



SUPPORTING OUR ANCHORS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

September is National Kinship Care Month!
This month, we honor the grandparents, relatives, and family friends who step up to provide children with a safe, loving, and stable home when they need it most. Kinship caregivers offer more than a place to live. They provide comfort, connection, and a sense of belonging during challenging times. They help children stay connected to the people, family, culture, and communities that are important to them. We are grateful to our kinship caregivers for being anchors of stability for children and families every day.

Thank you to all of our kinship families!



September is National Kinship Care Month

KINSHIP CAREGIVERS ARE A STABILIZING FORCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES. THEY HELP PRESERVE FAMILY TIES, CULTURAL IDENTITY, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION.

Anniversary

10

Year

CELEBRATION

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING

Our Village Founders

Elaine Gabellieri 🌸 *Kelley Plutte*
Kim Zandy 🌸 *Maya Colantuono* 🌸

AND CELEBRATING

10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

Sunday, September 13th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

imPossible Dream Playground
575 Centerville Rd #4
Warwick, RI 02886

The Village

The Village celebrates 10 Years of Community and Connection!

At the imPOSSIBLE Dream Playground

DATE: Sunday, September 13, 2026

TIME: 10:00am to 2:00pm



Celebration and Activities will be in Castle Hall. Snacks, drinks, a light lunch and an ice-cold treat will be provided!

Facepainting, Raffles, and More!

Please click  [here](#) to register!



PEER SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES

Kinship Connections



DCYF KINSHIP FAMILY PEER-TO-PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

Kinship Caregivers are a critical resource for our children when their parents or guardian cannot care for them. A kinship placement is often an emergency, leaving no time to prepare or make an informed decision about whether to take placement, and the unique relationship dynamics between kinship caregivers and the child's family of origin lead to strong emotions felt by all involved. These factors and supporting the needs of children can lead kinship families to feeling overwhelmed. Kinship caregivers need immediate support to stabilize the children in their care, gain access to services and supports for their families, and maximize the safety and wellbeing of the children. Rhode Island recognizes the value and contribution of kinship caregivers and understands the vital need to build supports to surround kin families.

ABOUT THE KINSHIP CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

The Kinship Connections Program is a statewide peer support program designed for kinship caregivers formally involved in the child wellbeing system. Peer mentoring is one of the most powerful ways families can support each other through periods of intense stress, especially in the time immediately after children are placed. Kinship Connections Peer Mentors help kinship families navigate a time filled with loneliness, fear, and frustration by sharing their lived experience and providing tangible support by:

- Providing emotional support and empathy to kinship caregiver families experiencing the challenges of maintaining the safety and wellbeing of children in their care and providing advice on navigating familial relationships.
- Helping kinship families to understand and access the array of supports, services, and resources available to them within the community.
- Coach and advise kinship caregivers in how to advocate for themselves and the child(ren) in their care.
- Convey the experiences and needs of kinship families in support of making system level adjustments.



Referrals to the Kinship Connections Program can be made by social caseworkers, kinship caregiver trainers, community support group facilitators, licensing workers, or the families themselves.



Conexiones Familiares



PROGRAMA DE TUTORÍA ENTRE PARIENTES DE DCYF

Los cuidadores familiares son un recurso fundamental para nuestros niños cuando sus padres o tutores no pueden ocuparse de ellos. El acogimiento por familiares es a menudo una emergencia, que no deja tiempo para prepararse o tomar una decisión informada sobre la conveniencia del acogimiento, y la dinámica única de las relaciones entre los cuidadores familiares y la familia de origen del niño provoca fuertes emociones en todos los implicados. Estos factores y el apoyo a las necesidades de los niños pueden hacer que las familias de acogida se sientan abrumadas. Los cuidadores familiares necesitan apoyo inmediato para estabilizar a los niños a su cargo, acceder a servicios y apoyos para sus familias y maximizar la seguridad y el bienestar de los niños. Rhode Island reconoce el valor y la contribución de los cuidadores familiares y comprende la necesidad vital de crear apoyos para rodear a las familias familiares.

ACERCA DEL PROGRAMA DE CONEXIONES FAMILIARES

El programa Kinship Connections es un programa estatal de apoyo entre iguales diseñado para cuidadores familiares formalmente implicados en el sistema de bienestar infantil. La tutoría entre iguales es una de las formas más poderosas que tienen las familias de apoyarse mutuamente en periodos de intenso estrés, especialmente en el periodo inmediatamente posterior a la colocación de los niños. Kinship Connections Peer Mentors ayudan a las familias de acogida a atravesar una época llena de soledad, miedo y frustración compartiendo su experiencia y proporcionando apoyo tangible:

- Proporcionar apoyo emocional y empatía a las familias cuidadoras por familiares que se enfrentan a los retos de mantener la seguridad y el bienestar de los niños a su cargo y asesorarles sobre cómo desenvolverse en las relaciones familiares.
- Ayudar a las familias de acogida a comprender y acceder al conjunto de ayudas, servicios y recursos de que disponen en la comunidad.
- Formar y asesorar a los cuidadores familiares sobre cómo abogar por sí mismos y por los niños a su cargo
- Transmitir las experiencias y necesidades de las familias de acogida en apoyo de la realización de ajustes a nivel del sistema.



Los remitentes al programa Kinship Connections pueden ser trabajadores sociales, formadores de cuidadores familiares, facilitadores de grupos de apoyo comunitarios, trabajadores encargados de conceder licencias o las propias familias.



Join the Be An Anchor team at one of our last three PVD Food Truck events of the season!



Thursday, September 10 4:30–7:30 PM
Warwick Food Truck Night – Crowne Plaza

Saturday, September 12th 4:30-7:30PM
Food Truck Concert Nights Diamond Hill Park

Friday, October 2nd 4:30PM-7:30PM
Warwick Food Truck Night - Crowne Plaza

SHARE YOUR VOICE



...we are
"Stronger Together"

What is a resource family?

Are you a foster,
adoptive, guardianship
or kinship family?

YOU are a resource
family!

Your Voice Matters!!

The Leadership Team wants
to hear from you!
Email us your topic ideas.

strongertogetherRI@gmail.com

Our upcoming meeting is on

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026

7:00 to 8:30 pm via Zoom

In this meeting, we will...

**Share strategies for confidently and
effectively advocating for the needs and
well-being of the child(ren) in your care.*

**Provide an overview of the Prudent
Parenting Guidelines as a foundation
for future discussion.*

To Register,
scan this QR code or follow the link below

Register via this link:

<https://forms.gle/KYftH13FE4fcWexP8>



Need translation?
Download Google
Translate or a similar
app.



...somos

"Más fuertes juntos"

¿Qué es una familia de recursos?

¿Es usted una familia de
acogida, adoptiva,
tutora o de parentesco?

¡Usted es una familia de
apoyo!

¡Tu voz importa!

¡El equipo de liderazgo
quiere saber de usted!
Envíenos sus ideas de temas
por correo electrónico.

strongertogetherRI@gmail.com

Nuestra próxima reunión es el
Miércoles, 9 de septiembre de 2026

de 7:00 a 8:30 pm por Zoom

En esta reunión, nosotras ...

**Comparta estrategias para defender
con confianza y eficacia las necesidades
y el bienestar de los niños a su cargo.*

**Ofrezca una visión general de las
Pautas de Crianza Prudente como base
para futuras deliberaciones.*

Para registrarse,
escanee este código QR o siga el enlace a
continuación.

Regístrate a través de este enlace:

<https://forms.gle/KYftH13FE4fcWexP8>



Necesitas
traducción?
Descarga Google
Translate o una
aplicación similar.



PLEASE CLICK



**TO LIKE AND
SHARE OUR
BE AN ANCHOR
FACEBOOK PAGE.**



FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT

Please help us spread the word about the need
for more resource families by sharing the
upcoming information sessions.



FOSTER CONNECTIONS

**JOIN US
AT A
FOSTER CARE
INFORMATION
SESSION TO
LEARN HOW**

BE AN ANCHOR

Saturday, September 12th 10:00-11:00AM
Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England
1500 Greenwich Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886

Scan to register:

For more info email:
dcyf.rds@dcyf.ri.gov

September Information Sessions

Saturday, September 12th 10:00-11:00AM

In-person at
Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England
500 Greenwich Ave, Warwick, RI

Register [here](#)



Thursday, September 24th 5:30-6:30PM

DCYF Virtual Foster Care
Information Session.

Register [here](#)



Wednesday September 16th 6:00-8:00PM

Adoption RI Virtual Foster Care
Information Meeting

Email: aforte@adoptionri.org to register.



Questions? Email: dcyf.rds@dcyf.ri.gov

LOOKING AHEAD - UPCOMING TRAININGS

FALL 2026 | October – December

Staying Anchored: Diving Deeper

Virtual monthly trainings for Rhode Island resource families, hosted by DCYF staff and Resource Family Peer Mentors. Each session explores key foster care topics through discussion and practical learning, while fostering connection and support. Training sessions use a variety of formats, including guest speakers, Foster Parent College highlights, and a mix of new and familiar foster care topics.



October 13 | Tuesday | 6:30–7:30

Permanency: What Resource Families Need to Know About Reunification, Adoption & Guardianship

Learn about the different paths to permanency and your role in supporting children and families through transitions.

November 10 | Tuesday | 6:30–7:30

Foster Care & the Holidays

Strategies to help children cope with emotions and maintain a sense of belonging during the holiday season.

December 3 | Thursday | 6:00–7:30

Nuts & Bolts of Foster Care (English)

A refresher on foster care responsibilities, procedures, and practical tips to stay confident as a resource family.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://StayingAnchoredMonthlyDCYFTraining.eventbrite.com>

Fall brings big emotions and important transitions.

These sessions help families understand permanency, prepare for the holidays, and stay grounded during a busy season.

All sessions count toward required foster care re-licensure training hours.

Questions? Email dcyf.rds@dcyf.ri.gov



2026 Resource Family Training
Fourth Quarter - October-December

COMMUNITY PARTNER TRAININGS AND EVENTS

FOSTER CARE CONNECTION RI

A Collaboration Built For Foster Families

Child & Family
Growth & Well-being Community

children's friend
Supporting Foster & Adoptive Families

NAFI
RHODE ISLAND

Practical Trauma-Informed Strategies for Foster Parents

Learn from experts to better understand and support children who have experienced trauma

Thursday, September 10th
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
1268 Eddy St.
Providence, RI 02905

What We Will Learn Together

- ✓ Recognize how trauma impacts a child's behavior, emotions, and development.
- ✓ Apply practical strategies to build trust, and strengthen relationships.
- ✓ Work through challenges as a family and avoid disruptions in care

Questions:

Daniel Keith - Program Trainer
DKeith@childandfamilyri.org

Adoption Rhode Island
Children First, and Always.

Adoption Rhode Island
invites you to join

Exploring Adoption from Foster Care

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
5:00PM - 7:00 PM

Have you completed or are you currently participating in TIPPS -MAPP Training and wondering what the journey to Adoption & Permanency looks like?

This Meet and Greet will be an opportunity for families to meet Adoption Rhode Island staff, ask questions, and learn how to register with our agency to be considered for adoption matching and support services.

We'll walk through what happens after licensing, how the process differs from fostering and what next steps look like if adoption is your goal.

RSVP by September 9th to the Family Engagement Specialist, Allison Forte:
aforte@adoptionri.org

PLEASE JOIN US VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. LINK WILL BE SENT UPON REGISTRATION.

Funded By
DCYF
Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

ADOPTION RHODE ISLAND

PERMANENCY SERVICES

VISIT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORT THAT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!



The Heart Tree



Foster Forward



Adoption RI



Home | RI Village