Nurturing Center Newsletter

Build your relationships on the foundation of respect, courtesy, and love
-Susan Christofferson

the NURTURING center

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

Meet us!!

THIS IS KALIE, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

I started at The Nurturing Center in 2016 as the Family Resource Manager. Upon the passing of our Executive Director and my dear friend, mentor, and colleague Cathy Brenneman, I became the Executive Director in 2017. I was born and raised in the Flathead Valley, and my husband and two teenage children live on our family farm in the Bigfork area. My background is in social work and mental health. My family and I spend most of our time at hockey rinks as both of my kids play on teams. TNC is an amazing organization that supports the community, the staff is kind and genuine and I am so lucky to be a member of this team!

DID YOU KNOW WE ARE 45 THIS YEAR???

An Agency Update

Over the last 45 years, we have been a staple to families in need in Lake, Lincoln, Flathead, and Sanders County communities. From offering the state funded Best Beginnings Childcare Scholarships, and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for childcares, to offering free diapers, wipes and formula, and parenting classes, we have adjusted to meet the needs of our communities.

Currently, we are serving about 365 families per month with childcare scholarships, and 54 childcares with CACFP assistance. We had 106 parents attend parenting classes in 2022, and provided 88 families with diapers, wipes, and formula.

Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in the number of families in need of hygiene supplies, school supplies, backpacks, and safe places for parents to connect and let their children play. We delivered 2400 backpacks in 2022, and hosted many playgroup opportunities.

These are just a few of the things we have included as we look at the needs of the valley. We have so many more things on the way!

Family Engagement & Community Outreach

THE HEART OF TNC

From fun family-friendly events, parent education opportunities, and creative community involvement, this dynamic duo, Hattie and Jennifer, are constantly looking for new ways to engage with and support the communities that we all love. If there's a problem, yo they'll solve it or lose sleep trying. They are currently partnering with Parents as Teachers, Healthy Beginnings Pediatric Therapy, and Rylee's Play Place to meet families where they already are and create opportunities for connection. They are always looking for innovative community partnerships to create more sustainable support networks.

Family Services

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

Although the temporary COVID policies for Best Beginnings have ended, the Health Care Sector Child Care Scholarships are still available to those working in the medical field! If you or someone you know would benefit from child care assistance, visit our website or contact our office for more information. This past year, our Eligibility Specialists traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina to attend a national conference. This continued education allows the team to stay up to date on best practices which results in better case management.

Provider Resources

SUPPORTING EDUCATORS & CHILDREN

Our provider services team has been visiting many programs throughout our region to provide support, guidance and resources to improve the lives of their children and families. If you or someone you know is interested in caring for children in their life, we are looking for help to license more FFN's (Family, Friend or Neighbor) to support families that qualify for the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship! If you are interested in working in a Childcare Program, contact us!

CACFP

CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

In this important role, Amy provides support and training for family and group child care facilities that participate in CACFP - if you are a family or group provider who is interested in joining the program then reach out for more information! With inflation and rising food costs, the program's reimbursement is an incredible added benefit for many providers trying to make ends meet!

Parent Cafe's

WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT ISN'T

We are trying something new this year with Parent Café's! We have seen that there are a lot of families looking for connection with others and unsure of where to find it. What it is: Parent Cafe's are safe places for parents to come together and talk about all the day to day ups and downs of having children. What they are not: These are not parenting classes or playgroups. We are not there to give our advice, instead to get advice from everyone in the room. Through the use of protective factors, we hope to help build up all your relationships.

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

12th Annual Blue Ribbon Event | April 27 from 3-7pm at the Flathead County Fairgrounds Expo Building. Join us for free food, fun and games for children, and to take a stand against child abuse!
Sensory Gym Play Groups | March 14 and April 11 from 1-4pm at Rylee's Play Place
Circle of Security Parenting Class | The fourth Wednesday of every month 9am-2:30pm

To register for a play group, Parent Café, or a parenting class, contact Hattie at 406-756-1414 Ext. *210 or hattie@nurturingcenter.org