



CREATIVELY SPEAKING NEWSLETTER

MARCH EDITION

Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. During this time, we're taking extra steps to educate, increase awareness, and promote the inclusion of all people with disabilities that are both visible and non-visible.

Please enjoy this humorous but highly informative video on disability sensitivity. Together, we can learn how to become a better ally to our disabled communities.

Announcements

See below for a success story, new things happening at CCS, and much more!

Recruitment and Retention

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES!

We are so happy to have you here at CCS.



Marie and Augustin Brown
Therapeutic Foster Parents



Joanne Jervis-Viville and Clement Viville
Dual-certified as both Host Home Providers and Therapeutic Foster Parents



Juliet and Ninfas Willis
Therapeutic Foster Parents

Referral and Sign-On Bonus



Know someone who is interested in becoming a therapeutic foster parent or host home provider? Our current parents are our best recruiters!

1. If you refer a new foster parent to CCS, you will receive \$250 when their home is fully approved and has accepted a child(ren) for respite and/or permanent placement.
2. The newly licensed parent/family receives a \$250 bonus once they complete the process and accept their first respite or permanent placement.
3. If you coordinate a recruitment speaking engagement of 5 or more people, you will receive \$50.

♥ Flashback to February: Share the Love ♥

As part of our Share the Love event, we hosted a family movie night! We are grateful to all those who attended and helped make this event possible. We work hard to create a space where our therapeutic foster parents, host home providers, foster youth,



and individuals feel loved and appreciated.

[See More Photos](#)

Did you attend this event? We want to know your thoughts! **Take the survey.**

We received phenomenal participation in our Share the Love letters, where families wrote a special message to each other on a heart-shaped card and posted them at our office. Just check out our love wall!

CCS encourages our families to continue expressing their love and gratitude for one another—all year around!

[See More Hearts](#)



□ Success Story □



Ethan, along with his therapeutic foster parent Ms. Baker, recently presented a lunch and learn panel at the Human Rights Campaign's annual Time to Thrive conference. Our Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Kalie Giovanni, hosted a workshop about the work we do every day at CCS in order to cultivate an inclusive and affirming environment within our organization and for our clients and families.

Ethan and Ms. Baker discussed their experience in connecting, sharing, and cultivating an affirming environment in the home they share together.

THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE & SOAR

Please join us in celebrating TFC and SOAR's impressive Performance-Based Placement score of **98.99%**. That's an A+!

The PBP scorecard is a report provided by the state of Georgia that reviews our performances in things such as staff training and placement stability. This means we're doing an outstanding job in ensuring the safety, permanence, and well-being of the youth we serve. Well done, team!



TEEN PARENT CONNECTION



Our teen parents engaged in a fun and interactive event coordinated by CCS called Love Yourself. Huge shout out to everyone who helped make this event special and run smoothly. Thank you to our guest, Kysha McDermott, from Dreams4U for facilitating an awesome class. She gave a thought-provoking lesson on healthy relationships and self-love.

Welcome, Baby D!

Another Teen Parent Connection baby was born! Please join us in welcoming Baby D, weighing in at 8 lbs and 5 ounces, born on February 24, 2023, at 12:52 pm.

Our teen mom is a first-time parent and is going to need our support and care as she learns how to become a nurturing parent.

OUR TEENS NEED YOUR HELP

Our teen parents need transportation cards such as Marta, Uber, or gift cards.

Many rely on ride-hailing services like Uber because public transportation is too difficult due

to their young children and car seats.

Your donation will help our teen parents make it to important doctor's appointments and to get to and from work.

DONATE



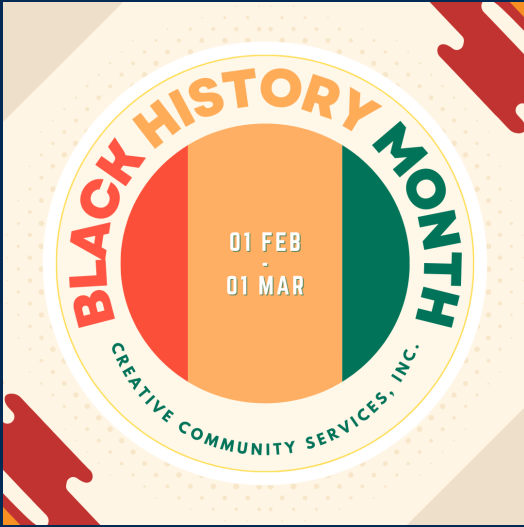
Questions? Contact Rochelle Grice, TPC Director, at rgrice@ccsgeorgia.org.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Darryl, one of the adults in our DD program, enjoyed a cruise to St. Martin with his family!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



CCS is beginning a new 2023 series for our staff called Diversity Dialogues. Our goal is to cultivate deeper conversations about identity by sharing our lived experiences and fostering a more inclusive and equitable culture within our organization.

With February being Black History Month, our staff spent time learning and discussing historical events that may have been omitted or downplayed in formal education. If you are interested in reading about what our staff discussed, you can access it [here](#).

THANK YOU DONORS

Thank you to **Amerigroup** for donating \$500 towards our Family Movie Night. And thank you to **Papa John's** for the free and discounted pizzas!

Our sincerest gratitude goes to **Helping Mamas** for your generous supplies of diapers and wipes for Teen Parent Connection.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

foster youth and adults



March

Viviana H.
John S.
Ruth W.

April

Dora B.
Killian C.
Lilliana C.
Dean L.
Darryl M.

[Donate A Birthday Gift](#)

Featured Foster Parent

Ms. Vivette Baker



Ms. Vivette Baker is an amazing advocate for her child. By ensuring that they feel accepted and affirmed in her home, she gives them the space to be wholeheartedly themselves while being a safe adult to come to with questions and concerns. She is patient, loving, and compassionate. She seeks out ways to support and provide opportunities for empowerment for the child in her home. This last month, she went above and beyond in being a resource for her child when they presented at the Human Rights Campaign - Time to Thrive Conference together. Thank you for all you do, Ms. Baker!

Let's stay connected!



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