

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Family Care Services *Christmas Letter December 2020*

As the holiday season approaches, I like to reflect on the past year. This year has definitely been a unique one. I am very grateful for all of you and the hard work that you do. This year has brought many changes for everyone. We have all had to adjust to these uncertain pandemic times. I know I never thought that we would be experiencing a crisis like this or for this long. I know it has been a struggle at times, but all of you have been doing such a great job at keeping your households safe. Keep up the good work! Here at the office we have experienced some staff changes this year. We suffered through the tragic loss of Melvena Knight and we said goodbye to Ashley Bale. We welcomed Leilanie Brady to our DD program, Lindsay Smith-Foltz to our Family Based Team, and Matt Carr as our Facility Maintenance Manager. We were not able to get together this year for our summer picnic or Christmas party, but I'm hopeful that we will see each other next year. Keep looking for the good moments in each day! Have a wonderful holiday season. Each program director wrote a little something to all of you below.

~Kristen Fisher, Clinical Director



The Family Based program would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I would like to take this time to introduce you to our new Mental Health Professional, Lindsay Smith-Foltz. She has been part of family based since August 2020 and has been such a wonderful asset to our team and agency. There have been lots of challenges this year, but it has not stopped us from working hard and providing care and services to individuals and families. Thank you to all the staff and caregivers for everything that you do! We wish you peace, joy, happiness, and good health!

~Angela M. Ciccarelli, BA, CMHW (Family Based Director & MH Professional)



As I reflect back over 2020, it's easy to find things to be thankful for, and one of the greatest is you! Our resource families have been willing to continue accepting new placements, adapt to changing routines and requirements, and even learn new technologies, all while providing great care to children and teenagers. Across the state, the numbers of children in foster care this year were lower than average. But despite that, we had some fantastic numbers. Twenty families attended information nights (most were virtual) to learn more about our programs. We approved seven new foster families. We've helped 12 kids achieve legal permanency with their forever families, and there are more adoptions scheduled before this year ends! Through our Adoption and Permanency program, we've helped so many kids take their next steps toward their permanency goals. One thing I very much appreciate about our staff and resource families is how we work together in teams to make sure kids have the best possible outcomes. As a part of those teams, you are so appreciated. We see when you go the extra mile - prioritizing visits even when it's inconvenient, supporting birth families even when kindness isn't reciprocated, patiently waiting and waiting and waiting a little longer when answers are hard to find. We want you to know that we are so thankful for your dedication and the love you give children! Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season!

~Andrea Adams, Foster Care and Permanency Programs Director



The Holiday season is full of wonderful things: cheerful songs, twinkling lights, homemade cookies, thoughtful gifts and whatever reason you are personally celebrating the season. As always, we would like to extend our gratitude to our clients and families for the meaningful relationship we share during the entire year. It is our utmost hope that however you chose to celebrate, you have a truly magical holiday filled with love, joy, and family. We also hope you spend time reflecting on some of the positive things that happened during the past year because we all know this year was filled with challenges. This time of year is a time to start thinking about goals or changes for next year. These goals are different for everyone but often involve a desire for improvement. One of our goals is to be better advocates and educators for the clients and families we support.

Wishing you good health and prosperity. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~Tony Fisher, DD Program Director



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