



Washoe County Leadership Academy

TO EDUCATE

Citizens will learn the structure of the county and be familiar with the services we have to offer and how they can become involved.



TO INSPIRE

Graduates may be future commissioners, board members, county employees, volunteers, vendors, business partners, and advocates.



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Citizens will not only network with each other, but with other key staff members at the county such as commissioners, managers, directors, as well as “boots on the ground” staff.



INSTILL TRUST

To help ease government mistrust, increase transparency and inclusivity.



About

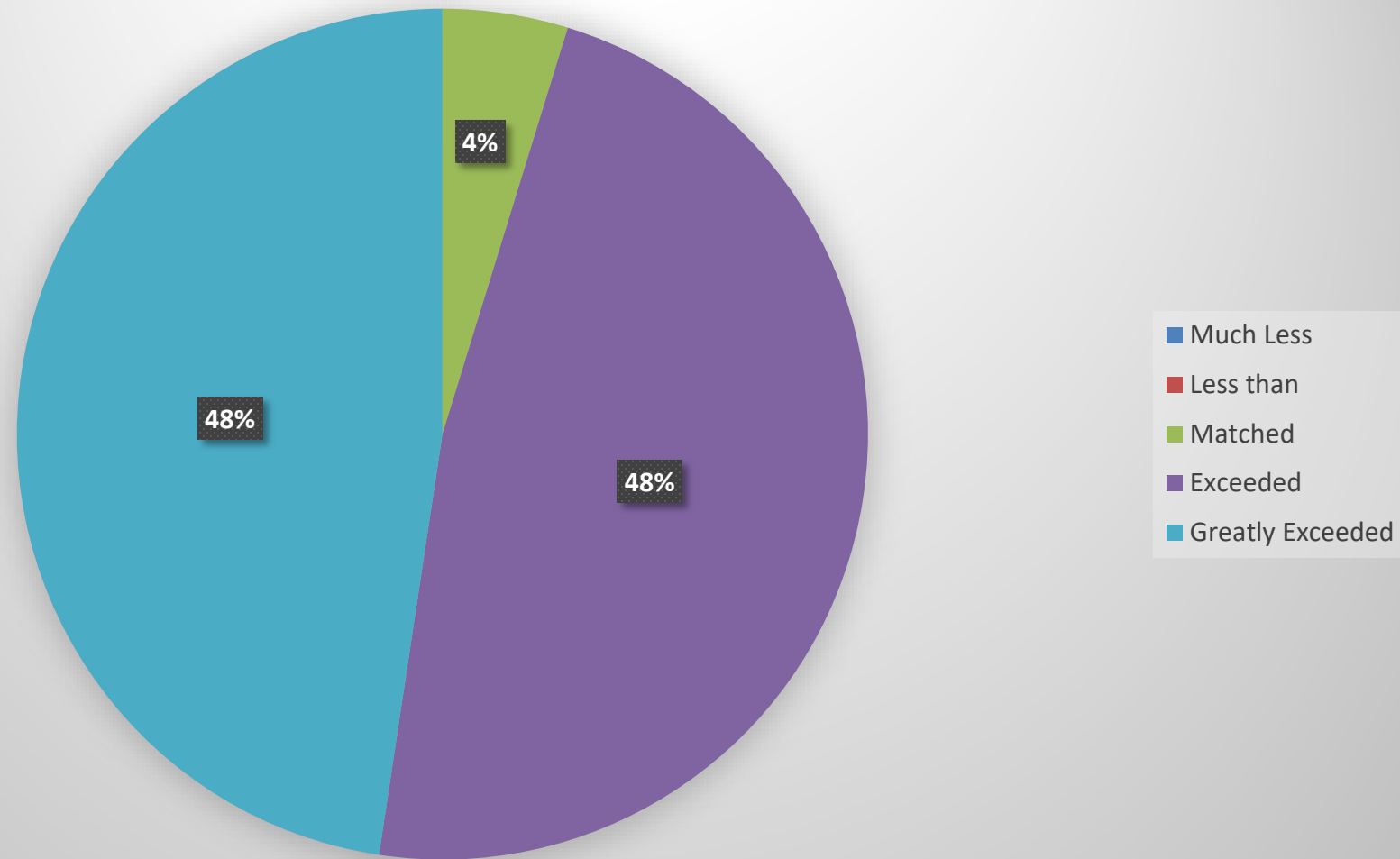


- Beginning in 2022; now in its third year.
- To-date: 47 graduates from the program.
 - From these, there have been **16** applicants to County boards and commissions with **11** having been appointed, and 2 new hires.
- Nine days of programming, plus a class project.
 - Three successful class projects: Master Gardener at Rancho San Rafael, Art Program at Jan Evans, and Foster Connect for HSA.
- Free for selected non-employee residents of Washoe County.

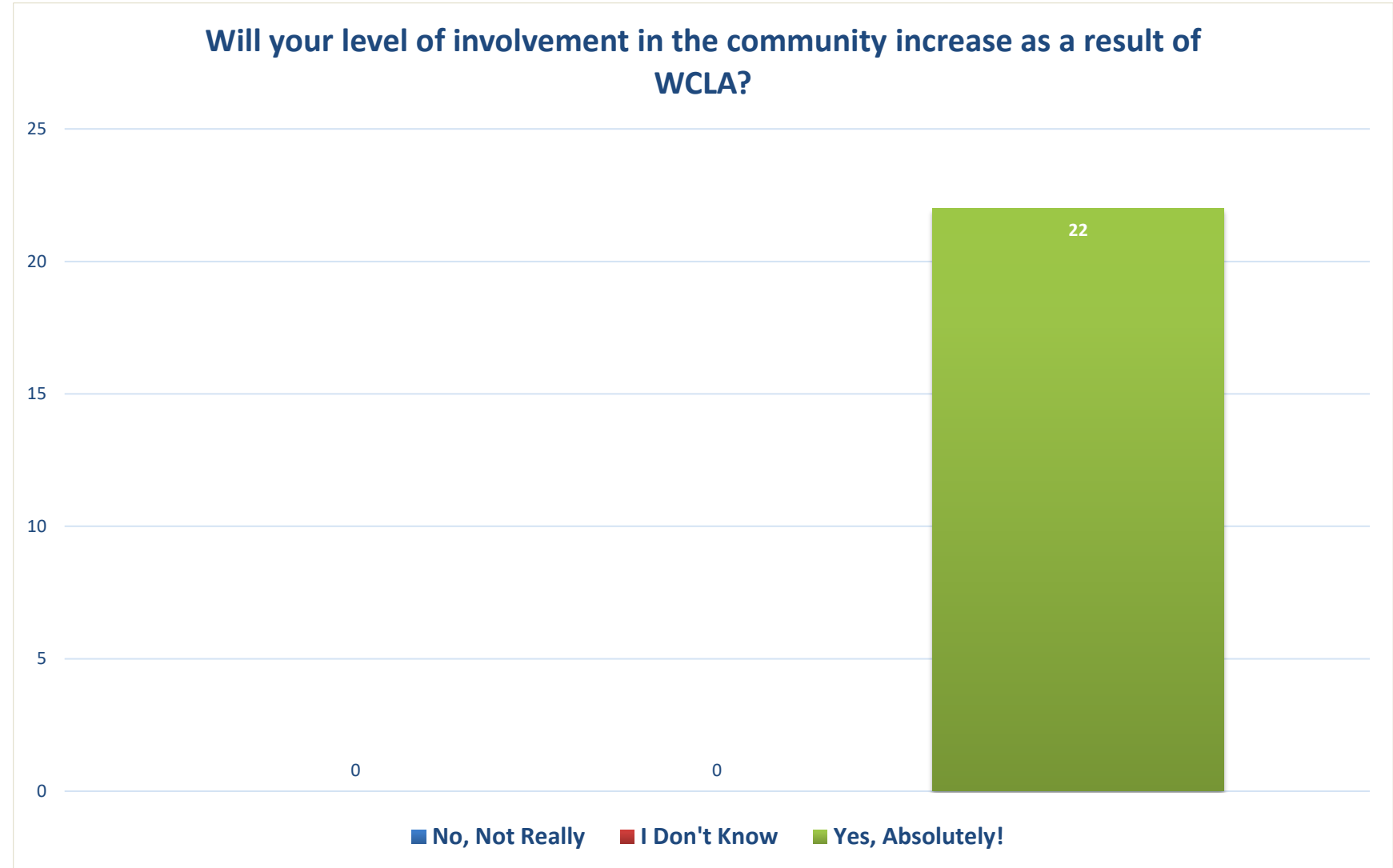




Participant Expectations of WCLA



Will your level of involvement in the community increase as a result of WCLA?



A Look Ahead (Year 3)



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Washoe County 101</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking • Government Liaison / OML • UNR Cooperative Extension • Class Project Overview | <p>Gems of Washoe County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIN Breakfast / Speaker • Incline Village / UC Davis Science Center • Bowers Mansion | <p>Rural History & Sustainable Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBS Reno's Wild Nevada • Gerlach, Burning Man Playa • Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe visitor center • Sustainable Future |
| <p>Womb to Tomb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Nevada Public Health (Vital Statistics) • Clerk's Office, Recorder's Office, Assessor's Office, Registrar of Voters • Senior Services, Medical Examiner's Office | <p>Dedicated to Public Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNR Cooperative Extension • Community Services Department • Truckee Meadows Fire • S. Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility | <p>Law & Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIN Breakfast / Speaker • District Court & District Attorney • Reno's Divorce History • Jan Evans Juvenile Detention Center • Washoe County Sheriff's Office & Crime Lab |
| <p>Heart of the County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNR Cooperative Extension • Human Services Agency Overview, Cares Campus & Men's Crossroads • Washoe County Regional Animal Services | <p>Calm Through Chaos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Management & Regional Emergency Operations Center • Dispatch / 9-1-1 • Washoe County Library System | <p>Graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIN Breakfast / Speaker • UNR Cooperative Extension • Project Presentation • Post-Graduation Mixer (Alumni) |

✓ New partnership with Western Industrial Nevada (WIN) to elevate leadership skills training and networking.

✓ Implementation of programs in other areas, including Incline Village, Fernley and possibly as far as Papua New Guinea.

Applications are now open through June 21



"I would absolutely recommend this program to a friend, to anybody, regardless of their background or what they do for their career."

— **Tonya Laney**
2024 WCLA Graduate



"I loved, loved, loved the people I got to meet and the relationships I built throughout this experience."

— **Nia Black**
2024 WCLA Graduate



"If you are curious about how your community functions, and works and what the backbone to it is, jump in and you will learn a lot."

— **Jonathan McNeill**
2024 WCLA Graduate



"Since I joined the Academy I applied to a local Washoe commission board, and I would not have applied to that board if it hadn't been for the Academy experience."

— **Sean Hill**
2024 WCLA Graduate



Learn More!





FOSTER CONNECT

Building Resilient Families,
Together

WCLA 2024 Project

Presenters:

Allison Anderson and Bruce O'Brien



Did you know...



600

Children on average are in foster care in Washoe County



6,000

Calls of suspected child abuse and neglect are placed with Child Protective Services a year in Washoe County



650

Days on average a child is in care until they find permanency



12

Is the average age of children looking for adoptive homes

Local foster families are true heroes to the children in their homes,
and the heart of the Human Services Agency!



Foster Connect: Building Resilient Families, Together

CHALLENGES OF FOSTERING

Frequently, foster families experience challenges that others in our community may not realize.

- Unexpected Expenses/Financial Constraints
- Feeling Isolated and Lack of Support
- Lack of Respite/Burnout
- Dealing with Complex Needs and Emotional Strain

“ Everyone needs a house to live in, but a supportive family is what builds a home. ”
– Anthony Liccione



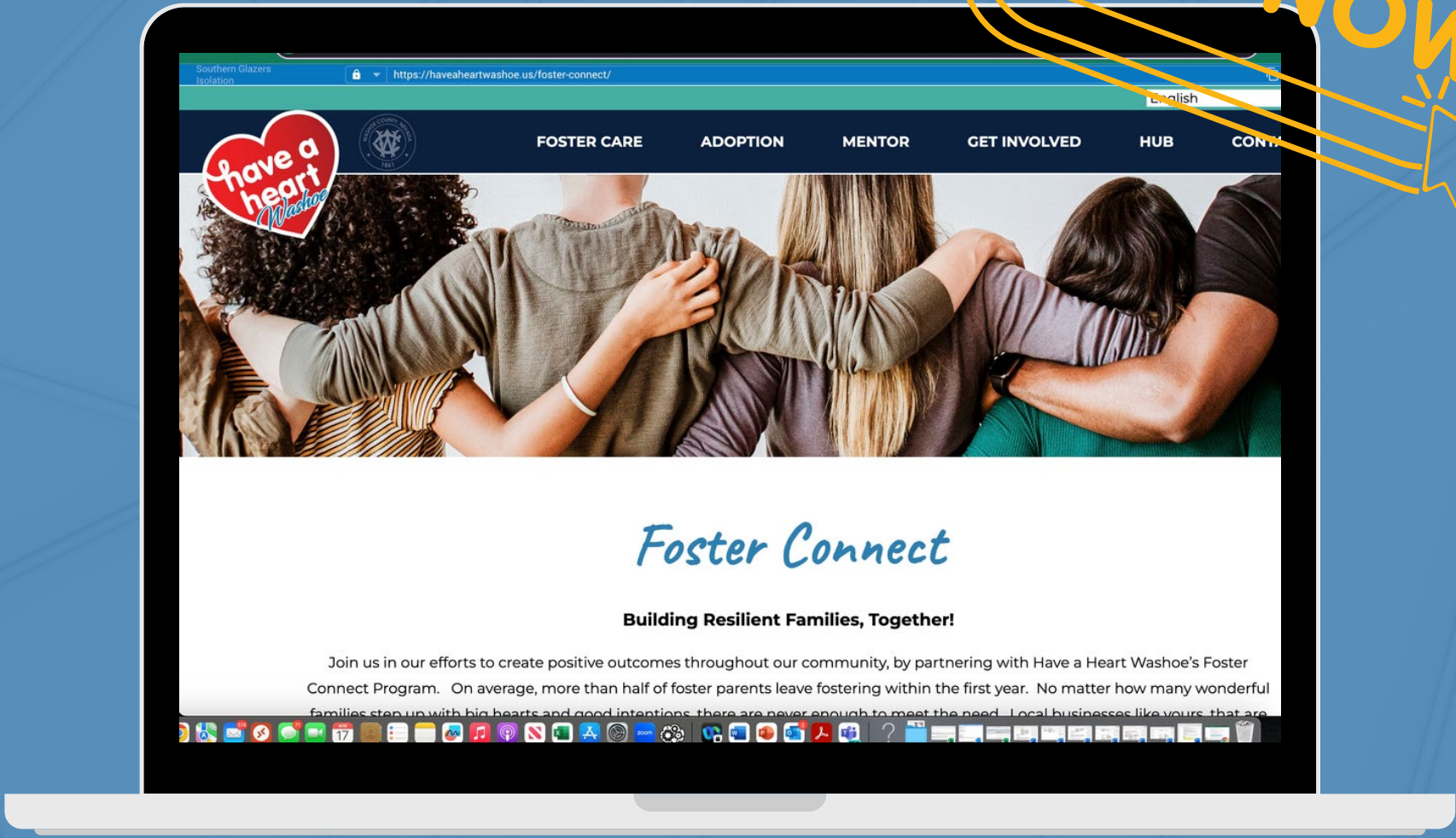


WCLA, in partnership with Have a Heart Washoe, is proud to announce the launch of

FOSTER CONNECT

LIVE NOW

SCAN



Visit:
haveaheartwashoe.us/foster-connect



Foster Connect: Building Resilient Families, Together

OUR VISION

The vision of Foster Connect is to create a thriving network of Washoe County businesses actively supporting foster families while illuminating the critical need for more loving homes in our community.



Foster Connect: Building Resilient Families, Together

OUR MISSION



Empowering Businesses

The program connects Washoe County businesses who offer exclusive discounts, promotions, and services to foster families, creating goodwill and brand loyalty within the community.



Supporting Families

Help ease the financial burdens and social isolation often faced by families and provides access to valuable resources while creating a sense of community support.



Building a Brighter Future

By highlighting the need for more foster families in the region, Foster Connect bridges the gap and increases community awareness by reaching a wider audience.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: BUSINESSES OFFER SAVINGS & SUPPORT TO FOSTER FAMILIES

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| DINING | AUTOMOTIVE | ENTERTAINMENT | PERSONAL CARE | FOOD & DRUGS |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| HOME & LAWN CARE | CLOTHING | FURNITURE | SCHOOL SUPPLIES | CHILD CARE SERVICES |
|  |  |  |  |  |



ENGAGING BUSINESS PARTNERS

1



Recruitment & Application

Launch recruitment efforts at businesses that foster families frequent or utilize. Interested businesses complete the application and submit their information, logo, and discount or service details.



2



Determine Discount

Business partners select the discounts, free services, or priority service to offer to foster families (one-time, monthly, etc.) that can be redeemed by showing proof via the HSA app.



3



Business Welcome Kit

Business partners will receive a packet of information and promotional items including a window decal, table tent cards, and program certificate to display at their place of business.

Promote Partnership

Washoe County will work with business partners and the Washoe County Communications team to highlight the partnerships and opportunities for foster families through multiple media platforms.

4



OUTREACH CARD

 WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



Have A Heart Washoe

Foster ♥ Adopt Mentor

Our mission is to provide safe and stable foster and adoptive homes for children and teens in Washoe County Foster Care. These kids have been through so much, and deserve to live in a loving and caring environment.

Matching kids with the perfect family that suits their needs is our ultimate goal; however, achieving our goal cannot be done without the support of amazing people like you!

Scan the QR Code to learn more about how you can get involved with Have a Heart Washoe.

Scan Me. Learn More.



 HaveAHeartWashoe.us

 WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Foster Connect

Building Resilient Families, Together.

On average, more than half of foster parents leave fostering within the first year. No matter how many wonderful families step up with big hearts and good intentions, there are never enough to meet the need.

Have a Heart Washoe's Foster Connect Program would love to partner with local businesses like yours to help support foster children and families in our community.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Foster Connect Program and the various ways your business can make a significant impact by offering essential support.

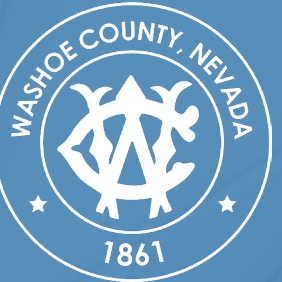
Scan Me. Learn More. Sign Up.



 HaveAHeartWashoe.us



Foster Connect: Building Resilient Families, Together



BUSINESS WELCOME KIT

Window Sticker / Decal



Certificate of Appreciation



Welcome Letter



Table Tents



EDUCATING FOSTER FAMILIES

1



Introduce the Partnership

Share Information about the Foster Connect program with foster families via case workers, newsletters, email communication, and through the HSA app.



2



Centralized Information

Foster families can easily find updated information about the network of participating businesses and discounts available online or through the HSA app.



3



Creating A Community

Participants are encouraged to utilize discounts and meet-up with other foster families at local businesses, thus building connections and a support system for families.

4



Evaluate & Expand Program

Washoe County will communicate with business partners and foster families to understand what services are most needed and how to build a thriving and mutually beneficially program, that is sustainable.





FOSTER FAMILY OUTREACH



Thank you, Cold Stone Creamery, for supporting the Foster Connect Program! Our who family enjoyed a delicious treat today!





PROJECT LAUNCH EVENT

May 29th at 6:05 pm at Reno Aces



**Foster Family
Night at the Aces**



THE DETAILS

- News and media partners helped us promote a special "Washoe County Foster Families Day/Night" at the Reno Aces Ballpark!
- HSA set up a recruitment table, providing valuable information about foster care and the Foster Connect program.
- The Reno Aces generously offered free tickets to foster families, along with discounted tickets for WCLA staff and business partners.
- A foster family member had the honor of throwing out the first pitch, making it a truly special night.



Foster Connect: Building Resilient Families, Together



MEDIA COVERAGE



Foster Connect: Building Resilient Families, Together

FOSTER CONNECT UPDATE



- **Spreading the word:** WCLA members are actively distributing information and recruitment flyers to expand the program.
 - Contacted over 100 local businesses about joining the program.
- **Exciting news:** Discounts and promotions are now live for foster families to utilize.
- **Welcome aboard:** Business partner recruitment website and application form are up and running through HSA's "Have a Heart Washoe."
- **Kits on the way:** Printed materials have arrived, and WCLA members are busy building and distributing Business Welcome Kits to Foster Connect partners.
- **Social media buzz:** Let's continue to share about the program on social media to attract even more businesses.
- **Shine a light on our partners:** Highlighting current business partners through Washoe County media and social media.



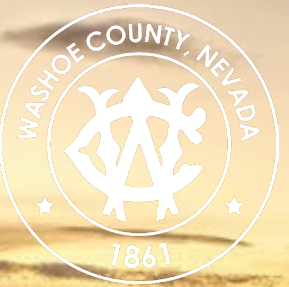
PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- Continuing support from HSA in communication:
 - Foster Families
 - Notify list of eligible foster families about the program
 - Provide Foster Connect program eligibility and business discounts through HSA app
 - Participating Businesses
 - Review/approve initial requests from businesses to join the Foster Connect program
 - Add approved businesses to the Foster Connect website and maintain a list of current businesses
 - Provide Business Welcome Packet upon registration
 - Remove any business requesting to leave the Foster Connect program
 - Highlight business partnerships through Communications team (social media, etc.)



MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION

- **How effective is the Foster Connect Program?**
 - Annual inventory of participating businesses
 - Review list of businesses on website
 - Annual inventory of participating families
 - Include in survey to families
 - Annual \$\$ saved by participating families
 - Include in survey to families
- **Has the program positively impacted Foster Care enrollment?**
 - Measuring traffic to Foster Connect and potential foster parent webpages
 - Asking new foster families "Where did you hear about fostering in Washoe County?"





WASHOE COUNTY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2024 TEAM MEMBERS:

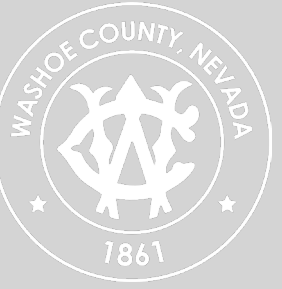
Alex Nevarez
Allison Anderson
Anthony Schade
Bruce O'Brien
Chris Reynolds
Craig Bronzan
Dawn Norman
Deneta Thomas
Dillon Davidson



Edward "Ed" Romero
Edward Coleman
Elton "Mac" Rossi
Jaime Rand
Jonathon McNeill
Karen Howze
Katherine Hoffman
Lakshmi Albright
Matt Webber

Natalie Henriques
Nia Black
Richard Harrison
Russell Bierle
Sean Hill
Sophie Moeller
Tanya Silva
Tonya Laney





THANK YOU!

APPLY TODAY
TO BECOME A
FOSTER CONNECT
BUSINESS PARTNER



SCAN HERE



Foster Connect: Building Resilient Families Together