

The Cumberland Connection

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES NEWSLETTER



December 2023



Merry Christmas, y'all! It's my favorite time of year. It has always evoked a sense of wonder and hope. I was recently inspired by a devotion of hope by Rev. Judy Madden. She explained hope as a gift, an active gift. One is given to each of us and we give to others. There is so much beauty in this perspective. Our mission at Cumberland has always been to keep kids safe, and families together and to help them to find healing and hope. We are actively practicing the gift of hope. And so many of you have freely and generously gifted hope to those we serve. May you find peace, hope, joy, and love this holiday season.

Gratefully,
Courtney Banatoski
President & CEO



HOLIDAY SEASON FUN

Get ready for 12 Days of Christmas this holiday season! We're excited to share our mission, stories, and opportunities with

you. Each day, we'll unwrap a unique aspect of our work, showcasing the impact we make in the lives of youth, families, and our community. Join us on our social media channels or visit our website to see what each day has in store, and discover how you can be a part of our mission. Your support, whether through donations, volunteerism, or sharing our message, makes a meaningful difference. Together, we can make this season even brighter by making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Stay tuned, and let's celebrate the spirit of giving!



Board Member Highlight: Whitney Mai

Whitney Mai, a valued member of the Cumberland Board's Advancement Committee, is a dynamic entrepreneur with her husband, owning The Pickled Carrot food truck and The Brownlow House bed and breakfast boutique. Her involvement with Cumberland stems from her personal journey of fostering and ultimately adopting three children. After adopting, Whitney sought ways to stay engaged and was invited to join the committee. Passionate about leveraging her experience to raise awareness and funds, Whitney is thrilled to serve as an advocate and recruiter for the new Foster Care and Adoption program, embodying the spirit of supporting others throughout their journey.

EMPOWERING LIVES: CUMBERLAND UPDATES



DEVIN COKER - TACFS AWARD WINNER

Devin Coker received a statewide award from the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services for his exceptional work in the General Residential Operations Staff category. He is a shining example of the dedication and commitment that these professionals bring to their roles. We are so grateful for all of Devin's work!



DENTON ARTS & JAZZ FESTIVAL

Denton Arts and Jazz Festival vibes with a purpose! Our team had a blast while sharing information about Cumberland and our new Foster Care and Adoption Program.



NEW GEAR FOR THE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Thanks to the generosity of 806 Technologies and Pop's Casino Parties & Events, our Family Residential Program kids are beaming with delight as they receive brand-new bikes, locks, helmets, and pads. These special donations create moments of pure joy and make a lasting impact on our residents' lives.



HALLOWEEN FUN ON CAMPUS

October brought spooky fun and laughter to our campus as we hosted a Halloween extravaganza for the youth in our Children's Residential Program. With vibrant costumes, pumpkin painting, and an obstacle course, the atmosphere buzzed with excitement. Thanks to the support of our community and generous donors, the kids experienced a memorable celebration filled with joy, creating cherished Halloween memories.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS TO GET THE LATEST UPDATES





NEW PROGRAM ALERT: FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION PROGRAM

Our Foster Care and Adoption Program (FCAP) actively recruits, licenses, and offers unwavering support to foster and adoptive families. We also assist families with children in kinship care to become licensed as foster/adoptive parents. Our mission is to establish secure and nurturing homes for children who have experienced trauma, ensuring they receive the care and support required to thrive.

We're excited to announce that we are now accepting applications and expressions of interest from families eager to make a difference through fostering or adoption.



COMMUNITY COUNSELING

Counseling services at Cumberland are open to Denton residents who are uninsured or underinsured, lacking the coverage needed for counseling. In-person and online session options are available. Our counselors are ready to provide support for children, teens, college-age young adults and adults.

Simply scan this QR code to kickstart your journey towards a brighter future. Your path to self-discovery and well-being awaits!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JENNIFER MADDOX

Meet Jennifer Maddox, our new Director of our Foster Care and Adoption program. She brings over 15 years of experience in the field, where her passion for helping families shines through. She has worked extensively with foster parents, guiding them through the recruitment and licensing process, and offering unwavering support as they open their homes to children in need. Her commitment extends beyond office hours, reflecting her dedication to making a difference in the lives of children and families.

"Becoming a foster parent is no small feat, but I've never met one who regretted their choice," Jennifer explains. "The role of a foster parent is instrumental in a child's healing journey, and I'm here to walk this path with them."

GENEROSITY AT A GLANCE

\$65

supports the cost of one therapy session

\$170

per single-parent limited income family provides funds to support educational and employment services

\$600

per foster care family supports the costs of a mandatory home study

\$50

per month supports the cost of musical lessons for residents

\$125

per foster care family per month supports the costs of ensuring these families receive the training needed throughout their journey

Monthly Stipend of

\$350

per resident helps cover essentials like college textbooks, gas, etc.

\$485

per resident who has aged out of foster care to receive case management and ensure they receive the guidance needed for these individuals to succeed.

\$15

per resident per week covers the cost of essential normalcy activities like trampoline parks or the movies.

MAKE A DONATION

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are many ways to support Cumberland Youth and Family Services. We gratefully accept all donations, whether they are financial or tangible items.

Ways to Give:

Donate Financially

Give In-Kind Items

Give By Shopping



If this sounds like the kind of thing you or your organization would be interested in, reach out to April Ziemann at AZiemann@cumberlandservices.org or visit our website www.cumberlandservices.org/give-now



Visit our website at www.cumberlandservices.org to learn more about our programs and how you can make a difference.

