

DANE COUNTY KINSHIP NEWSLETTER

2025 April

hello kinship
providers

*Greetings families!
Summer is just around the corner, and now is the time to get kids registered
for camps and other summer activities.*



INSIDE THIS EDITION

FAFSA Information:

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid:
www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

Summer Youth & Teen Employment:

- Work Permits
- Operation Fresh Start
- Briarpatch
- Wisconsin 4-H

Volunteer Options

Summer Camps
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The Kinship Team



WHAT'S COMING UP?

FAFSA News:

FAFSA season is in full swing!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or FAFSA) is the main hub for all college goers to apply for federal and state grants (free money) as well as public loans (borrowed money).

2024-2025 FAFSA Deadlines:

The FAFSA form needs to be submitted by 11:59p.m. CT on June 30, 2025

Why This Matters For Kinship Youth

There are a wide range of financial opportunities available to current kinship care and former foster youth to help pay for college. If a young person was in kinship care or foster care for one day after their 13th birthday and can provide documentation of their care status, they could be eligible to receive thousands of dollars in aid.

This could not only pay for their tuition, but also potentially put some money in their pockets to help ease the burden of balancing work and school responsibilities. Because kinship and foster youth are considered "independent students," they don't have to report any financial information about biological parents, foster parents or guardians. The only financial information they need to include is their own, making them eligible for many grants that they don't have to pay back.

Dane County Kinship Care



SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Youth & Teen Employment

youth employment

Youth employment provides young people with valuable work experience, essential life skills, financial independence, and a pathway to future career success.



WORK PERMITS

A work permit is required before anyone under the age of 16 is allowed to work with the exception of agriculture or domestic service work.

Starting July 1st of 2023, our office will no longer be able to create work permits for youth as the permissions will only be granted to the youth's parent/guardian. Work Permits can be created online using the following link:

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/laborstandards/workpermit/workpermitsteps.htm>



OPERATION FRESH START

Est 1970

Operation Fresh Start empowers emerging adults on a path to self-sufficiency through education, mentoring, and employment training.

LEGACY Program (Ages 16-24)

Operation Fresh Start Legacy program is a great way to finish high school and take real-world steps toward whatever career calls them. In this personal growth and development program, youth will learn through paid, hands-on employment training on an actual job site – and through one-on-one, independent, and small-group academic work in a classroom setting.

BUILD Academy (Ages 18-24)

Build Academy is a full-time, hands-on, paid training program for ages 18–24. They will earn a starting wage of \$15/hour while training for a construction career. Youth will have the opportunity to train alongside industry professionals, gaining skills while also building a professional network. Learn to meet industry standards of craftsmanship and speed, as well as earn credentials that construction employers are looking for. Successful program completion includes placement into a self-sustaining career in the trades.

UPLIFTING YOUTH

Creating Purpose for Youth

involving
youth

Involving youth as partners in work and in making decisions that affect them increases the likelihood that the decisions will be accepted and able to contribute to others.



WISCONSIN 4-H

June 16-19, 2025

Join us on the UW-Madison Campus for Summer Academy, June 16-19, 2025. This Positive Youth Development program will help you discover pathways to your future. Signup to learn what it takes to have a career, or a hobby in several SPARK areas including agriculture, STEM, service, leadership, arts, trades, and many more. There will be fun opportunities to build networks and friendships with folks from all over the state of WI.

Program Details

Summer Academy will be held at the UW-Madison Campus, where youth and adult chaperones will stay at Sellery Residence hall. Youth will be participating in a wide variety of track-based activities and seminars. They will be able to visit different locations on Campus and in Madison. They will also have the opportunity to hear from speakers, watch a performance from the 4-H Drama Company, and participate in a variety of fun hands-on activities!



BRIARPATCH

uplifting youth & creating purpose

Youth Job Center (YJC):

YJC's primary goal is to provide teens and young adults (Age 14-21) with the necessary skills for a successful future.

The YJC provides mentorship to help youth gain necessary employment skills, programs to explore different areas of work, and opportunities for unique job placements that provide a source of income and also a sense of purpose.

Email: YJC@briarpatch.or

Phone: 608-251-1126

Text: 608-444-9513

VOLUNTEER

Youth and Family Volunteer Opportunities

how can
i help?

Volunteering builds strong communities by fostering a sense of civic responsibility, developing empathy, and providing valuable life skills in young people while strengthening family bonds



YOUTH & FAMILY VOLUNTEERS

Engaging children, youth and families in supporting helps create a stronger community.

Youth & Families

- Dane County Parks Program: <https://parks-lwr.danecounty.gov/Volunteer>
- United Way of Dane County: <https://www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/volunteer/>
- City of Madison: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/jobs/volunteering-internships>
- Wisconsin Film Festival: <https://wifilmfest.org/volunteer/>
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County: <https://www.bbbsmadison.org/>
- Henry Vilas Zoo: <https://www.henryvilaszoo.gov/volunteer/>
- Madison Public Library: <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/support/volunteer>

MADISON READING PROJECT

Youth & Family Options

Youth:

Individual youth 14 years of age or older are welcome. Youth volunteers must have their own transportation to and from the Book Center as well as parent/guardian consent.

Families:

Help with the Little Free Library deliveries. This is a flexible opportunity that is great for kids of all ages and a way for children and families to get out into the community.

<https://www.madisonreadingproject.com/youthfamilyvolunteer>



We appreciate YOU!

SUMMER CAMPS

2025 Camps!

Summer Camps

Summer camp isn't just about s'mores and campfire stories - it's a wild adventure where kids become fearless explorers, crafting lifelong friendships while building confidence and independence under the open sky!



MADISON SUMMER CAMPS

<https://madisonsummercamps.org/>

- Studio Dansu
- Creative Soul Camp
- A Taste of Trinity Summer Camp
- ALCS Summer Theatre Camp
- Summer Intensive, Artist Workshops
- UW Madison Art Camp
- Madison Area Show Choir Camp
- Swim & Gym Summer Camp
- Legacy Academy Activity Center
- Capital Gymnastics Summer Camps
- Wisconsin Soccer Camps
- Camp Randall Rowing Club Summer Program
- YMCA Summer Camps

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Boys & Girls Club

Youth ages 5-12

Offerings:

- Sports & Games
- Creative Arts
- STEM Activities
- Outdoor Adventure
- Special Events & Theme Days
- Daily Lunch & Snack Provided

Registration:

<https://www.bgcdc.org/summercamp>



Fun in the Sun

OUTDOORS & SWIMMING

summer fun

Summer swimming

Summer swimming is like a super cool superpower! When you splash around in the pool, you get strong like a superhero, because you use all your muscles to swim. It helps you stay cool on a hot day, and you can even do fun tricks like flips and dives!



SWIMMING FUN

- **MSCR Youth Aquatics:**
<https://www.msqr.org/programs/aquatics/youth-aquatics/>
- **Community Splash Pads**
- **Community Swimming Pools**

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

- **Bethel Horizons:** <https://bethelhorizons.org/>
- **Camp Ojibwa:** <https://www.campojobwa.com/>
- **Red Pine Camp:** <https://www.redpinecamp.com/>
- **Chippewa Ranch Camp:** <https://chippewaranchcamp.com/>
- **North Star Camp:** <https://northstarcamp.com/>
- **YMCA Camp Minikani:** <https://www.minikani.org/>



SUMMER ON THE FARM

Hickory Hills Summer Fun

Madison's all-in-one summer day camp serving children from 12 weeks through age 12 on our 10-acre campus. With a large variety of activities and enrichment experiences that keep your child having fun and learning all summer long.

Camps for children up to 12 years old.

- Infants
- Preschool
- School-Age
- Activities & Enrichment

<https://www.hickoryhillacademy.com/summer-on-the-farm>

Splish Splash

THE KINSHIP TEAM

Dane County Kinship Care

**YOU are
kinship care**

A kinship care provider is like a special family friend who helps take care of kids when their parents can't, maybe like a cool aunt or grandpa who steps in to give lots of hugs, yummy meals, and a safe place to stay! They make sure kids feel loved and supported, even when things are a little tricky at home. Think of them as a superhero who wears a big smile and knows how to make everything feel a little bit better!



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Dane County Kinship FB
Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2318412981742488>



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