

# The Adams County Foster Care

## Connection

VOLUME 2 AUGUST 2020



### Connect with Fun

In 2015 Commissioner Chaz Tedesco, a fierce advocate for foster care partnered with the Adams County Fair and created an annual fundraiser, calling it the Funnel Cake Run. This fundraiser supports our agency's special event programming for children in foster care, such as the annual holiday party, the children's party in support of the Foster Care Banquet, as well as many other additional supportive services.

The run started in 2015 and since the inception of this run has averaged 190 runners. After some careful consideration, the Adams County Foster Care Program, along with the Communications Department made the decision to re-brand this annual event. Starting 2020, the Funnel Cake Run will be called The Foster Care 5k. The run will remain tied to the Adams County Fair and will in future years be held on the Saturday of the fair. Due to COVID-19, this year's fair has been cancelled. However, the Foster Care 5k will be held virtually. It will begin on Saturday, August 8, 2020 and run through August 31, 2020.

If you wish to participate, please follow us on Facebook (Adams County Foster Care) for more information, watch for an email or register through the Adams County Fair website under Foster Care 5k



# Connect with Celebration

Starting in 2017, a group of employees came forward to request the opportunity to take on a very big task – to become the first county in our state to seek the Human Rights Campaign seal of recognition, which serves as an important affirmation to our commitment to provide culturally responsive services and supports LGBTQ youth, families, and foster families.

In 2019, after two years of work, Adams County Children and Family Services Division became the first Colorado County to be awarded two seals of recognition from the Human Rights Campaign: You Are Welcome Here; and the highest honor available, Recognized Innovator in Supporting and Serving LGBTQ Youth and Families.

The committee for this project has worked tirelessly since 2017 to continue the effort. We are excited to share with you, The Human Rights Campaign has announced that Adams County Children and Family Services Division has again achieved both recognitions for 2020, and continue to be a leader in innovation in regards to serving the LGBTQ population. We will be updating the seal to reflect our continued partnership with the HRC, until then we attach the 2019 version. When LGBTQ+ people and their allies see this seal on our recruitment materials, website any other place we display it, they understand they are safe coming to our program and are welcomed to live their authentic lives in partnership with us.

To learn more about The Human Rights Campaign's "All Children, All Families" projects

[hrc.org/campaigns/all-children-all-families](https://hrc.org/campaigns/all-children-all-families)



# Connect with Training

In January 2020, Adams County, in partnership with Spaulding for Children began training and preparing to launch a training curriculum for new foster, adoptive, and kinship families. The National Training and Development Curriculum for Foster/Adoptive Parents (NTDC) is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the Administration on Children, Youth & Families, Children's Bureau that will develop and then evaluate a state-of-the-art training program to prepare foster and adoptive parents to effectively parent children exposed to trauma and to provide these families with ongoing skill development needed to understand and promote healthy child development. Our goal was a March roll out of the new training, but due to COVID 19, we were delayed until May. We have begun offering the new curriculum to all new foster families via Zoom. KP Longton, our new trainer, along with our amazing foster parent co-trainer, Noelle MacCleay, we have graduated a whole cohort of new families! Thank you to KP and Noelle MacCleay for leading us through this big change! YOU ARE ROCK STARS!



**WANT  
TO JOIN  
OUR  
TEAM**



If you are a current foster parent who has fostered for at least one year, and interested in becoming a co-trainer, please reach out to KP Longton.

## Connect with Staff

KP Longton has her Masters Degree in Social Work and has been working in Child Welfare for almost 15 years. Her professional journey began in Georgia with teaching life skills to children in a residential placement. She was excited to move to Colorado and quickly began her journey with Adams County. KP grew personally and professionally in her role as an Intake Caseworker for several years. She then joined one of our amazing Adoptions teams where she honed her coaching skills to strengthen placements and identify supportive resources.

For the past two years, she has also been the co-leader of a group within Adams County that has been partnering with the Human Rights Campaign to ensure the needs of our LGBTQ youth and families are met. As a part of this group, she has been facilitating dynamic training to the entire agency.

KP and her family opened their hearts and home in 2014 and became a certified foster home for a metro county. KP is also passionate about her home life, which includes her vibrant 7-year-old son and his rescue pup. KP is thrilled to be in her new role as the foster parent trainer/coach and can't wait to get to know all of you!



## Connect for Support

### ***Be on the lookout***



**Foster Source Connection Group**  
[fostersource.org](http://fostersource.org)

August 22nd 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
September 26th 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
October 24th 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Connection is the energy that is created between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued – when they can give and receive without judgement.  
Brene' Brown, PhD, LMSW



Circle of Parents® provides a friendly, supportive environment led by parents and other caregivers, where parents are the experts.

It's a place where anyone in a parenting role can openly discuss the successes and challenges of raising children. It's a place where they can find and share support

Build social connections and parenting skills in Circle of Parent groups all around Colorado.

Find a Group

[www.circleofparentscolorado.org/findagroup](http://www.circleofparentscolorado.org/findagroup)