

2ND QUARTER

FOSTER BY FAITH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR BOSSIER KIDS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Donations: Along with monetary donations, there are a variety of other ways you can donate to Bossier KIDS and local foster families. If you have gently used children's toys, gear, clothing items, or bedroom furniture, consider donating them for use in foster homes. In addition, you can also greatly bless a foster family by deciding to purchase these items for their children.

Foster Care Training: If you have considered becoming a foster parent, don't wait any longer! We need you. Consider visiting the website for the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (www.dcfslouisiana.gov). The DCFS website contains important information about the steps to becoming a foster parent, as well as answers any questions you may have before pursuing certification.

Website & Social Media Updates: As of December 2022, we have a new website! If you haven't already, be sure to visit our website (www.bossierkids.org) and take a look around at the ways you can get involved with our organization. You can also donate and send us a message through our website. Also, be sure to check us out on Instagram (@bossierkidsinc) and Facebook (Bossier KIDS Inc) and give us a follow to stay in the loop for what is happening in Bossier KIDS.

FOSTER CARE TERM SPOTLIGHT: RESPITE CARE

What is Respite Care?

Respite care is essentially a time in which volunteers will host foster children from a foster family to allow the foster parents time to rest and recharge.

How Long is Respite Care?

The duration depends on the volunteer hosts. You can offer to host a child for a few hours, overnight, or even a weekend.

Why is Respite Care Important?

Respite care helps prevent burnout among foster parents, which is crucial. Fostering can take an emotional toll, and because our foster parents do vital work for children in our community, we want to ensure that their needs are met. Respite care also enables foster children to have special time and attention with other adults and families who care about them. Foster care takes a village, and you can be part of that village by offering respite care.

Where Do I Start?

Reach out to us if you are interested in offering respite care or learning more information. We would love to talk to you! Send us an email at bossierkids@gmail.com or call our office at (318) 741-1934.

GET INVOLVED WITH BOSSIER KIDS THIS SUMMER

1. Offer Weekend Respite Care

Offer a foster couple an opportunity for a staycation or date night by providing respite care for the children in their care.



2. Be a Mentor

Consider becoming a mentor for a child. Offer to take a child to get ice cream once a month, play at a park, or participate in their favorite activity.

3. Donate Summer Gear

Ask a foster family if there is anything you can help provide their children with this summer like swimsuits, outdoor activities, sunscreen, or pool towels.



FOSTER FAMILY RESOURCES

Bossier KIDS Certification: If you are interested in fostering for Bossier KIDS, we have the ability to certify you to foster in one of our three Bossier KIDS homes or grant you certification to foster in your own home. Connect with us through social media or our website to learn more.

www.bossierkidsinc.org

Adopt US Kids: Adopt US Kids is a national organization whose goal is to provide a family to every child and teen in the U.S. foster care system. They provide information for prospective foster and adoptive parents, aid in the adoption process, and connect families through their social platforms.

www.adoptuskids.org

CASA Louisiana: CASA stands for "Court Appointed Special Advocate." CASA Louisiana's website provides information for individuals who are interested in volunteering in this capacity on behalf of a foster child.

www.louisianacasa.org

Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization: The Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization connects Louisiana foster families to support groups, trainings, parents' night out opportunities, clothing/supplies, and opportunities for their foster children, as well as includes resources for children aging out of the care system.

www.louisianafostercare.com

Fostering Families Today: Fostering Families Today is a national foster care magazine with resources, advice, and helpful information on aiding foster children. Their website also features access to free webinars, their newsletter, article archives, and Facebook discussion groups.

www.fosteringfamiestoday.com

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services: Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is a governmental organization that advocates for the safety of children, helps families and individuals at risk, and provides refuge in the event of a natural disaster. Their website also outlines steps to becoming a foster parent.

www.dcfslouisiana.gov

SEASONAL CRAFT

SUNSHINE SUMMER JOURNAL



SUPPLIES:

- 2 Sheets of Colored Construction Paper
- Assorted Paper Scraps in Orange, Yellow, Red, and Pink
- Scissors
- Glue Stick
- Letter Stickers or Stamps
- Stack of Plain Copy Paper
- Stapler

DIRECTIONS:

1. Start by cutting a large curved shape from a piece of colored paper.
2. Glue the largest curved paper down, then cut and glue two more rounded shapes to complete the main part of the sun.
3. Cut a bunch of strips from a variety of paper scraps. Arrange the paper rays around the sun, trimming them as needed. Then, glue all the paper strips to the background paper.
4. Give your journal a title using letter stickers or stamps, or just write the title with markers.
5. Stack the cover on top of some blank copy paper and another sheet of colored construction paper. Use three staples on the left hand side to finish your sunshine summer journal.

To encourage your kids to use their journals throughout the summer, set aside a regular time most days to draw and write together. Have fun writing, drawing, and creating in your sunshine summer journal!

Source: Make and Takes



SEASONAL TREAT

BANANA STRAWBERRY POPSICLES



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Ripe Banana, Chopped
- 1.5 Cups Fresh Strawberries, Hulled
- 1/2 Cup Plain Yogurt or Dairy-Free Yogurt
- 1/4 Cup Whole Milk or Choice of Dairy-Free Milk
- 2 Tbs Maple Syrup, Agave, or Honey
- 1 Tsp Vanilla Extract (Optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Add all the ingredients to a high speed blender and blend until it forms a smooth mixture with no lumps.
2. Fill eight popsicle molds to the top.
3. Add a popsicle stick to the center of each popsicle mold.
4. Freeze overnight and store for up to three months in the freezer.
5. Remove one popsicle mold from the freezer and run under hot water to easily remove the popsicle.

Source: The Conscious Plant Kitchen



DONOR APPRECIATION

2023 2nd Quarter Donations Given in Memory Of

In Memory of Cynthia Thrift

Randy and Linda French

Paul and Dianne Cressend

In Memory of Mrs. Gloria Andries Cleveland and Mr. John Johnson

Robert and Nancy Boone

In Memory of Debra Huckabee

P H Champion

In Memory of Rod Hyatt

Dr. Ernest L. Kistler

BOARD APPRECIATION

Our 2023 Volunteer Board of Directors

Paul Cressend

Penny Burks

Gregg Vaughan

Charles Gregg

Chance Nerren