

Nurturing Center Newsletter

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



Meet us!!

FAMILY SERVICES TEAM



From front to back: Ashley, Stephanie, and Mariah,

Happy New Year

What a great year we had in 2023! We raised more than ever before in the Great Fish Community Challenge, we had a record number of people at our Blue Ribbon Event, and we even had a year end giving page to raise funds for families in our community. We have the funds to help families with childcare scholarships over the summer, and beautiful baby bassinets to give away at parenting classes.

We are starting the year with a few changes here. We have a new Family Engagement Coordinator and a new face in Family Services as well. We are all back to work and planning out the new year. We are excited about some upcoming playgroups, Parent Cafe's, and community events. We are proud of the work we did with Collaborative Housing Solutions getting resources out to our at-risk community members, and had such a great time at the SKC Baby Fair!

Make sure you mark your calendars for our Blue Ribbon Event and Week of the Young Child. We try and make it bigger and better every year! This year it is April 11th at the Flathead County Fairgrounds. More information about that below!

Meet our team of friendly Family Service Specialists. These are the ladies that help when a family needs assistance with the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship. They work to make sure all the necessary paperwork gets turned in to the state. They are also here to help answer any questions and get families connected to even more resources as needed. When Ashley first started at The Nurturing Center in 2016, she was lovingly given the nickname Jojo after a WWE Ring Announcer. That is why you hear confusion sometimes when you ask for Ashley. :) She transferred to the Family Services Department in 2020 and has been helping families ever since! Stephanie came to work at the Nurturing Center in the spring of 2017, and is the Family Services Supervisor. She is the one we all go to with our Best Beginnings questions, so she can help you too! She is a mother of two that enjoys being in the outdoors. Mariah officially started at The Nurturing Center in March of 2021 as an eligibility specialist in the family services department. She was eager to begin helping families and guiding them with additional information and resources. She grew up in the Flathead Valley and is patiently waiting for our beautiful Montana summer to return so she can begin new adventures with her family

Updates

Best Beginnings Scholarship – The Best Beginnings Scholarship had a win last year when Legislatures decided to increase the income level to 185% of the poverty level. This helps more families qualify, which means more kids can attend childcare. If you work in childcare, there is also a scholarship opportunity for you! This does have different requirements, so make sure you check that out! If you currently work in childcare and have children in childcare, you might qualify for the Best Beginnings for Childcare Workers. The income qualifications are a little different, so make sure you look into it.

Lincoln County Child Care Capacity Cohort – The Zero to Five Collaborative has been approved for a grant to help address the childcare gaps in the community. We are thrilled to be part of this community-led process! The collaborative is looking to be a partner with families and providers to help assess the needs and help come up with sustainable solutions.

Parent Cafe's with Healthy Beginnings Pediatric Therapy and Parents as Teachers – We are very happy to continue our Parent Cafe Program with these two amazing agencies. The Healthy Beginnings Cafe is for parents who have children with disabilities, and we welcome families that would like to connect to other families with the same struggles. You do not have to utilize the services of Healthy Beginnings to attend. Healthy Beginnings is scheduled for February 15th and April 23rd. Parents as Teachers Cafe's are for the families they are currently working with. These are scheduled for March 7th and May 14th. For more information or to RSVP, call or email Renee.

renee@nurturingcenter.org or 406-756-1414 ext. *210

Connect

Restore



Grow

Circle of Security

The Circle of Security Program focuses on strengthening the parent-child relationship, building a child's self-esteem, and empowering parents to use and expand upon skills that they already have.

FREE Class for parents!

This class will run for 5 weeks, meeting on Tuesdays from 6-7:30pm. February 27th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th over Zoom and in person at The Nurturing Center

FREE Class for Providers:

This class will run April 30th, May 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th from 6:00-7:30 in person or over Zoom.

To register, please call 406-756-1414 *210 or email renee@nurturingcenter.org

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Free Playgroup at Riley's Play Place | Come focus on friendship at this playgroup designed to get children and parents together for a little bit of fun.

The playgroup is typically for children ages 0-5 years. Come run, jump, and play! You must register to secure a space. February 13th, 9-10 am or 10:30-11:30 am.

Sanders County Community Baby Shower | New moms in Sanders County! We are very excited to be part of the community baby shower happening in Thompson Falls, March 9th! This event is for expecting mothers and families. You must request an invitation for this event by calling 406-544-2634

Eureka Rendezvous Days | We will be headed up to Eureka to participate and help support during their Rendezvous Days, April 27th and 28th. Come see us for some free resources and to ask any questions you might have!

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

Everything we do here at the Nurturing Center is part of helping families raise their children in safe and nurturing environments. We feel strongly that if a family is supported, the chances for child abuse decline. When we help a family with diapers, wipes, and formula, we are helping to take away the stress of needing to buy those items when the budget is tight. We love when a family qualifies for the Best Beginnings Scholarship or an out-of-schooltime scholarship, knowing that the cost of childcare is high and can be such a burden. We get most excited when we can collaborate with our community to provide an event that is fun and free for families.

This is where the Blue Ribbon Event comes in! Every year we host a fun event full of games and prizes for children, resources for families, and free food and drinks! This year, our event falls right in the middle of Week of the Young Child, so we will be celebrating kids and families even more! If you have never been, make sure you try to come this year! We will be at the Flathead County Fairgrounds Expo Building, April 11th from 3-7 pm. If you are an agency that would like to join us with a table, contact Renee to get on the list! The more the merrier we say!



The Nurturing Center
PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

**The Nurturing Center's 13 Annual
Blue Ribbon Event
April 11, 2024
3-7pm
Flathead County Fairgrounds**

**SAVE THE
DATE**



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CHILDREN'S TRUST
fund