



SUPPORTING OUR ANCHORS

JANUARY 2025

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH + YOUTH VOICE DAY (01/23)

Many research studies demonstrate the powerful impact a mentor can play in the life of another individual whether an adult, teen, or child. Today, **66% of surveyed teens** report that despite having a mentor they still experience times when they needed mentor support. (*Mentoring.org*) **How can supportive adults offering natural mentorship or program-guided mentorship ensure they are recognizing a mentee's unmet need?** According to *Mentoring.org* these 5 key characteristics make meaningful mentors: **accepting of the youth for who they are, listening carefully, trusting the youth, being patient with the youth, and taking the youth seriously.**

Using these traits to form a meaningful relationship with a child or teen can result in growing their sense of belonging, support improved mental health, improve their academic work, and increase their likelihood of graduating high school. As a resource caregiver, you have already accepted a supportive role as natural mentor to the children and youth in your home. The positive impacts you have on them will be lasting!

If you are interested in matching a youth in your home with a program-guided mentor, or if you would like to volunteer your time as a program-guided mentor for a youth in foster care, please reach out to the RDS Team at DCYF.RDS@dcyf.ri.gov.

FEATURED EVENT

Youth Development Services Holiday Party
Wednesday, January 15 – 5:30-7:30pm
CW Lanes, 622 George Washington Hwy, Lincoln
RSVP by January 3 with Marian at mhiggins@c4p.org

UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS

Monday, January 27 – 6:30-7:30pm

Foster Parent College: Trauma-Informed Parenting
Register at <https://bit.ly/fosterparentcollege>

Tuesday, February 4 – 6:30-7:30pm

Prudent Parenting and Normalcy for Youth in Care
Save the date. Registration link available soon.

Friday, February 7 – 8:30-5:00pm

FSRI Youth Mental Health First Aid (In-Person)
55 Hope St. Providence
Register at <https://www.familyserviceri.org/event/>

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, January 7 – 5:00-7:30pm

Communities for People Olmstead Planning Discussion
623 Atwells Ave, Ste 201, Providence
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/44tmv9sp>

Wednesday, January 15 – 5:30-7:30pm

Youth Development Services Holiday Party
CW Lanes, 622 George Washington Hwy, Lincoln
RSVP by January 3 with Marian Higgins at mhiggins@c4p.org

Sunday, January 26 – 10:00am-1:00pm

RI Families for School Choice Rhode Island School Fair
Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, 60 Rhodes Pl. Cranston

RSVP at <https://schoolchoiceweek.com/events/2025-rhode-island-school-fair/>

FOSTER PARENT COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT: TRAUMA-INFORMED PARENTING

A new year means a renewed focus on resource caregiver training. We've heard from many caregivers and families about an interest in building skills to better prepare themselves and their homes for foster children and youth. Each month, we will spotlight one Foster Parent College course, providing insights into skills and practices to support parenting children and youth with behavioral health needs and trauma histories, and we will continue to host virtual learning sessions to discuss course concepts and practices from your lived experiences.

Our **January Course Spotlight** is **Trauma-Informed Parenting**. For parents and caregivers of children who experienced traumatic events, this course explores how past experiences impact children's behavior, describes the aftereffects of trauma, and provides strategies for adapting parenting styles to the needs of children. Techniques learned in the course will guide approaches to other coursework, discussions and using strategies in common scenarios when supporting foster children.

Enroll in the course in **English** and **Spanish** at FosterParentCollege.com. **Then, join a discussion session on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30pm.** Register for the session at <https://bit.ly/fosterparentcollege>.

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

Monday, January 13 – 8:00-9:30pm

The Village Virtual Grandparents Support Group
Join via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87945244572>

Wednesday, January 15 – 7:00-9:00pm

The Village Virtual Spanish-Speaking Kinship Group
Join via Zoom at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76064225291>

Wednesday, January 22 – 10:00-11:30am

The Village In-Person Daytime Kinship Coffee & Connections
139 Ocean Ave. Cranston
RSVP at <https://forms.gle/tS3ZVXcKqXpnVuxWA>

Tuesday, January 28 – 6:30-8:00pm

The Village Virtual East Bay & Cranston Kinship Group
Join via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84049876972>

For more information on joining The Village Support Groups, email admin@rivillage.org or call (401) 481-5483.

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR RESOURCE CAREGIVERS

Monday, January 6 – 8:00-9:30pm

The Village Singles Resource Caregivers Support Group
Join via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81485104454>

Wednesday, January 8 – 6:30-8:00pm

The Village In-Person Foster and Adoptive Parent Support Group
13 Summer St. Pawtucket
RSVP at <https://forms.gle/tS3ZVXcKqXpnVuxWA>

Tuesday, January 21 – 6:30-8:00pm

The Village Virtual Foster and Adoptive Family Support Group
Join via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88564416285>

Tuesday, January 28 – 7:00-9:00pm

The Village Virtual Spanish-Speaking Families Group
Join via Zoom at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73281941730>

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Weekly on Mondays – 6:00-7:00pm

Youth Pride, Inc. Virtual + In-Person Little Unicorns
For gender diverse youth under 9 years old
Register at <https://forms.gle/spfYuGMqArhwRoX4A>

Mondays Biweekly Starting January 27 – 6:30-8:00pm

Friend's Way Bilingual Grief and Loss Support Group
(English and Spanish speaking youth aged 3-18)
Segue IFL, 325 Cowden St. Central Falls
Email Ari at ari@friendsway.org for intake and enrollment.

Weekly on Tuesdays – 3:00-4:00pm

Youth Pride, Inc. Virtual + In-Person Gender Spectrum
For gender diverse youth aged 14-23
743 Westminster St. Providence
Email programs@youthprideri.org for more information.

Weekly on Wednesdays – 3:00-4:00pm

Youth Pride, Inc. Virtual + In-Person The Way Out
For gender diverse youth aged 14-23
743 Westminster St. Providence
Email programs@youthprideri.org for more information.

Weekly on Thursdays – 3:00-6:00pm

Youth Pride, Inc. In-Person The Pride Side
For gender diverse youth aged 10-13
743 Westminster St. Providence
Email andy@youthprideri.org for more information.

FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT EVENTS

Rhode Island children and youth need resource families! **The need for resource caregivers and families has reached critical levels.** We would like to urge individuals and families to spread the word and find DCYF or our partners at an upcoming event to learn more about providing foster care to children and youth in Rhode Island.

Thursday, January 9 – 6:00-7:30pm

Adoption RI Foster Care Virtual Information Meeting
Register to receive the Zoom link with Allison at aforte@adoptionri.org

Tuesday, January 14 – 5:30-6:30pm

FSRI Foster Parent Information Night
Register at <https://www.familyserviceri.org/event/>

Saturday, January 18 – 10:00-11:00am

DCYF In-Person Foster Care Information Session
Providence Community Health Center – Atwood
31 Atwood St. Providence
Register at <https://bit.ly/beananchorinfosession>

Tuesday, January 28 – 5:30-6:30pm

DCYF Virtual Foster Care Information Session
Register at <https://bit.ly/virtualbeananchorinfosession>