



**Holiday:** FCS office will be closed on 1/15/18



**2018 Holiday Schedule:** Please see page 2 of the newsletter for the agency holiday schedule.

**Website:** Our website has been updated. We are in the process of working out some bugs, so please be patient with us.

**Resource Parent Training.** The 2018 Training Plans are included with this newsletter. Please review details with your client supervisor and return your approved plans before 2/2/18. All resource parents/caregivers must attend required training per program. All resource parents/caregivers must have a training plan that addresses the total hours required. The resource parents/caregiver need a plan on how to obtain approved training hours outside of FCS to complete their required number of training hours per program. Scheduled FCS training will be provided to you by your client supervisor. The first class starts 3/15/18. Total training hours should be completed by 10/31/18. Your client supervisor can provide outside training resources if you are anxious to get started on your training requirements for this year.

**Tax Time Is Coming!** Here is a brief list of the main things you need to know about your resource parent pay and your taxes;

1. Most resource parents will not receive a 1099 form because resource parent pay is generally exempt from federal income tax. Some types of respite may be the exception to this rule. By the end of this month, we will send you a 1099 form if required.
2. You will not receive a difficulty of care letter because difficulty of care certification is no longer needed to support the federal income tax exemption.
3. Foster parent pay is not taxable when paid by a qualified foster care placement agency for the care of qualified foster individuals. Family Care Services is a qualified placement agency and most of the clients we serve are qualified foster individuals; therefore, the income paid to resource parents is generally not taxable for federal income tax and should not be included in your federal return.
4. You may qualify for tax exemptions or credits because of your foster children. Please consult with a tax professional to determine if you qualify for any of these exemptions or credits.
5. We do not report resource parent pay to state or local tax authorities.
6. If you have questions about your resource parent income, please call Charlie at extension 122.

**Financial Aid:** Do you have clients who will be graduating from high school this year? It's time to really dig in to preparations for post-high school education! "Free" money is available to youth who have been in foster care or adopted, so don't miss out. The first step toward obtaining financial assistance is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application can be completed at the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) website, [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org). The PHEAA website also has many other helpful resources and timelines for educational planning, so check it out!

**Family members:** It is important that FCS is notified prior to anyone new moving into your home. The programs have different requirements regarding guests, returning family members, and new placements; however, in most cases new physicals and criminal history checks are needed prior to anyone new moving into the home. It is important that all client supervisors working in your home are notified of home composition changes prior to anyone spending the night or any new placement or respite.

**Room and Board:** There was a 2% cost-of-living increase in social security rates effective January '2017; therefore room and board rates will increase for clients in Community Homes and Life Sharing (Family Living). The rate is \$18.27 per day, except when the client is on leave the rate is \$10.15

**FCS Education & Training Center:** We have added a bookshelf in the training room which contains many new training materials (DVDs and books). These materials are available to be signed out by you. Some of the training topics include: fetal alcohol syndrome, special education, autism, grief and loss, anger outbursts, childhood anxiety disorders, self harm, eating disorders, sexualized behaviors, ADD, ADHD, ODD and many more!

**Free Training:** The HCQU continues to provide monthly training opportunities at the Franklin County Annex Building. Training is available from 10 am-12 pm and 1 pm-3pm. A wide selection of HCQU topics are available online that can be completed at your convenience and you can print the training certificate from home. Talk with your client supervisor for training dates and topics. You are required to register for the classes at the Annex.

### **\$100 Bonus!**

Do you have friends or family that may be interested in being a resource family, caregiver, or adoptive parent? Let us know! When they provide care for 30 days, YOU get \$100! Invite them to contact our recruiting team leader Andrea Adams, ext. 209, [aadams@familycareservices.org](mailto:aadams@familycareservices.org).

Are you on Facebook? "Like" our FCS page for helpful articles and blogs, links to community and online trainings and events, and encouragement! Find us at [www.facebook.com/FamilyCareServices](http://www.facebook.com/FamilyCareServices)



# FCS Contact List

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The FCS office will be closed on the following holidays:

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|-------------|------------------|
| 1/15/18     | MLK Day          |
| 2/19/18     | President's Day  |
| 3/30/18     | Good Friday      |
| 5/28/18     | Memorial Day     |
| 7/4/18      | Independence Day |
| 9/3/18      | Labor Day        |
| 10/8/18     | Columbus Day     |
| 11/12/18    | Veterans Day     |
| 11/22&23/18 | Thanksgiving     |
| 12/25&26/18 | Christmas        |
| 1/1/19      | New Year's       |



**FCS Web Site! Calendar of events, Resource Family Manual, current forms, 12 months of this newsletter, resources, staff listing and phone numbers are all on:**  
<http://www.familycareservices.org>



### Abigail is a 12-year old girl who needs a forever family!

Abigail is a sixth grader who loves gym class and recess. She likes going to the park and on outings with her resource family like festivals and shopping. Abigail also enjoys drawing and completing craft-like activities. Abigail states that her favorite food is any kind of candy! Abigail loves being outside and participating in activities with others. Abigail likes to stay busy. Adoptive and permanent families are currently being sought for Abigail.

### Nathan is a 16 year-old young man who needs support resources!

Nathan is in tenth grade and his favorite subject in school is math. He plans on attending college and is currently researching different universities that may be of interest to him. He loves video games and plans on finding a career in the area of creating and developing video games. Nathan also loves animals. He grew up with dogs in his home and liked taking care of them. He has also had the opportunity to work with horses recently and enjoys his time at the farm. Nathan is a very intelligent young man and enjoys games that require complex thinking like chess. Nathan is very advanced in his knowledge of technology and likes working on computers and other devices. Nathan likes to eat and loves Macaroni and Cheese! Support resources are currently being sought for Nathan.

