



WEAPA

Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive
Parent Association, Inc.

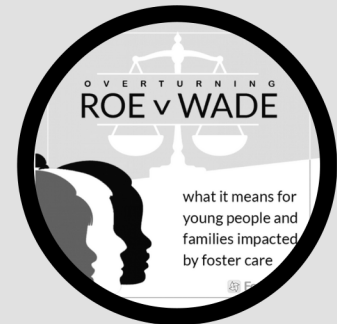
OVERTURNING ROE V. WADE: WHAT IT MEANS FOR PEOPLE IMPACTED BY FOSTER CARE

Background

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court officially reversed the 1973 ruling for Roe v. Wade, overturning the federally-guaranteed right to abortion access which has existed for nearly half a century. This decision has many far-reaching impacts, including those for young people and families who are affected by foster care and other parts of the child welfare system.

FosterClub's Position

In light of the Roe v. Wade decision, we reaffirm FosterClub's dedication to preventing unnecessary placement of children into foster care. FosterClub remains committed to lifting the voices of young people with lived experience in the child welfare system in order to improve services to them and their families. The Supreme Court may have spoken for now, but we stand with Lived Experience Leaders and Allies to ensure decisions by those in power rely on the voices of those who are most profoundly impacted.



Author: KRISTEN HINTZ

How This Ruling Affects Young People and Families

The Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade is a decision that will disproportionately impact poor families - especially poor families of color - and serve as one more systemic stressor at-risk families must navigate in order to prevent their children from entering care.

Abortions will continue; the Supreme Court's ruling only restricts procedures that are performed legally, safely, and are accessible to everyone. Even in states where abortions are made illegal, women and other pregnant individuals with means will have access to abortion services.

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BE PART OF THE FABRIC



We are making another WFAPA Quilt and if you have adopted a child or you were an adopted child, we would like to hear from you. We recognize each adoption story is as varied as the individuals involved. Adopting a child is such a powerful, emotional experience and like pregnancy and birth, no two adoption stories are the same.



At our Spring Conference on March 24-26, 2023, we will have tables set up with blank cloth squares. Throughout the conference, anyone attending who has adopted a child(ren) or has been adopted will be invited to color and create — making their own masterpiece. Along with creating your work of art, we ask that you write a short article about what your adoption means to you with no identifying

information.

You can also reach out to Sherry Benson, WFAPA Treasurer and Social Worker Liaison, and she will mail you a blank cloth square and fabric markers, with return postage. Again, we ask that you write a short article about what your adoption means to you with no identifying information and mail this along with your quilt square and markers. You can reach Sherry by calling or texting her at (715) 923-1124 or by emailing her at misssherry2@yahoo.com.

Once we have a collection of these beautiful creations, they will be woven together with other quilt squares. With each creation, our quilt becomes bigger and stronger. Once completed, the quilt and the stories that go along with it, will be displayed to raise awareness about adoption and celebrate amazing children and their families.

DID YOU KNOW THAT NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH?



SPONSORS WANTED

WFAPA works hard every year empowering, supporting, advocating, and providing resources for foster and adoptive families. Our work is so important to us, and the strides we have made so far would not have been possible without supporters.

Will your company consider becoming a sponsor of WFAPA? You can make a one-time, yearly donation of \$300.00 or a monthly donation of \$25.00 for one year. Since we are a 501(c)(3), your donation is tax deductible.

Not only will your company benefit through the positive publicity of supporting our mission and organization, WFAPA helps you achieve this publicity by promoting your business:

- On our website, www.wfapa.org,
- On our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wfapa,
- Through social media,
- In our newsletters, which are published four times a year, and,
- At our Spring and Fall Conference.



If your company is interested in being a sponsor, please reach to us. For more information, go to our website, www.wfapa.org, click on Support Our Work, and then click on Sponsors. We can't wait to hear from you!

Congratulations to Michelle Ward and Tammy Wood-Garr.

ELECTION RESULTS

During the General Membership Meeting on Saturday, Michelle was re-elected as Secretary and Tammy was re-elected as Vice President. Congratulations ladies!



ADULT ADOPTEE SUPPORT GROUP

Connect with other adult adoptees from around Wisconsin in a space for discussing your adoption experiences with others who "get it", as well as for just getting to know one another and talking about life. This group is facilitated by an adult adoptee.

SUPPORT GROUP

Find out more about the group at www.wiadoptee.eventbrite.com



At every WFAPA conference, we draw several member's name for free registration and lodging for our next conference.

Congratulations to the following winners at our Fall Conference:

- Shawn Grier,
- Amanda Johnson,
- Aleric Hals.

Enjoy your free registration and lodging at our 2023 Spring Conference.

For a chance to win, please attend our next conference and you could be the next lucky winner!





TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT

WHAT YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT

I want to learn more about your life and why you chose us, WFAPA. If you have any stories, questions, suggestions, or comments, I would love to hear them.

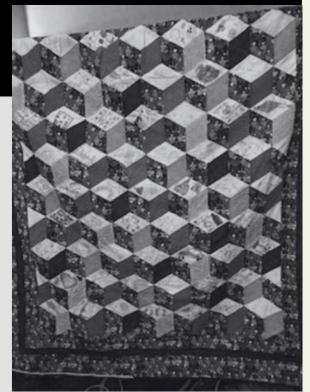
By being a member of WFAPA, you are part of a large community of supporters. I am always trying to improve our website and newsletters and I can only do this with your help. Please email me at boettcher_tammy@yahoo.com.

QUILT OF MANY STORIES

This project is dedicated to all the children who have suffered from abuse and neglect. The last block is left blank to remember these children who have suffered and died; those not protected by the system.

One thing led to another, and we felt there needed to be an awareness to the multitude of children brought into the system, some background of how they came into the system and their experiences while in the system. Each county in the State of Wisconsin was asked if there was a child in care that would be willing to create a drawing and write a small story about their life in foster care.

As you read their stories, you will find that some are compelling, some of success, some of heartbreak, some are on-going, but all are children wanting a good home, to be loved, and to know there is someone who cares just for them. All of the stories shared the turmoil, the uncertainty, and obstacles the children, birth families and some foster/adoptive families encountered. This made the "Tumbling Block", the quilt block of choice for this project.



We owe them as a society, as human beings, to care for these children-sooner than later. The system statistics of successes seem to be inconsistent with the stories told here. Please contact your State Senator, Representatives, the Governor and local government to seek needed reforms and guidelines to make true success stories.

There are over a half million children every day in foster care in the United States finding shelter from abuse. There are many, many children waiting for a loving, safe family to call their own. Please consider opening your heart and home.

If you or your organization would like to borrow the quilt and the stories that go along with it for a display, please contact: WFAPA Public Relation's Chair, Melinda Kasch, 8912 Sadler Dr., Wind Lake, WI 53185. Phone: (262) 895-2652 Email: mkasch@wi.rr.com. The quilt will be sent to you free of charge with return postage included.



Thank you, Diane Jones, for your time spent with us on the board. Diane held the Fundraising position. However, life hit her hard and she had to resign her duties. We look forward to seeing you and Doug at our Spring conference. Please know that you are always welcome. Remember self-care!



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

National Adoption Day and Month was created to find permanent homes for children in foster care waiting for a home each year. While celebrating those who have found one another, let's not forget the children, parents and families who struggle with the adoption process, the children who age out of foster care without a family, and those children who still wait.

Protecting Yourself In A Phishing World

Phishing is a type of cybersecurity attack during which malicious actors send messages pretending to be a trusted person or entity.

Checkpoint Research released the Brand Phishing Report for Q3 2020, which provides data about phishing attacks that attempt to imitate well known brands.

According to the report, email phishing was the most common type of branded phishing attacks, accounting for 44% of attacks, and web phishing was a close second. The brands most commonly used by attackers in fake phishing messages were Microsoft, DHL, and Apple.

The basic element of a phishing attack is a message, sent by email, social media, or other electronic communication means. A phisher may use public resources, especially social networks, to collect background information about the personal and work experience of their victim. These sources are used to gather information such as the potential victim's name, job title, and email address, as well as interests and activities. The phisher can then use this information to create a reliable fake message.

Typically, the emails the victim receives appear to come from a known contact or organization. Attacks are carried out through malicious attachments or links to malicious websites. Attackers often set up fake websites, which appear to be owned by a trusted entity like the victim's bank, workplace, or university. Via these websites, attackers attempt to collect private information like usernames and passwords, or payment information.

Some phishing emails can be identified due to poor copywriting and improper use of fonts, logos, and layouts. However, many cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated at creating authentic-looking messages, and are using professional marketing techniques to test and improve the effectiveness of their emails.

Types of Phishing Attacks

Email Phishing

Most phishing attacks are sent via email. Attackers typically register fake domain names that mimic real organizations and send thousands of common requests to victims.

For fake domains, attackers may add or replace characters (e.g. my-bank.com instead of mybank.com), use subdomains (e.g. mybank.host.com) or use the trusted organization's name as the email username (e.g. mybank@host.com).

Many phishing emails use a sense of urgency, or a threat, to cause a user to comply quickly without checking the source or authenticity of the email.

Email phishing messages have one of the following goals:

- Causing the user to click a link to a malicious website, in order to install malware on their device.
- Causing the user to download an infected file and using it to deploy malware
- Causing the user to click a link to a fake website and submit personal data.
- Causing the user to reply and provide personal data.

Spear Phishing

Spear phishing includes malicious emails sent to specific people. The attacker typically already has some or all of the following information about the victim:

- Name.
- Place of employment.
- Job title.
- Email address.
- Specific information about their job role
- Trusted colleagues, family members, or other contacts, and samples of their writing.



This information helps increase the effectiveness of phishing emails and manipulate victims into performing tasks and activities, such as transferring money.

Smishing and Vishing

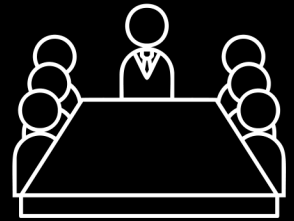
This is a phishing attack that uses a phone instead of written communication. Smishing involves sending fraudulent SMS messages, while vishing involves phone conversations.

In a typical voice phishing scam, an attacker pretends to be a scam investigator for a credit card company or bank, informing victims that their account has been breached. Criminals then ask the victim to provide payment card information, supposedly to verify their identity or transfer money to a secure account (which is really the attacker's).

Vishing scams may also involve automated phone calls pretending to be from a trusted entity, asking the victim to type personal details using their phone keypad.

Angler Phishing

These attacks use fake social media accounts belonging to well known organizations. The attacker uses an account handle that mimics a legitimate organization (e.g. "@pizzahutcustomercare") and uses the same profile picture as the real company account.



**WFAPA
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Michelle Ward
twowards@charter.net
920-922-3824

Treasurer

Sherry Benson
misssherry2@yahoo.com
715-923-1124

For a listing of our
Board Members,
please go to our
website, wfapa.org.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Turn Your Curiosity Into Discovery

Ever wonder when and how WFAPA started? Did you know WFAPA was first known as WFFPO and why they changed their name? Do you know what WFFPO stands for? Know where you can find the answers to these questions and more?

How about the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin? Yep, that's right! You can now find answers to the above questions and so much more about WFAPA's history.

Rosemarie Carbino, Advisor to the WFAPA Board, has been collecting a vast array of information regarding WFAPA dating back to the 1970s.

After organizing the material in chronological order, she delivered the information to Wisconsin Historical Society in September, 2022.



To keep adding to our history, WFAPA will mail Ms. Frances Steel, Serials Librarian, future newsletters.

According to Frances Steele, Serials Librarian, they are still processing the WFAPA donation, but when the materials get added to the library collection, they will be searchable via the UW-Madison library collection. She stated that most of the materials would probably reside in their pamphlet collection which is a closed stack collection. Patrons wanting to see WFAPA materials will need to search for the item, find the pamphlet number and have the item retrieved for them. The items will not be eligible for check out but will be available to view in the library reading room.

For more information about the Wisconsin Historical Society and some basic circulation information, please visit their website at www.wisconsinhistory.org.

After taking a brief break, Tammy has agreed to come back and do our Newsletter. Tammy stated at Sunday's board meeting, "That it is a lot of work doing the newsletter as you, Tina, found out. However, I do it for WFAPA." Folks, I LOVE this woman! She is truly responsible and cares about our organization. We are grateful to have her back with all her ideas, knowledge, and creativity. Thank you, Tammy!!



Spring Conference

Thank you all! 😊 Thank You for participating in our Fall Conference and engaging with our speakers and your peers. We hope you have found the presentations and interactions with the speakers and your peers worthwhile and valuable.

Get ready to unplug, relax, learn, and refresh at our Spring Conference. We are ready, which is why we're hosting our Spring Conference on March 24-26, 2023. See you soon!



March 23-26, 2023

Support Our Work By Becoming A Member

WFAPA's Leadership has helped to educate policymakers and engage Foster and Adoptive Parents in the debate on issues that affect the Foster and Adoptive System.

We'd love you to join us on our adventure! We couldn't continue to play a role in influencing public policy and advocating on behalf of Foster and Adoptive children and parents in Wisconsin without our members.

One of the best ways to acquire our collective voice is to create a strong community among foster, adoptive and kinship families.



Our members:

- Receive four newsletters each year.
- Get first hand information of what's happening at the State level.
- Who you can call when an allegation arises.
- Peer Support.
- Scholarship information.
- Reduced rate for conferences.
- Opportunities to become involved in projects to help foster children.

There are two ways you can join. Either go to our website, wfapa.org, and click on Membership or you can fill out the attached Membership Form and mail it along with \$10.00 per adult to: Michelle Ward, W7018 Discovery Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.

WFAPA Membership Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your Address _____

Would you be willing to help out with WFAPA? ____ yes ____ no

County, State or Agency Name (that licenses you): _____

Additional Donation: \$5 ____ \$10 ____ \$25 ____
\$50 ____ Other ____

GO GREEN! ____ I'd like to "go green" & paperless by receiving my newsletter online only.

Why You Need A Village Of Supporters In Foster Care

You may have heard it said that “it takes a village to raise a child”. Well, as a foster mama, I can DEFINITELY attest to the importance of this.

As I write this, I immediately think of all the family and friends we are so blessed to have as a part of our village. And I know deep down that we wouldn't have made it this far if it wasn't for those incredible people, supporting us in huge important ways, and even small ways – which are still important! – along our family's journey. From lifting us up in prayer, to listening empathetically as I processed all of my feels, to sending an edible arrangement on a particularly sad day...these are the exact types of support and kindnesses that mean the world to someone in the throes of foster care.

Today, I'd like to give you three important reasons why you need to have a village of supporters in foster care, as well as a few places to access these supports! We're all in this together, and we weren't meant to do this alone (and thankfully, we don't have to!).

FOSTER CARE TAKES A LONG TIME (USUALLY)

I'm sure some people have had quick, easy, painless foster care placements wherein there was a plan from the get-go that never changed, and no doubt in anyone's mind where the child in care would ultimately end up. But...those are usually the exceptions, not the rule. In my state, the aimed-for average length of time in care for each child is 15 months. But anyone will tell you, it usually takes way longer. Our son was in foster care from day one, and we officially adopted him just after his second birthday (in part, due to the courts being closed because #pandemic). Our daughter has been in foster care from day one, and we have no idea when or if we will be able to adopt her, but our social worker has informed us that those cases won't even be heard until the end of 2022, at the earliest.

So yeah, foster care takes a LONG time.

And if you think about it, it's not just a long time of waiting to see what will happen. It's that, AND social workers coming in and out, meetings with lawyers

and caseworkers, visits with bio family members, labwork, appointments, etc. etc., etc. It's a lot. Worth it? ABSOLUTELY. But still, it's a lot.

When you're going through fifteen plus months of all that, you're going to need supporters. Cheerleaders. People to lift you up on hard days and remind you why you're doing all this. People who will remind you that it will all be worth it in the end. People to remind you that your heart is getting stomped on for the most beautiful reason – so that an innocent child can thrive in safety and love.

THINGS ARE RARELY CERTAIN IN FOSTER CARE

I recently polled foster mamas on my Instagram stories, asking them “What is your biggest struggle with foster care or adoption right now?” The bulk of responses I received said something along the lines of:

“Constant uncertainty. Will the visit happen? Was told she'd move to grandpa last August?”

OR...

“The not knowing what the plan actually is.”

As a therapist, I know that what causes anxiety in most people IS the unknown. And with foster care, well, that's what you're signing up for. You're signing up for pretty much never knowing, or never being able to safely assume anything about what's going to happen next for your family or the children in your care until it actually does happen.

But just because it's what we signed up for, doesn't mean it's easy. Oh heck no it's not.

So because foster care is (usually) riddled with uncertainty and the unknown, we need people to support us and make space for that. We need people to listen and understand that while we may look like we're doing just fine on the outside, that is not always the case on the inside. My therapist described it very well during a



session when he said, “it sounds like foster care is a pebble stuck in your shoe... you are always aware of it, even if no one else is; you always feel it, even if you're still able to carry on with your normal daily life.”

YEP. Exactly.

The constant uncertainty, the pebble in our shoe heightens our awareness and need for people to come alongside us on this journey with support, encouragement, and love.

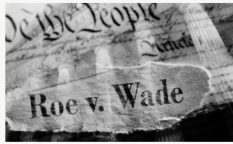
THERE ARE LOTS OF FEELINGS INVOLVED, AND THEY DESERVE TO BE FELT

You don't have to be a foster parent very long before you realize (and start to experience) that it comes with ALL the feels. Excitement, hope, joy, sadness, grief, worry...anger, guilt, frustration...oh yes, they all show up at some point.

Truthfully, this is the main reason why it's important to have a village: there will be some people you need to just make you laugh on a crappy day. You might need other people to sit silently beside you while you cry when court turns out differently than you expected. Other times, you might just need someone to say, “hey...I see you. I know this is hard. What do you need right now?” And you may or not be able to answer that question right away, but you need people to understand that, too.

In foster care (and in life), it's important that we don't put all our emotional support needs in one basket. Some people are the “make us laugh people.” Some people are the “I brought you dinner” people. Some people are the “Have you prayed for the bio family lately?” people. And we need them all. They all make us better, and they all help us through this crazy, beautifully broken ride called foster care.





Continued From Page 1

With dire consequences, this leaves the poorest individuals and families without the same access to medical procedures as the privileged.

This means that families already living at the margin are less likely to access the resources their family needs. By not protecting abortion access at the federal level, which makes it harder to obtain at the state level, this ruling has made it increasingly difficult for poor people to make the best decisions for their families. In some cases, this puts families that already have children at risk.

This will have a catastrophic impact on the foster care system and vulnerable children will bear the brunt of this decision. The number of children entering foster care will increase as a direct result of this ruling to eliminate access to safe,

legal abortion, adding to the stress on an already underfunded and under-resourced system.

An influx of children into foster care will result in more unstable placements, such as unprepared foster homes, group homes, or residential treatment centers.

All of the unfavorable outcomes frequently connected with foster



care will rise as the number of young people in care increases.

More children will be involved in the juvenile justice system, more children will become victims of sex trafficking, and more children will struggle with mental health issues as a result of instability and a lack of stable family support because of this decision. Over time, more young people will slip through the

cracks that enter foster care and their core needs will go unmet.

FosterClub is Looking Forward For more than 20 years, FosterClub has put young people and their needs first. We will continue to elevate young voices and create opportunities for those with lived experience to drive change in the foster care system. We will continue to create space for young people to connect with lawmakers and share their insights into the impacts of this ruling on their own lives and the lives of their peers. We will work with our partners to address the realities of added stressors on the child welfare system that this ruling will cause. We will continue to create and improve resources for young people and families impacted by foster care.

Article taken from: <https://www.fosterclub.com/blog/public-policy/statement-roe-v-wade> and was written on June 30, 2022.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR

FROM YOUR VACATION SPECIALIST
MEGAN & JOSH ROBERTS
(715) 907-1270 WESTON, WI

As a recent breast cancer survivor, Josh and I have really realigned our priorities. Family, memories & time away are things that topped the list. We love travel and think it is so important. We'd love to help you, your family and your loved ones make some memories and make travel a priority too!

From Your Vacation Specialist: Dream Vacations

As a recent breast cancer survivor, Megan and Josh Roberts, have really realigned their priorities. Family, memories & time away are things that topped the list. They love travel and think it is so important. They would love to help you, your family and your loved ones make some memories and make travel a priority too! For more information, you can contact them at (715) 907-1270 or visit their website at mroberts.dreamvacations.com.

Why You Need A Village Of Supporters In Foster Care

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3 PLACES TO FIND SUPPORT, IF YOU FIND YOURSELF NEEDING MORE



1. A therapist – ideally one who is familiar with foster care!
2. Foster care support groups in your area – these can be hit or miss, but you'll never know until you try. Contact your caseworker or local DCF office or private agency for a list of supports available to foster parents.
3. Local churches and other places of worship often have ministries or programs to support foster and adoptive parents.

Even if YOUR church doesn't offer

something like this, don't be afraid to check out other churches in your area and attend one of their groups. It's allowed, I promise.

Or, even better, why not start up a group in your own place of worship? Chances are, you're not the only one longing for more support on your foster care journey. I hope this post helps you understand why you need a village of supporters in foster care, and encourages you to keep looking until you find the exact level of support you need.

Article Written by: Cathleen Bearse & taken from The Archibald Project Website, <https://thearchibaldproject.com/why-you-need-a-village-of-supporters-in-foster-care/>

WANTED BOARD MEMBERS

We have the following positions open on the board: Fund Raiser Chair and Grant Writer Chair. If you are interested, please contact Tina Christopherson at twfapa@new.rr.com or (715) 938-6667.

These positions are voluntary; however, you receive a free t-shirt, polo shirt, hoodie, free lodging at conferences, fun, and us! We welcome you with open arms. Go ahead! Contact me and get involved in your organization.



Fall Conference 2022 Photos

Did you get snapped at our last event? Check out our website to see if you were snapped!



ADOPTION



Have You Considered Sharing Your Story?

WFAPA would like to share your story and/or your family's picture on WFAPA's website, Facebook, and/or newsletter. With November being National Adoption Month, it is an opportunity to expand the

voices we read and listen to related to adoption. We all have stories. Some make us laugh until we cry. Others? Well... they just make us cry. If you have lived at all, you have likely experienced both joy and heartache. While it can be easy to wish that we lived a carefree existence without the difficult moments, sometimes even our most trying burdens can become our biggest blessings.

Have you ever gone through a situation and felt utterly alone? Have you been ashamed to speak your truth out loud? Have you ever just needed someone to say, "It's okay. I've been there, too."? Most of us want so badly for someone to identify with, to normalize what we often think are unique struggles. In these times, the testimony of others can be a bright and shining light in the darkness. So . . . have you considered sharing your testimony?

If you think that nobody is interested in what you have to say, you'd be surprised. Whether you are a birth parent, a potential or current adoptive parent, or a person who was adopted, your story can touch the lives of countless others. Don't forget about the stories in your life that are completely unrelated to adoption as well. First, it can help to think about where your story begins, how it progresses, and how it has led to your current situation. Also remember that your future is still wide open, so your story is never really finished. You can email your stories to Tammy at boettcher_tammy@yahoo.com.

FASPP and SAAN

Foster and Adoptive Support and Preservation Program Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect



FASPP's mission is to meet the needs of foster and adoptive parents statewide through a network of peer driven support and information which will help to preserve foster and adoptive families. Are you feeling lost? Do you need information? Are you under an investigation? If so, FASPP may be able to help! Our FASPP and SAAN volunteers are highly trained to provide you with information and/or resources to guide you through various issues. FASPP and SAAN is made up of fellow foster or adoptive parents.

SAAN (Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect)

SAAN is a peer driven support network, the purpose of which is to minimize the trauma to foster and adoptive families while undergoing an allegation without compromising the integrity of that investigation. Foster parents welcome children into their homes knowing that they

bring their histories and issues along with them.

For this reason, foster and adoptive parents are at a higher risk of having an allegation made against them. Undergoing an investigation is a stressful and scary situation for anyone, and SAAN is here to provide information to support you throughout the investigation process.

Please call or email the following people with questions in these areas:

Norma, Chairperson (Advice on general/allegations) Phone: (920) 922-9627

Melissa (Focuses on fostering younger children)
Phone: (608) 333-6650
Email: lovedalemelissa@gmail.com

Tammy (Advice on general/foster)
Phone: (715) 497-3561
Email: tmeesha1973@yahoo.com

Lauri Thorssen (Advice on general/adoption)
Phone: (715) 816-4152
Email: lthorssen@gmail.com



Amazon Users- SMILE PROGRAM

When shopping on Amazon, don't forget to use the Amazon Smile Program! Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to WFAPA whenever you shop on Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know-same products, same prices, same service.

SUPPORT WFAPA by starting your shopping @smile.amazon.com.
WFAPA thanks you!!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

"My call to action is not for the end of adoption," she said. "It is for a deeper understanding of its complexities, even the not-so-pleasant parts. There needs to be a centering of adoptee voices and value placed on their experiences. We must acknowledge their loss and develop trauma-informed support systems for them." Stephanie Drenka



NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

National Adoption Month is about spreading awareness. It is a month to encourage others to learn about adoption, to hold adoption related events, and to acknowledge the people in this country whose lives have been impacted by adoption. The mission of National Adoption Month is to celebrate the families who have grown through adoption, and to recognize the many children who are still waiting for forever families.

In the United States, the first, major,



adoption-related effort occurred in 1976 in the state of Massachusetts.

Then-Governor Mike Dukakis proclaimed the first week of November "Adoption Week," to promote the need for more adoptive families to care for the large number of children in the foster care system. In 1984 President Gerald R. Ford made Adoption Week a national event. By 1998 the week had become so widely recognized there were too many events to fit into seven days. President Bill Clinton extended the weeklong event into National Adoption Month, which is what we celebrate today.



Hello friends,

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am grateful for the attendance at the Fall Conference, it went well. Our speakers were wonderful, the food was good and the WFAPA family was together. We continue to hear, "where are the foster parents? Where are the adoptive/kinship care parents? Why wouldn't they come and join the WFAPA family and not feel alone any longer?" We are getting new younger families and on their survey sheets they state, "wish more people would come, I would like to see more attendance, do they know that I received 12 CEUs in two days? We did not have to sit in front of a computer, we saw people, shared stories with other families and we found out we are not alone in this wall of life that we face."

Now, those are perfect questions and observations. What is the answer to that? You could talk about us, tell other foster families, tell your workers, tell your Foster Care Coordinator, pass around your brochures, pass around your newsletter, post on Facebook that you attended an impressive conference. You want to see more members join us, talk about us! We are grateful for, YOU, our families, our children. This is your organization, help us build it up so others will be included.

Looking forward to the March 24th to March 26th, 2023, conference already! Please watch the website and Facebook for the latest updates. We have some current ideas and are going to hopefully accomplish them. Getting together again in four months. Start planning now and get your respite if needed, talk about us and we will see you then!

The next months will be busy for all of us. Holidays will start, children will be busy, tired, hyper, content, out of school and families will gather. We may work a bit harder, however it is so worth it. Be grateful for where you are today with family, friends, and your children. You are not alone in your journey. Call us if you need to chat, let off steam, ask a question. We are always here for you.

Happy Holidays!

Tina

Protecting Yourself In A Phishing World



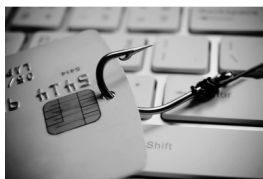
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Attackers take advantage of consumers' tendency to make complaints and request assistance from brands using social media channels. However, instead of contacting the real brand, the consumer contacts the attacker's fake social account. When attackers receive such a request, they might ask the customer to provide personal information so that they can identify the problem and respond appropriately. In other cases, the attacker provides a link to a fake customer support page, which is actually a malicious website.

What are the Signs of Phishing?

Threats or a Sense of Urgency

Emails that threaten negative consequences should always be treated with skepticism. Another strategy is to use urgency to encourage or demand immediate action. Phishers hope that by reading the email in a hurry, they will not thoroughly scrutinize the content and will not discover inconsistencies.



Message Style

An immediate indication of phishing is that a message is written with inappropriate language or tone. If, for example, a colleague from work sounds overly casual, or a close friend uses formal language, this should trigger suspicion. Recipients of the message should check for anything else that could indicate a phishing message.

Unusual Requests

If an email requires you to perform non-standard actions, it could indicate that the email is malicious. For example, if an email claims to be from a specific IT team and asks for software to be installed, but these activities are usually handled centrally by the IT department, the email is probably malicious.

Linguistic Errors

Misspellings and grammatical misuse are another sign of phishing emails. Most companies have set up spell checking in their email clients for outgoing emails. Therefore, emails with spelling or grammatical errors should raise suspicion, as they may not originate from the claimed source.

Inconsistencies in Web Addresses

Another easy way to identify potential

phishing attacks is to look for mismatched email addresses, links, and domain names. For example, it's a good idea to check a previous communication that matches the sender's email address.

Recipients should always hover over a link in an email before clicking it, to see the actual link destination. If the email is believed to be sent by Bank of America, but the domain of the email address does not contain "bankofamerica.com", that is a sign of a phishing email.

Request for Credentials, Payment Information or Other Personal Details

In many phishing emails, attackers create fake login pages linked from emails that appear to be official. The fake login page typically has a login box or a request for financial account information. If the email is unexpected, the recipient should not enter login credentials or click the link. As a precaution, recipients should directly visit the website they think is the source of the email.

Article taken from website:
<https://www.checkpoint.com/cyber-hub/threat-prevention/what-is-phishing/>

Mama Kasch's Kitchen Recipe

Baked Potato Wedges



Prep Time: 10 Minutes
 Cook Time: 35 Minutes
 Total Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients: ~ 4 medium Russet potatoes scrubbed and cut into eighths ~ 1/4 cup olive oil ~ 1 tsp. onion powder ~ 1 tsp. garlic powder ~ 1 tsp. smoked paprika ~ 2 tsp. salt ~ 1/2 tsp pepper ~ 2 tblsp chopped fresh parsley ~ 1/3 cup finely grated parmesan cheese ~ cooking spray

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a sheet pan with foil and coat the foil with cooking spray.
2. Place the olive oil, onion powder, garlic powder, smoked paprika, salt, pepper and parmesan cheese in a gallon sized resealable bag.
3. Place the potato wedges in the bag and seal the bag. Shake to coat the potatoes evenly with the seasoning.
4. Spread the potatoes in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 35 minutes or until golden brown and fork tender. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

NOTES: Want a little flavor variety? Try finely grated romano or asiago cheese instead of parmesan, or substitute fresh chives or dill for the parsley.

