at regular intervals throughout the year. The intention behind these calls is for caregivers to have opportunities to increase their network, ask questions, gain resources, discuss what's happening in their region, and build a collaborative relationship with BCFPA as well as other caregivers. These calls are loosely structured open discussions where all attendees are welcome to speak and share freely.

Each call is attended by members of BCFPA's board of directors and provincial office staff, including our Director of Advocacy/Provincial Community Strategist and lead of the Provincial Strategy Initiative, Amanda Oliver.

To hear about upcoming calls be sure to follow us on Instagram (@bcfosterparents) and Facebook (BC Foster Parents Association), and sign up for our email newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding these calls please feel free to reach out to our Community Network Coordinator, at taiah@bcfosterparents.ca.



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Candace Dodson-Willis

in strategic alliance with Group One

Candace_Dodson@icloud.com

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SECTOR NEWS & UPDATES



Anniversary of RCY's Don't Look Away report sees continued action and commitment from Province

Note: The mentioned Don't Look Away report covers heavy topics surrounding grief and loss, and abuse. Please proceed with care.

In July, the one-year anniversary of the Representative for Children and Youth's (RCY) report titled Don't Look Away, the Province has provided an update regarding its commitment to put more effective protective systems in place. These changes come in the form of a prevention-based support model, being created through a coordinated cross-government team and in partnership with Indigenous communities.

The report, which details the deeply heartbreaking story of one child's abuse and subsequent passing, calls for the government to overhaul its systems that protect children, youth, and families across British Columbia. At the time of the report's release, the Province publicly made eight key commitments in response to the call for systemic change. These commitments were made alongside the formation of a multi-faceted project board dedicated to developing an action plan.

The eight core focuses of this work are:

- developing a child and youth action plan that focuses on child and youth well-being;
- developing an outcomes-based framework to ensure that actions taken are working to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children, youth, and families;
- strengthening information sharing between ministries and service providers so that when children and youth are struggling, they are connected with the supports they need;
- requiring that government policy decisions consider the implications for children and youth;
- working across ministries to address the causes and ongoing impacts of family and gender-based violence, especially for Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit people and children;
- examining what functions of family supports and child protection can be separated to provide a more coordinated approach focusing on the wellbeing of children with their families;
- exploring the reconfiguration of child and family services across ministries, including for Children and Youth with Support Needs and Child and Youth Mental Health;
- and exploring the establishment of a body for the purpose of supporting Indigenous governing bodies with the resumption of jurisdiction.

While the new framework continues to be developed, improvements have been made to the way BC approaches its support for children, youth, and families. The Ministry of Children and Family Development has seen an increase of nearly 20% in its workforce over the last two years, while adding tools designed for better tracking and the prevention of oversights. MCFD also works to build resources for kinship (out-of-care) caregivers while committing to providing updated information on available supports. In addition to the developments within MCFD, BC continues to work with Indigenous communities as they reclaim jurisdiction over the welfare of their children, youth, and families. To date, twelve agreements have been signed, with many more to be expected.

Recommendations made by RCY in Don't Look Away address systemic issues across the government. At this time, RCY acknowledges that the Province has

taken action on 65% of all the recommendations currently being tracked, including those made in Don't Look Away.

One of the many points addressed by RCY highlights that early supports are critical to the protection and support of our children, youth, and families. One of the initiatives made by the Province responds to this by taking action to provide more early intervention, mental-health, and addiction recovery programs for youth.

In line with one of the recommendations made by RCY, MCFD, and Poverty Reduction have introduced an exemption designed to reduce financial hardship

for individuals with disabilities and their families. This exemption will ensure that individuals and families receiving financial assistance for a disability will keep the full amount of the federal Canada Disability Benefit without seeing a reduction to their provincial benefits.

While action has been taken and several improvements have been made so far, there is still work to be done. The government will continue to work toward critical reforms in the interest of better supporting children, youth, and families.

Source: MCFD Press Release

Happy Foster Family Month

Another autumn season has come around, and with it we once again have the privilege of dedicating October - official Foster Family Month - to honouring the incredible caregivers across BC.

BC Foster Parents Association is proud to stand behind the work that you do in the support of children, youth, and families across our communities. We recognize foster caregivers for all of the strength and dedication that you pour into fostering; we hold our hands up to your compassion and the countless immeasurable actions that make up your fostering journey; and we thank you, sincerely, for being who you are.

BCFPA is honoured that you place your trust in our team to support you on a daily basis, and are committed to continuing to support you to the best of our ability for another year, and more to come.

From the entire team here at BC Foster Parents Association and our families to yours, we wish you a wonderful Foster Family Month this October and a beautiful last few months of 2025.





Camps for Kids Online Auction

Get ready to bid away on a selection of prize packages, including amazing experiences, unique items, and unforgettable getaways. The best part? It's all in support of Camps for Kids!

When:

Place your bids between October 1st, 2025, and October 31st, 2025.

Where:

View and bid on the listed prize packages at app.galabid.com/bcfpa/items. Or scan the QR code below.

Available prizes:

- One-night stay at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront in Vancouver valued at \$400
- Two-night stay in a deluxe room with outdoor tub at the Waters Edge Resort in Ucluelet valued at \$500
- Victoria Date Night Package valued at \$700
- One adult rafting trip to Kumsheen Rafting Resort valued at \$190
- Sabai Thai Serenity Spa Package valued at \$170
- Two-night stay at the Summerland Waterfront Resort valued at \$750
- Downtown Vancouver Date Night Package valued at \$870
- Whistler Package valued at \$1,430
- Sports Lovers Package valued at \$940
- Three necklaces with pendants crafted by Pernilla Vancouver Goldsmith valued at \$1,300
- Landyachtz Skateboard valued at \$620
- The Bar Method Package valued at \$642
- Formation Studio 10-class pass valued at \$330
- Framed Art Print by Joe Mandur Jr entitled "Giving from the Heart" valued at \$700





On the Cover

Celebrating Joanne's Thirty Years of Fostering

Joanne has been fostering for 30 years, opening her heart and home to children and youth. She has welcomed and cared for close to 100 children and youth, creating a lasting impact on countless lives. Drawing from her own experience of growing up in government care, she now lives in Nanaimo, where she continues to provide a safe, loving, and nurturing space for others. We are honoured to feature her as our very first foster caregiver on the cover for this special Foster Family Month issue.

Interview by Michelle Relevante | Photos by Marjie Armstrong

How did your fostering journey begin?

It started about 30 years ago. My neighbor was fostering at the time, and they were really wonderful people to me. I spent over a year just watching them care for kids, and eventually, I realized it was something I wanted to do too. So, I decided to give it a try — and I did!

What has been the most rewarding part of your journey?

Just seeing the kids grow up and come into their own has been the most rewarding part of my journey. Realizing that there's a future for them [that they can heal and thrive] means everything to me. Some of the most special moments have been

when children were able to return home to their families once things were sorted out. That was always my goal. I tried to support the parents as much as I could, working with many of them directly to help create a better environment for their kids. It's important to me that they have the chance to be in their children's lives. If the circumstances allowed, I would invite the parents over to share meals with me and the kids. Other times, we would simply spend time together, just hanging out and connecting. Those moments were really special and meant a lot to me. Over the years, I've even stayed in contact with many even after the children have left my home.

What part of fostering has tested you the most over the years?

One of the biggest challenges has been dealing with drugs and alcohol. I've seen some of the youth I cared for struggle deeply, and losing a few of them has been absolutely heartbreaking. A couple passed away after leaving care, and that's something that stays with me. All I can do is continue to be there for them, and I've tried my best to do that. My hope is that the right supports are always available and accessible when they're ready.

Is there a special memory or moment from your fostering journey that has stayed with you?

One memory that really stands out to me is watching a boy grow into the person he is today. When he first came to me, he was such a scared little boy who wouldn't even come out of his room. Over the years, he found his confidence through school, joining the arts program and performing in several plays. He even directed one himself. He absolutely blossomed on stage, and it's been incredible to watch his transformation. Now, he's 27 and following his dream of becoming a professional wrestler. He is training, performing, and even announcing at shows. It's been amazing to see him go from that shy little boy to someone chasing his dreams with so much passion. I couldn't be prouder of him, and I'm so excited to see how far he'll go.

What makes you most proud of how fostering has shaped you as a person?

I've learned that I'm so much stronger than I ever knew. When there's a child involved, I will move mountains to solve whatever problem comes our way. I didn't realize I had that kind of strength until I had to find it, and it's been eye-opening to see that side of me come out.

What are some of the biggest differences you've noticed between fostering back then and fostering now?

When I first started fostering, there were far fewer services and resources, especially when I lived up north in Terrace. The difference today is incredible. One of the young people in my home now has received an amazing amount of support — the services, resources, and the follow-through. I'm honestly blown away. He may not fully appreciate it yet, but I do.

One of the biggest challenges, though, is helping young people see that the world is bigger than what they know. My role is to guide them to realize they can find their place in it. I want them to know they belong, and that they are always welcome in my home. They don't have to leave until they're ready to be on their own. I will always show up for them, in whatever way they need me.

“I’ve learned that I’m so much stronger than I ever knew. I didn’t realize I had that kind of strength until I had to find it, and it’s been eye-opening to see that side of me come out.”

What challenges have you seen kids face as they try to find their way?

I've learned that young people can achieve so much if you try hard enough. But for some kids, the barriers are so much greater. One of the hardest things I've seen over the years is the prejudice many of them face in the community, especially Indigenous youth. I remember going with one of the young people I was caring for when he decided to apply for a job. I stood there and watched as they dismissed him without even giving him a chance. It was heartbreaking. Since then, he's faced the same kind of rejection again and again. He's tried so hard, but finding work has been an uphill battle. The thing is, he's an incredible kid. He's hardworking, respectful, and reliable. I have seen him be devastated because he was let go from a job he truly loved, and his mentor there meant the world to him.

What breaks my heart the most is knowing how capable he is, yet seeing people judge him before they even get to know him. I wish more people understood how important it is to give young people a chance. These kids have so much potential if you give them the chance to shine, but unfair treatment makes them believe they're less than they are because of the hurt they've already experienced. I want people to see their potential.

What do you wish more people understood about fostering?

Fostering is so rewarding if you open your heart to it. One of the greatest joys for me has been watching the trajectory of kids' lives change, seeing them go from feeling hopeless to realizing they have a chance to become whoever they want to be. Once you start, you discover just how meaningful it can be, and you truly find joy in it. I know I did or I wouldn't have stayed with it for 30 years.

When I first came to the island, I thought I was going to retire, but I quickly realized how great the need was. That's what kept me going. I wish more people understood that. There are so many children

and youth who need safe, loving homes. When more people open their hearts to families in need, it transforms not only children's lives but families and our whole community.

What would you say to someone who's on the fence about fostering?

My advice would be to give it a chance because it's more rewarding than you can imagine. If you like kids, and if you like to stay busy, you'll love fostering. Kids keep you on your toes, but in the best way.

A lot of people hesitate because they think, '*I'm not good enough.*' But you are. If you care about kids, you are good enough. Even retired people can do it if they have the energy. It's about working with the child, building that relationship, and finding solutions together. It can feel intimidating at first, but once you do it, you realize it's not as scary as it seems. You learn as you go, just like parenting your own children. And while some kids may need a little more support, the rewards are incredible.

What does self-care look like for you?

That's a really good question. Honestly, it's not always easy. For me, one of the biggest things has been connecting with other foster parents. I spend a lot of time with one foster parent in particular; she's caring for the sister of one of the boys who lives with me. We make sure they get to see each other, and we've become really close ourselves. We hang out two or three times a week, and it's been such a lifeline — we talk, we vent, and we support each other, just like any parents would. We also help each other out whenever we can.

What does having a good support system mean to you as a caregiver?

Having a good support system is so important because it reminds you that you're not doing this alone. Surrounding yourself with people who understand what you're going through makes all the difference. It gives you the strength to keep showing up for the kids, even on the hardest days.



Stephanie (left) and Debbie (right)



Foster Family Spotlight: Debbie and Stephanie's Journey of Changing Trajectories

Interview by Michelle Relevante | Photos by Marjie Armstrong

How did your fostering journey begin?

Debbie: I started fostering in the mid-90s, before I met Stephanie. My desire to foster came from my own story. I was adopted from an orphanage and, back then, I was considered “unadoptable” because I wasn’t white. That experience shaped me.

When I met Stephanie in 2000, I told her, “*I want to be the old woman in the shoe, living with lots of children.*” I already had four biological kids who are now adults. We have two grandchildren, with another on the way. Fostering has always been about making sure every child knows they’re loved.

We’re usually the last stop before children go to their forever home. We pour everything into helping them feel safe and supported during the time they’re with us.

Stephanie: It started when I met Debbie. We have been together for 25 years now. I come from a big family and I’d thought about having children or adopting one day, but fostering wasn’t really on my radar. On our third date, Debbie casually said, “*By the way, can I bring a kid?*” It turned out to be a four-and-a-half-month-old she was fostering at the time. And just like that, a date with Debbie and a baby became the start of my journey into fostering.

How long have you been fostering, and how many children have you welcomed into your home?

Debbie: It has been close to 80 children over the years. Some have stayed just a few days, others for many years, and some have returned multiple times.

Stephanie: Many of them are thriving, and we still keep in touch with several who now have degrees, careers, and families of their own. Sadly, we've lost a few along the way, which is heartbreaking but every single child has left a lasting impact on us.

How do your unique strengths support your fostering journey, and how has it strengthened your relationship?

Stephanie: Teamwork and communication have been huge for us, both in our relationship and in fostering. We've both studied leadership and learned to bring those skills home. One of the most important things for kids is consistency. They need to feel secure and to know that they can trust us. I think adaptability is also one of our strengths. Things rarely go according to plan. Supporting each other through chaos has been critical.

Debbie: I would add compassion and empathy. These kids have experienced so much trauma, and you can't approach that with rigidity or punishment. You need patience and a willingness to understand them. Fostering has taught us both to listen more... to the children, to each other, and to ourselves.

What has been the most rewarding part of your journey?

Debbie: Watching kids blossom. Many of them come to us carrying deep trauma and to see even small transformations is incredible. It could be learning to trust, eating vegetables for the first time, or discovering a passion for sports. Those moments make everything worth it. Our hope is to help change the trajectory of their story toward healing, belonging, and possibility.

Stephanie: For me, it's also about the learning. We've fostered many First Nations children, and we've built strong relationships with their families and communities. After participating in First Nations ceremony, dance, and traditions with our foster children, I was honoured to be adopted into a First Nations family.

Fostering has changed me. It's challenged my assumptions, helped me decolonize my thinking, and taught me so much about resilience, culture, and connection. I've gained so much from these relationships. I've learned far more from the children than I could ever hope to teach them. Fostering has been a truly reciprocal journey of learning, growing, and becoming a better person. My hope is that, just as they've shaped me, I've helped them grow stronger and feel more supported along the way.

“Fostering has changed me. It’s challenged my assumptions, helped me decolonize my thinking, and taught me so much about resilience, culture, and connection. I’ve learned far more from the children than I could ever hope to teach them. My hope is that, just as they’ve shaped me, I’ve helped them grow stronger and feel more supported along the way.”

What have you learned about each other through fostering?

Stephanie: I've always admired Debbie's strength, but fostering has deepened my appreciation for it. She brings this sense of safety and stability that kids instantly feel. She's the steady foundation while I'm the more emotional, nurturing one. I sing to babies at 2 AM and spend hours helping them self-soothe. Together, we balance each other perfectly.

Debbie: Stephanie brings this extraordinary tenderness. She dances with kids in the kitchen, teaches them to garden, and builds entire toolkits so they can join her outside fixing things. She's the glue, the comfort, and the one who shows them they're deeply lovable.

Is there a particular moment or memory that stands out for you?

Debbie: There are so many, but one that always comes to mind happened about 23 years ago. We had two little girls in our care, and one day at daycare, another child pointed at one of them and said, "Susie says she has two moms." Susie looked down, shy and unsure how to respond. I knelt beside her and said gently, *'She actually has three moms — her tummy mummy, Stephanie, and me.'*

The other little girl pouted and said, 'I only have one.' In that instant, everything shifted for Susie. Her shoulders straightened, her chin lifted, and this huge smile spread across her face. She beamed with pride. That moment reminded me how powerful it is when children feel accepted and loved for exactly who they are.

How do you care for yourselves while caring for so many others?

Debbie: I work out — a lot. At work, I constantly deal with trauma. Exercise keeps me grounded. If I'm grumpy, the kids know to tell me, *"Go run the mountain!"*. It's their way of reminding me to take a breather, reset, and come back ready to give my best. Self-care isn't optional.

Stephanie: For me, it's being outdoors like gardening, keeping bees, or just having my hands in the dirt. I also set boundaries early on: weekly date nights, yearly vacations, and intentionally building a supportive community around us.

What challenges have you faced as foster caregivers?

Debbie: The hardest part is always saying goodbye. You pour your heart into these little ones, help them heal, and then the day comes when you have to let go. Even when reunification or permanency is the right outcome, it doesn't make it any easier.

Stephanie: We've faced systemic challenges, too. There are many amazing social workers out there, but sometimes decisions are made without listening to us. We live with these little ones 24/7 so we know their fears, their triggers, and what helps them feel safe. We've advocated for better transitions because abrupt moves can retraumatize children and undo the progress they've made.

"Abrupt moves can retraumatize children and undo the progress they've made."

What advice would you give someone who's considering fostering?

Debbie: Fostering means opening your heart fully to these little ones. Children are incredibly intuitive. They know when they're truly wanted and welcome. They need to feel like they belong in your home from the moment they arrive.

Patience is essential. Their behaviours are not who they are...but are often a reflection of the environments they've come from and the trauma they've experienced. Our role is to meet them where they are in life and help them begin to heal.



Oscar (left), Sally (right), and Qtip



Foster Family Spotlight: How Oscar and Sally Built a Home of Safety, Trust, and Belonging

Interview by Michelle Relevante | Photos by Marjie Armstrong

How did your fostering journey begin?

Sally: I've wanted to foster since I was little. A babysitter I admired was a foster parent, and it stayed with me. Later, as a social worker doing home studies, I saw the need for foster families firsthand and that pulled me in even more. I thought about it on and off so when we got together, I convinced Oscar that fostering was something we should do.

Oscar: I come from a big family so having kids around feels natural to me. When Sally and I got together, she helped me see how meaningful it could be. We decided to jump in.

How long have you been fostering, and how many children have you welcomed into your home?

Sally: We've been fostering for about 10 years and we've welcomed about 10 children into our home.

What strengths do you each bring to fostering, and how has it strengthened your relationship?

Oscar: Growing up in a big family, I'm comfortable with noise, different personalities, and constant activities. I'm patient and try to stay unbiased. We encourage the kids to think critically and to

challenge our ideas through logical arguments. When they make a good case, we adjust together. I always approach things with curiosity and love building them up.

A sense of humour is also very important. The youthful energy at home brings us so much joy. I love catching Sally dancing with the kids. I get to see sides of Sally that I wouldn't have seen if we weren't fostering. It's fun to watch!

Sally: I used to think I was good at reading people and knowing people's motivations. Fostering taught me to let go of the endless "why" especially with kids who've lived through traumatic experiences, and just focus on being present.

Oscar: A young person once told me that the most important thing is presence — simply being there makes a big difference. That stuck.

How has fostering strengthened our relationship? Fostering has strengthened our relationship in ways we couldn't have imagined. It's pushed us to have real, sometimes hard conversations about our shared values, how we solve problems, and how we want to show up in front of the kids. We've learned to listen more deeply, to pause before reacting, and to lean on each other when the days get heavy. It's sharpened our communication and shown us what partnership really looks like.

What has been the most rewarding part of your journey?

Sally: The relationships especially with the kids who stayed long-term as well as the incredible trust that the kids have put in us. We are so honoured. And also just my own personal growth. I've learned so many things that I wouldn't have learned any other way.

Oscar: They come back for holidays and dinners, and we stay woven into each other's lives. A moment I'll never forget: when an eight-year-old we'd just taken shopping slipped her hand into mine. In that moment, I felt like my life changed.

How do you build trust with the teens you welcome into your home?

Sally: We're not heavy-handed. Our home has structure, but we pick our battles. I remind myself often that I was a teen once, so we focus on staying open, patient, and consistent.

Oscar: Presence matters. Listen when they're ready. I tell them I won't lie — sometimes that means hard truths, but I'll always be there for them.

One girl arranged photos on her wall to figure out where people belonged in her life. Sally's picture wasn't up for a year. Sally kept showing up for them — joyful, steady, and patiently. The day her photo went up, she cried. Consistency matters. Breakthroughs like that remind us that trust has its own timeline. Not every child gets there and that's okay. We meet them where they are.

“One girl arranged photos on her wall to figure out where people belonged in her life. Sally’s picture wasn’t up for a year. Sally kept showing up for them — joyful, steady, and patiently. The day her photo went up, she cried. Breakthroughs like that remind us that trust has its own timeline. We them where they are.”

What challenges have you faced as foster caregivers?

Oscar: We work hard not to take setbacks personally. We compare notes, share our mistakes, and reset together. We make sure to keep reassuring each other along the way. We figure things out together which makes the difficult moments easier.

Sally: We had a real struggle with housing. In the Vancouver area, we'd rent a solid home, only to have it sold and torn down. Every move uprooted the kids' schools and stability. Landlords did not care that they were displacing families including young people in care which disrupted relationships and the fragile sense of safety we were trying to build.

We decided that we wanted to buy a home. We knew we couldn't afford to buy in Vancouver. We finally bought in the Cowichan Valley to create a sense of permanence. At first, we encountered an issue with transferring files but the kids decided that they wanted to come with us. To let two school-age kids finish their school year, we ran two households for months — mortgage, rent, double utilities, constant ferry rides — easily an extra \$1,000 a month. It was costly and exhausting but it was about our commitment to the kids. The kids were so happy to have a room of their own that they can decorate, paint, and make theirs.

What have you learned about each other through fostering?

Sally: Oscar is such an extrovert. He has this natural way of drawing people in. He's incredibly patient, especially when it comes to connecting with the kids' extended families, even when those relationships are complicated or hard to navigate. He never gives up on making space for those connections. That same patience shows up in other moments too, like when he's teaching the kids how to drive.

Oscar: One of the family members asked me to join them at the hospital, to be at the bedside of one of the kids' moms as she was passing. It was just her

and me in that moment. I was there to stand in for the child, to hold space on their behalf. For her to trust me enough to sit with her during such an intimate, painful time was an incredible honour. That moment created a bond between us, and in turn, it helped strengthen the child's connection to their family. It was a reminder of how fostering often draws us into these deeply human moments where love, loss, and belonging are all intertwined.

Going back to what I've learned about Sally...Sally's sense of humour and joy are contagious. Her laughter, her dancing, and her colorful approach to life bring so much energy into our home. She helps me see things from different angles. It challenges me, makes me pause, and sometimes even rethink my own perspective.

What do you wish more people understood about fostering?

Sally: We're neither saints nor villains. Families are messy; so are we. Don't let that scare you away. If you choose fostering, choose it with an open heart and open eyes.

Oscar: That "short term" often becomes long term. There are always surprises and unexpected moments, and all you can do is stay open, adapt, and meet each day as it comes.

What advice would you give someone who's considering fostering?

Sally: Build a strong support system. For example, going to the BCFPA AGM and connecting with people who are on the same journey.

Oscar: Include your whole family in the decision to foster, especially if your kids are at home. Treat all the kids equally and advocate for them to have the same opportunities. Anchor every difficult conversation in the child's best interests.

Protect your relationship; it will be tested. At night, give yourself permission to say, 'I did my best,' and let the day go.



Canadian Dental Care Plan

The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is working to make the cost of dental care more affordable and accessible for those eligible.

What is covered:

The CDCP reimburses a portion of the cost for a range of services within the following categories.

- Diagnostic and preventative care
- Basic services
- Major services
- Anesthesia or sedation services
- Orthodontic services

Additional charges may apply in some cases.

Who is eligible:

Those eligible for the CDCP meet the following four requirements

- Do not have access to dental insurance through another program. Dental coverage through government programs does not disqualify you.
- You and your spouse/common-law-partner (if applicable) must have filed your tax returns for the previous year in Canada,
- Your adjusted family net income amounts to less than \$90,000.
- You are currently a Canadian resident for tax purposes.

How to submit an application:

Apply online through the official Government of Canada website at canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan/apply.html. Be sure to have the following information on hand when applying, along with your basic information.

- Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- List of dental coverage through government social programs (if applicable)
- Notice of assessment from tax return(s) filed the previous year

For full details and to apply now, please visit bit.ly/3VSbsX7

The BC Foster Parents Association YouTube channel has reached 5,000+ subscribers!

Check us out and join the party at youtube.com/@bcfpa



We asked foster caregivers: What topics should we feature next on the BCFPA YouTube channel? Here are their ideas.

Social media policy
and online safety

Substance use and the
toxic drug crisis

Mental health and
counselling support
for foster caregivers

Recruitment and
retention

Working collaboratively
with other members of
the child's care circle

Privacy and
confidentiality
best practices

Retiring from
fostering

Self-advocacy for
foster caregivers

Understanding
Undiagnosed
Complex Behaviours

Practical tips for
foster caregivers

Building support
networks within the
fostering community

Mindfulness and
self-care practices for
foster caregivers

Financial planning
for foster caregivers

Hearing from BCFPA's Education Bursary Recipients

We reached out to the recipients of this year's educational bursaries with the question: How will this bursary help you to achieve your career plan and future goals?

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To the Program Philanthropists supporting the BCFPA Education Bursaries and Grants,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the BCFPA Education Bursaries and Grants possible. I was ecstatic to learn of my selection for this honour, and I deeply appreciate your support.

I'm an Indigenous youth, majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, with the hope to become a conservationist and support the care and remediation of our natural spaces through Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship. This bursary will provide essential financial support that allows me to focus more fully on my studies and community work, rather than worrying about financial barriers. By easing these challenges, it will help me gain the skills, knowledge, and experience I need to pursue my career path and achieve my long-term goal of contributing to and supporting my community.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I will work very hard to bring the skills and knowledge I gather at school back to my home community to support the land.

With best regards, haawa and thank you. ”

- Anonymous, Recipient of The Ames Family Foundation Bursary

“

It's an honour and privilege to have been awarded a BCFPA bursary for 2025/2026; this funding will alleviated an immense amount of financial stress in my upcoming school year. I am taking a higher-than-average courseload with the goal of completing my studies and final practicum a semester early, so I can expedite my transition back into the professional realm. I am able to do this thanks to your support.

My goal after graduation is to perform clinical case work within my community, followed by a return to school to complete a Masters of Social Work. I want to influence policy changes which will address structural inequality and improve basic standards of living and care for everyone in our communities.

Thank you again. ”

- Erin D, Recipient of The Ames Family Foundation Bursary

While some of our recipients were unable to provide a comment, we are able to express gratitude on their behalf for the positive impact that these bursaries will have on their educations and the paths to their goals.

For more information about BCFPA's grants and bursaries, and to submit an application, please visit bcfosterparents.ca/programs-and-services/financial-assistance.

Meet BCFPA's Freshest Face: Tesfa Neye



Can you tell us a bit about your professional journey before BCFPA? What drew you to BCFPA and this role?

My interest in BCFPA has been shaped by my professional experiences and my passion for advocating for the well-being of children and families. I have always felt a deep commitment to child welfare, protection, and children's rights. This began with early exposure to work in a Pediatric clinic, legal studies, and later extended into roles where I supported families through consultation and crisis support services.

My connection to this work also has deep personal roots. Growing up, my family home often provided short and long-term care for children, youth, and young adults. We always had an extra room for someone in need, and that became our normal way of living. Many of my extended relatives have also opened their homes to children through foster care and adoption. From an early age, my heart was exposed to the joys of fostering as well as the unique complexities that can come with it.

Throughout my career, I have often been the first point of contact—from reception, front-line support, or intake and case management. I provided immediate assistance, helped families access the right resources, and followed up to ensure that no one felt left without support. I also had the opportunity to work in administrative and executive support capacities, contributing to program and service delivery, as well as the implementation of policies that directly impact families.

As a young adult, I had the opportunity to serve in a family shelter that supported parents and children

experiencing challenges such as financial hardship, substance dependence, and abuse. Many of these families were working tirelessly to make positive changes to create better lives for their children. Being in that environment further rooted in me a desire to help create opportunities for families to access support that restores, reconciles, and strengthens both individuals and the family unit as a whole.

These experiences have given me a well-rounded perspective: from responding to urgent needs in moments of crisis to being a part of a team that supports the development of long-term structures and policies that help families thrive.

Another key element that drew me to BCFPA is its commitment to ensuring the fostering community has access to support that is not partial or incomplete, but truly holistic, practical, and responsive to changing needs.

“From an early age, my heart was exposed to the joys of fostering as well as the unique complexities that can come with it.”

What's one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?

I think people may be surprised to learn that, although I appear outgoing and am passionate about front-line work and community engagement, I am actually an introvert at heart.

What excites you most about being a part of BCFPA's work supporting foster families?

I believe it truly takes a community—a village—to raise strong, thriving children, and I see BCFPA as an integral part of that village for children in care. Many of these children come from vulnerable situations, and I feel both excited and grateful to be part of an organization dedicated to making their lives better.

What excites me most is the opportunity to support foster caregivers, supporting them in their journey. Foster parents already carry a tremendous heart for going above and beyond in creating safe, supportive, and loving homes. To serve as an extension of that care, and to witness the growth and expansion of BCFPA's supportive services, is both inspiring and deeply meaningful to me.

Conversation Starters

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

The ability to speak every language and dialect.

What are three words your family and friends would use to describe you?

I think the first three words my family and friends would use to describe me are: resilient, helper, and creative.

What is your dream vacation destination?

My lifelong dream vacation destination is Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

We would like to thank you to the Beem Credit Union Foundation for their donation of \$5,000!

The Beem Credit Union Foundation provides financial assistance to charities that build on the values of Beem Credit Union to make a positive and lasting impact in the community. Their contribution will support BCFPA's technology and infrastructure needs, helping us strengthen our capacity to serve foster families across BC.

Beem
CREDIT UNION

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Interior Savings

FOSTER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Provincial Resources

BC Foster Parents Association bcfosterparents.ca	1-800-663-9999
After Hours Foster Parent Support Line	1-888-495-4440
Indigenous Perspectives Society fostercaregiversbc.ca	1-844-391-0007
Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks fbcyicn.ca	1-800-565-8055
Belonging Network bcadoption.com	1-877-236-7807
BC Council for Families	604-678-8884
Pacific Post Partum Support Society postpartum.org	604-255-7999
Parent Help Line	1-888-603-9100
Parents Together	604-325-0511
Parent Support Services of BC parentsupportbc.ca	1-800-345-9777
Representative for Children & Youth rcybc.ca	1-800-476-3933
FAE/S Support Network	604-507-6675
Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre	1-800-665-1822

Interior

For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.

Okanagan Foster Parent Association okfosterparents.ca Central Okanagan North Okanagan South Okanagan Shuswap	250-870-8991 250-558-0939 250-462-6907 250-515-1522
Okanagan Metis Children & Family Services	250-868-0351
Interior Community Services interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca icsfp.info East Kootenay West Kootenay Cariboo Kamloops and area	1-877-376-3660 250-426-6013 778-460-5174 250-609-201 236-421-0031

Island

For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.

Caring Families Society caring-families.ca	1-888-922-8437
Victoria Nanaimo/Cowichan Valley Comox Valley Campbell River Port Alberni	778-430-5459 250-618-8327 250-896-7929 250-204-1566 250-735-1124

North

For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.

AXIS Family Resources axis.bc.ca	1-877-392-1003
Community Bridge (Fort St. John) communitybridge.ca	250-793-2261

Coast Fraser

For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.

Hollyburn Family Services hollyburn.ca	604-987-8211
Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society vacfss.com	778-331-4500
Foster Hub fosterhub.ca	1-877-926-1185
Archway Community Services archway.ca	778-880-8555
Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association fraservalleyfosterparents.org	1-877-797-7701
South Vancouver Youth Centre milieu.ca	604-325-2004
Pacific Community Resources Society pcrs.ca	604-587-8100
The Children's Foundation childrens-foundation.org	604-434-9101

IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

Please complete and return to BCFPA: 208-20641 Logan Avenue, Langley, BC V3A 7R3 or join or renew via our website at bcfosterparents.ca

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____ Region: _____

Local Association (BCFPA Branch): _____

Level of Foster Home: (select one)

Restricted ____ Regular ____ Level I ____ Level II ____ Level III ____ Contractor ____ Other ____

This is a: New Membership ____ (OR) a Renewal ____

1 year: individual \$30.00 ____ OR couple \$35.00 ____

2 year: individual \$50.00 ____ OR couple \$60.00 ____

*\$10.00 of this membership fee will be used by the provincial office for administration of the program and development of services to foster parents. The balance of the fee will be returned to your regional board or BCFPA branch.

I/we contract with ____ MCFD ____ ICSFA Other: _____

OR my affiliation with the BCFPA is (i.e. staff, MCFD, non-foster parent): _____

As members of the BC Foster Parent Associations, I/we agree to abide by the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures, and Code of Ethics of the Association. _____
[signature(s)]

Please bill my VISA or MC # _____ Expires ____ / ____

[signature for approval]

Get social with us!



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Youtube.com/@BCFPA



@bcfpa