

MAY 30, 2017

Additional Information on the RRTS Contract from Four Oaks and Lutheran Services in Iowa

Dear Resource Family,

As you know, Four Oaks and Lutheran Services in Iowa will be providing services through a new contract called Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Support (RRTS) beginning July 1. In a previous email, we let you know that while many things remain the same, some things will be a little different for you.

One change is that Lutheran Services in Iowa and Four Oaks will no longer be using the name Iowa KidsNet. Future correspondence from us will use our new names so you can be familiar with them before July 1. Our new program names are:

- Four Oaks Foster and Adoptive Family Connections
- Lutheran Services in Iowa Foster Care and Adoption

More Detail: One Caseworker Model

RRTS requires a One Caseworker model - one person to be the single point of contact for you from start to finish. This person will conduct home studies, offer support, recommend training options, and complete renewals and contacting you for children in need of foster care placement.

Both Four Oaks and Lutheran Services in Iowa have offered positions to current Iowa KidsNet and IFAPA staff meeting the contract-required DHS qualifications, so many of the great people you work with today will continue with RRTS! However, both agencies need more Caseworkers and are actively hiring additional staff. In the coming weeks, we will be determining Caseworker assignments and will communicate which Caseworker has been assigned to your family.

Thank you for all you do everyday, as well as for your patience and flexibility with the coming changes. We are so grateful for the compassionate service you provide to children and youth in Iowa. Future emails will be sent by your servicing agency, so look forward to more specific information about Four Oaks Foster and Adoptive Family Connections or Lutheran Services in Iowa Foster Care and Adoption!



Read Early and Often

By Rebecca Parlakian
and Sarah MacLaughlin

You probably know that it's important to read to your child. You also may have heard that starting earlier is better. But maybe you feel a little silly reading aloud to an infant? Or you can't figure out how to keep your 6-month-old from eating the corners of the book, or get your toddler to sit still and listen? We've all been there. Although it seems babies are too young to enjoy being read to, they're learning something new at every stage.

CONTINUE READING



We worry what
a child will
become tomorrow
and we forget
he is **SOMEONE**
today.

~Stacia Taucher~

Adoptive Family Needed for Cassie

A box of crayons or a paint set and brushes will keep this artistic child happy all afternoon. Cassie loves to draw, color, and paint. You'll see her imagination come alive on the pages of her sketchbook.

Cassie's creativity is one of the first things people notice about this nine year old. She's a happy, sweet child who also loves to invent new games, play with her favorite toys, and run outside. That's why she hopes to find a forever family that is active and energetic — maybe even a family with a dog or cat she can play with outdoors. Cassie adores animals, and the adults in her life describe her as "observant, kind, and caring" toward friends and pets.

Two-parent families from any state will be considered. Potential families should be patient and engaged, ready to support Cassandra as she transitions to a new home. Families should also have experience in addressing special needs, emotional well-being, and building strong, positive family relationships. Cassie is excited to engage with parents who can actively support her academic journey; She loves reading, math, and, of course, art class. Can you be the family who supports Cassie's creativity and helps her to develop her lively personality in a safe and stable environment? [REQUEST MORE INFO](#)



UPCOMING TRAININGS

Date & Time	Name of Training & Trainer
AMES June 3, 2017 (9am-12:15pm)	The Brain: Normal Development Vs Brain After Trauma (Joann Seeman Smith, Ph.D., LMHC)
AMES June 3, 2017 (1:15pm-4:30pm)	The Magic of Healing the Brain and Fostering a Secure Attachment (Joann Seeman Smith, Ph.D., LMHC)
CEDAR FALLS June 3, 2017 (9am-4:30pm)	Foster Care Meets Mental Health (Christy Meyer)
SIOUX CITY June 3, 2017 (9am-12:15pm)	Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training
SIOUX CITY June 3, 2017 (1:15pm-5:30pm)	CPR and First Aid (Register & Pay Here)
COUNCIL BLUFFS June 8, 2017 (5pm-8pm)	FutureFest - Youth and foster parent event geared toward transitioning to adulthood
CEDAR RAPIDS June 10, 2017 (9am-12:15pm)	Gender & Sexuality Sensitivity (Kate Haberman, LISW, MFT, RPT)
CEDAR RAPIDS June 10, 2017 (1:15pm-4:30pm)	The Effects of Disrupted Attachment on a Child's Brain, Heart & Future (Kate Haberman, LISW, MFT, RPT)
CLINTON June 10, 2017 (9am-4:30pm)	Foster Care Meets Mental Health (Christy Meyer)
SIOUX CITY June 10, 2017 (9am-12:15pm)	Human Trafficking - It is Here and Thriving in Iowa! (Ruth Buckels)
ANKENY June 17, 2017 (9am-12:15pm)	Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training
ANKENY June 17, 2017 (1:15pm-5:30pm)	CPR and First Aid (Register & Pay Here) To avoid late fees, pay by Sunday, June 4
CEDAR FALLS June 17, 2017 (1:15pm-5:30pm)	CPR and First Aid (Register & Pay Here) To avoid late fees, pay by Sunday, June 4
FORT DODGE June 17, 2017 (9am-4:30pm)	Utilizing the Nurtured Heart Approach in Helping Children with Challenging Behaviors (Kim Combes, LBSW, M.Ed.)