

News You Can Use

Foster, Adoptive & Guardianship Family Newsletter

FALL 2022 | MO



Request Holiday Wishes by October 15

It's time to register for the Little Wishes holiday program! Thanks to KSDK 5 On Your Side, Vantage Credit Union, and thousands of generous donors, children impacted by foster care can receive special holiday gifts.

Children are eligible if they live in St. Louis City or the MO counties of St. Louis, Jefferson, St. Charles, Lincoln, Franklin, or Warren and are currently in the foster care system, or were in foster care and now live in one of these counties with their adoptive and guardianship family.

Step 1: Look at your **Coalition Caregiver ID**, which can be found above your address on the outside of this newsletter.

Step 2: Find a **safe address** to provide for holiday wishes. Some shippers leave boxes at the front door! We receive calls every year from caregivers who didn't receive gifts that were shipped to them. Unfortunately, we can't replace gifts that were delivered. Also please do not use a P.O. Box number – some shippers require an actual address.

Step 3: To submit a request, you'll need to provide the name and phone number for each child's **current foster care case manager or adoption/guardianship subsidy worker**. We WILL verify this information.

Step 4: Choose gifts! Each child who qualifies for the Little Wishes holiday program may choose one (1) gift from the white sheets of the enclosed catalog. Children ages eight (8) and older who are CURRENTLY IN FOSTER CARE should also choose one (1) gift from the blue sheet.

Step 5: Submit your wish requests. PLEASE submit your wish requests online! It is easy and helps avoid errors! Request wishes online at:

www.foster-adopt.org/wish

If you do not have access to the internet, you can register by phone on 2 days – Friday, October 7 and Thursday October 13 from 9:00am–5:00pm at 314-367-8373. If online and phone registration are not possible, you can fill out the enclosed form and send it back to us. If you mail in your referral form and it is filled out incorrectly or if inappropriate gifts are chosen, we will select age-appropriate gifts for the child.

How many gifts will your child receive? That depends upon how many donors grant the wishes. All efforts will be made to fulfill at least one (1) request per child. One last thing to know: children currently in foster care always receive priority. For any questions, please call 314-367-8373 or email littlewishes@foster-adopt.org.

Important Upcoming Dates

October 7 (Friday)	October 11 (Tuesday)	October 12 (Wednesday)	October 13 (Thursday)	October 13 (Thursday)	October 15 (Saturday)	November 10 (Thursday)	December 23 (Friday)
Phone registration for holiday Little Wishes	Phone registration for Motion for Kids	Phone registration for Motion for Kids (until all spots are filled)	Phone registration for Motion for Kids (until all spots are filled)	Phone registration for holiday Little Wishes	Deadline to register for holiday Little Wishes	First day holiday Little Wishes could start getting delivered	Last day holiday Little Wishes gifts should arrive at your address

Registration for Motion for Kids Party

For years, our families have enjoyed the Motion for Kids party in December. Every child registered for the event gets to request a gift (\$35 or under). Motion for Kids donors purchase these gifts for you to pick-up at the party. The party usually has activities, entertainment and food for the families to enjoy as well. Motion for Kids will be hosting the party on Saturday, December 3 at Harris Stowe State University in St. Louis city, but did not have additional details at the time of this publication.

Who can register?

You must be a family with foster/adopted/guardianship children who are 17 years old or younger living in your home. Only people living in your household may attend.

When can I register?

Registration starts on Tuesday, October 11 and is by phone only. Registration will continue until all spots are filled, but no later than Thursday, October 13. We cannot take registrations by voicemail or email; you must speak to a volunteer or Coalition staff to register. For the first 4 hours on the first day (Tues Oct 11), we're always flooded with calls –it is very difficult to get through. Just call again later Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.



How do I register?

Call 314-367-8373 between 9:00am-5:00pm between October 11-13. Space is limited and taken on a first come, first served basis

What do I need to register?

When you call, you must have a specific gift request priced around \$35 for each child. You will need to be specific about sizes, titles, colors, brands, etc. (i.e. "Lego Minecraft set" or "Boys tee shirt, red or black, Nike or Adidas, size 10-12". Gift card or cash requests are NOT accepted. You must be able to pick up the gifts on the day and time of the giveaway (picking up gifts later is not an option).

Victims of Crime May Be Eligible for Monetary Support Through Crime Victims' Compensation Program

Purpose

The Crime Victims' Compensation program provides monetary support to eligible individuals and their family members who are victims of certain violent crimes.

Eligibility

Basic criteria required to determine eligibility include:

- Crime must have occurred in Missouri
- Crime must be reported to the proper authorities
- Victim/claimant must cooperate with law enforcement
- Victim must not have contributed to their injury
- Victim must not have been in the commission of a crime
- Application must be received within two (2) years of the date of the crime or discovery of the crime
- An arrest or conviction of a suspect is not required

Allowable costs

Allowable benefits may include medical, funeral and counseling expenses, lost wages or loss of support for eligible victims and their family members. Professional service providers are paid directly for eligible crime service. If victim/claimant has paid out-of-pocket they may be reimbursed, if eligible. The maximum benefit levels are \$5,000 for funeral expenses and up to \$400/ per week for lost wages. The total maximum benefit is \$25,000.

More information

Learn more about the Crime Victims' Compensation program here: dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/cvc/documents/CVC-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Meet Ronald and Shyanne!



Ronald is a quirky and friendly eleven-year-old boy. He is described as initially shy, inquisitive, and playful. Ronald enjoys playing outside on the playground and riding his bike and scooter. He loves Sonic the Hedgehog and playing card games. He likes a variety of animals, but especially loves marine life and reptiles. Ronald can be a picky eater at times but has recently started trying new foods. If you ask him where he'd like to go eat, he would gladly tell you Taco Bell! Ronald is in the 4th grade and has an Individual Education Plan to assist him as he is delayed academically. Overall, Ronald is physically healthy. He is prescribed medication, which he takes daily. Ronald attends weekly trauma-focused individual therapy.



Shyanne is a nurturing and spirited fourteen-year-old girl. She is described as energetic, imaginative, and social. She loves to have her hair done, especially if it is put up in a fancy hair style. Shyanne is a social butterfly and loves to talk with everyone she sees. She prefers to play indoors with her stuffed animals, dolls, and toys. Shyanne is a SpongeBob expert! Her favorite character is Patrick. She loves food – eating and talking about it! Shyanne is in the 7th grade and has an Individual Education Plan to assist her as she is delayed academically. Overall, Shyanne is physically healthy. She is prescribed medication, which she takes daily. Shyanne attends weekly trauma-focused individual therapy.

These are not legal risk placements as termination of parental rights has occurred. The ideal adoptive family for Shyanne would be a loving family with trauma informed parenting experience and behavioral training. The family should be Level A trained or be willing to complete Level A training. The adoptive family should have a strong support network locally and have the ability to establish consistent, firm, but loving rules and consequence. All family types will be considered for Shyanne. Homestudied families from all states will be considered.

Relative Support Groups



Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition is excited to share our Relative Support Group with our relatives/kin/fictive kin in the St. Louis metro counties and surrounding area, including the Metro East. These groups meet for one hour a month, alternating between 12:00–1:00pm and an evening meeting. This is a safe place where you can get information that is practical, constructive, and helpful. Hearing from others facing similar challenges can make you feel less alone. The group will be meeting one another, opening up about experiences, sharing what works, uplifting and inspiring one another all through a commitment to family.



FOSTER & ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION

FOR EVERY CHILD... A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Address

1750 S. Brentwood Blvd.
Suite 210
St. Louis, Missouri
63144

Website

www.foster-adopt.org

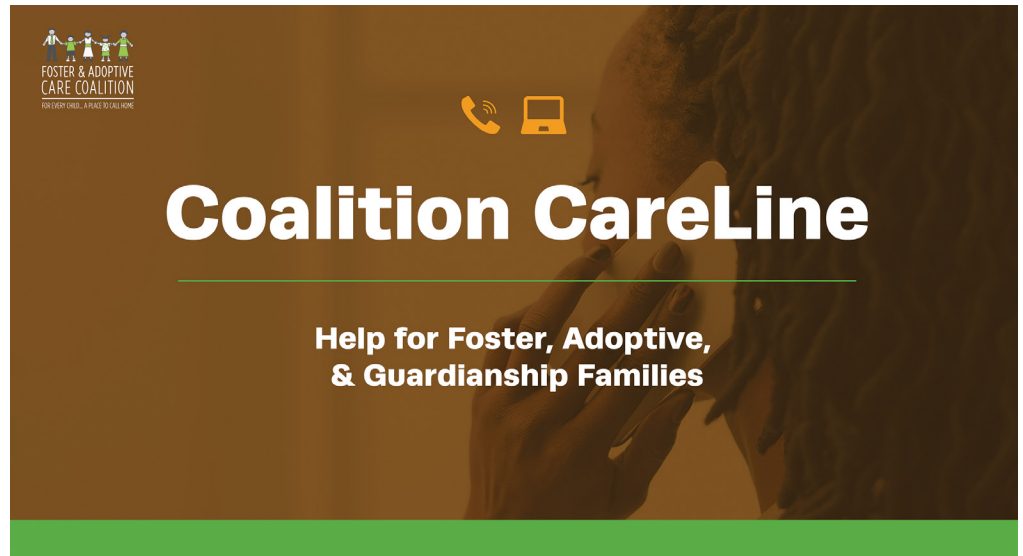
Contact

Phone: 800.FOSTER.3
Or 314.367.8373
Fax: 314.241.0715

Social Media

facebook.com/foster-adopt
twitter.com/foster-adopt
instagram.com/foster.adopt

Coalition CareLine



We're here for you!

Early on in the pandemic, we established the Coalition CareLine to quickly connect foster, adoptive and guardianship families to services. So far, we've provided in-depth support to many families. Our expert staff help families access food, clothing, government benefits, mental health and behavioral services, children's activities, and other needs.

You can ask us for help by contacting the CareLine at 800.FOSTER.3 (314-367-8373) or through our website at www.foster-adopt.org/careline

Free For Foster Families:

Magic House (Kirkwood) and MADE for Kids (St. Louis city) gives free admission to foster families- you just need to show documentation of your foster parent status. MADE for Kids on Delmar is a new makerspace and art studio for creative kids ages 6-13 to tinker with pottery, 3D printing, stop motion animation, and more! Adoptive/Guardianship families can get free admission to MADE for Kids through the St. Louis Public Library - check out a pass just like you would check out a book.

Healthworks Kids' Museum (St. Louis city) offers free admission to foster families on Thursdays and Saturdays. They have lots of pretend play spaces set up so you can keep an eye on several kids at once. You'll need to show documentation of your foster parent status for free entry.

