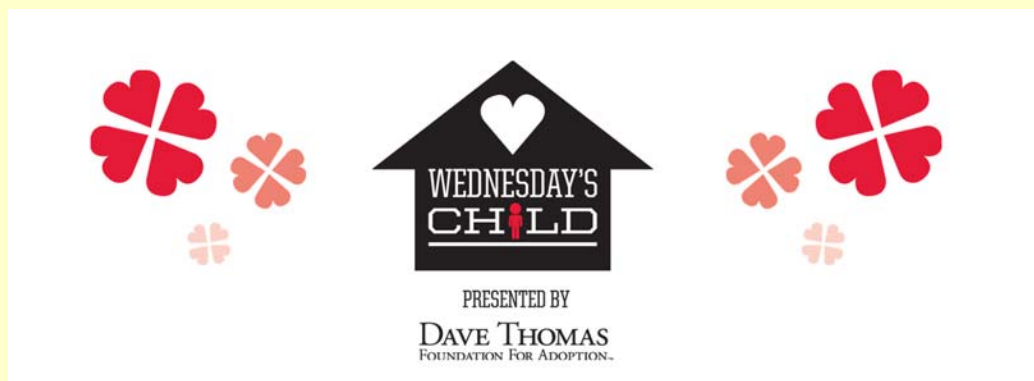


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## Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to Lead Region's Wednesday's Child Program

On January 1, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption began its sponsorship of [the Wednesday's Child program](#) to find adoptive homes for children in foster care in the National Capital Region. It will also operate the program in Atlanta, Los Angeles, New York City and Philadelphia through a two-year grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation, which is winding down its activities in 2014. NBC4 and the Council of Governments will continue to support this program, which features children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted on local news television segments.



“Our work to identify waiting children to be featured on Wednesday’s Child and plan the segment is one of the most important ways we serve the region,” said Chuck Bean, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. “We are thrilled that the Dave Thomas Foundation has joined us as a sponsor and will continue the great work of finding permanent homes for our children.”

Wednesday’s Child began in the 90’s in Washington, DC on NBC4 affiliate WRC. Barbara Harrison, NBC4 anchor, introduced the community to a child in foster care with the hope that a News-4 viewer would see the child, hear more about them, and ultimately decide to adopt. Over the past 21 years, COG, NBC4 and the Freddie Mac Foundation, joined in this unique private-public, created over 425 families in the DC region. We are proud that this amazing tradition is being carried forward by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to continue the great work of the Wednesday’s Child program.

## Editor's Footnote



**Child Welfare Team**  
*Krystal Fenwick and Kamilah Bunn*

If there are any ideas that you would like to see covered in future newsletters, please email me.

We are looking forward to receiving your suggestions.

*Krystal Fenwick*  
**[kfenwick@mwkog.org](mailto:kfenwick@mwkog.org)**

You can also contact me if you would like to unsubscribe to the newsletter.

## Recent Wednesday's Child Children



Davon is a charismatic and inquisitive young man who loves to learn, especially archaeology and history.

To learn more about Davon, call 88-TO-ADOPT ME, or click [here](#).



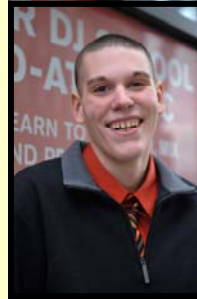
Nick is a charismatic young man. He enjoys playing basketball, football, and running cross county. To learn more about Nick, call 88-TO-ADOPT-ME, or click [here](#).

Photos by © 2014 Shelley Miller



Kionte is a talented young man with many interests including dancing and volunteering with SPCA. To learn more about Kionte, call 88-TO-ADOPT ME, or click [here](#).

Photos by © 2013 Alyson Fligg



William is a super-friendly laid-back self-proclaimed "Country Boy." He loves to work with his hands-- from cooking to mechanics to his new found love of djaying. To learn more about William, call 88-TO-ADOPT-ME, or click [here](#).

Photos by © 2014 Shelley Miller



Trameece is a sweetheart. She has a friendly and warm personality that causes others to gravitate toward her. Her smile and laugh light up a room! To learn more about Trameece, call 88-TO-ADOPT-ME, or click [here](#).



Isiah is extremely easy to talk to, probably because he is so well read! This young man enjoys nothing more than to dive into a good book. To learn more about Isiah, call 88-TO-ADOPT-ME, or click [here](#).

Photos by © 2013 Aude Guerrucci

## Jurisdiction Spotlight: Loudoun County Department of Family Services

The Foster Care Advisory Committee is pleased to welcome our newest member Christi Carmouze, Foster Care and Adoptions Recruiter and Trainer with Loudoun County Department of Family Services. We are thrilled to have Christi join us. Recently I sat down with Christi for a Q&A. Following are some highlights from the interview.

**Tell me a little about your background. How long have you been in the child welfare field?** *My educational background is counseling psychology. I worked for in Human Services for 4 years before coming to child welfare now for 4 years. Previous to this position, I was a facilitator for foster care family partnership meetings required by the state in Virginia. I loved working with families in that more neutral position, where I could be helpful and provide guidance.*

**How long have you been in your role as a trainer & recruiter?** *I have been in the role as the Loudoun County Foster Parent Trainer and Recruiter since March. This position offers me the opportunity to continue to help children and all families by providing accurate information, clarifying expectations about foster care and the children we serve.*

**What aspect of your job are you most passionate about?** *I am definitely most passionate about providing resources for foster parents before, during and after training. Especially by connecting them to each other so they can be each other's primary and most significant resource .*

**What do you hope to attain from being a member of the Foster Care Advisory Committee at COG?** *I hope to gain ideas, hear about what has worked as a strategy to recruit specifically teen centric individuals and also to have a hand on the pulse of metro area foster care activity.*



Christi Carmouze



# Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble

Some people love wrapping gifts. But for those who don't or just don't have the time, the Council of Government's (COG) Child Welfare staff were more than happy to do it. On two separate occasions, December 13th and Christmas Eve, we partnered with the Downtown DC location of Barnes & Noble to wrap gifts and raise funds.

Barnes & Noble generously provided all of the wrapping paper and supplies. We did not charge a fee but accepted donations to support our Families Like Yours campaign. We raised \$493.62.

The Families Like Yours campaign recognizes outstanding foster parents in the National Capital Region through a special regional screening event and documentary series featuring local foster parents.

This was the first of several community fundraisers to take place in our local jurisdictions over the coming months. For more information and to support our Families Like Yours campaign contact [Kamilah Bunn](#).



*Child Welfare Team:  
Krystal, Brittany, and Kami-*

## Wednesday's Child: Holiday Event at Silver Diner

On December 17, 2013, the Council of Governments (COG) partnered with the Metropolitan School of the Arts and The Silver Diner to host this year's Wednesday's Child Holiday Party. Great food and good cheer were in abundance.

Caroling is an easy way to get in the holiday spirit. The students of Metropolitan School of the Arts performed many holiday songs and put all guests in a festive mood.

Barbara Harrison, host of NBC's Wednesday's Child, played the role of Santa and surprised the young people in attendance with presents graciously donated by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's local alumni chapters, and stockings, stuffed with gift cards and electronics, which were donated by Bendure Communications and Silver Diner.

The holiday season can be a difficult time for families in general; for a child in foster care it can be particularly difficult. Events like this make sure the holiday experience becomes memorable for our children, as a time when they felt loved by the whole community. Our thanks to everyone who made such a great event possible.



Photo credit: ©2013 Shelley Miller Photography

## Fond Farewell to our Freddie Mac Foundation Friends!



At its Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), presented Director of Foundation Programs for the Freddie Mac Foundation, Renette Oklewicz, with the *Five Cities Award*. Renette was honored with this award for her role in championing many efforts which have made home possible for children of the foster care system in our region. One illuminating example of Renette's work is the Wednesday's Child program of metropolitan Washington. Renette has worked tirelessly with program partners, COG and NBC4, during her tenure at the Foundation to sustain the Wednesday's Child Program and make it the living legacy it is. COG has been a proud partner of the Wednesday's Child program for 21 years, and is honored to have joined the Freddie Mac Foundation and NBC4 news in finding permanent loving homes for over 425 children in the region's foster care system. The success and excellent reputation of this program is absolutely attributed to Renette's leadership, steady hand, and unwavering commitment to sustain the program as a service to benefit our region's foster children. Although the Freddie Mac Foundation is winding down its investments, their years of service to children and families will not be forgotten.

## About COG's Child Welfare Program

### **The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) —**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a regional organization of Washington area local governments. COG is comprised of 22 local jurisdictions comprised of and surrounding our nation's capital, in addition to area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. COG provides a focus for action and develops sound regional responses to such issues as the environment, affordable housing, economic development, health and family concerns, child welfare, population growth, public safety, and transportation.

### **The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Child Welfare Program —**

In partnership with local and state child welfare agencies, COG's Child Welfare Program achieves positive outcomes for youth in foster care by bolstering local governments' foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention initiatives. COG's child welfare committees provide a platform for this work while also providing local governments in the National Capital Region with technical assistance and a gathering place to discuss and track trends in foster care.

### **Our Committees —**

- ◆ Child Welfare Directors Committee (meets quarterly)
- ◆ Foster Care Advisory Committee (meets monthly)
- ◆ Wednesday's Child Adoption Committee (meets monthly)
- ◆ Child Welfare Data Workgroup (meets monthly, October-May)
- ◆ Child Welfare Emergency Preparedness Workgroup (meets as needed)

To learn more about the Child Welfare Program, please visit: [www.mwcog.org/childwelfare](http://www.mwcog.org/childwelfare)  
"Like" us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/kidsneedfamilies](http://www.facebook.com/kidsneedfamilies), or send us a Tweet, [@kidsneedafamily](https://twitter.com/kidsneedafamily)