

January

Foster Parent Newsletter
2023



DATES:

Court: 1/30 & 1/31

Dec \$: 1/13

Jan \$: 2/10

Office closed: 1/2, 1/16



Meet the Social Worker

Meredith Cole

Meredith is from Virginia where she graduated from Liberty University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Social Work degree before moving to Boone, NC in 2019. She was previously the Licensing Social Worker at Wilkes County DSS and will be joining us as a Foster Care Social Worker. She loved working with foster families in Wilkes County and helping train new families into the program. She has a passion for reunification efforts toward family preservation and is excited to continue by serving the community in Watauga County. In her free time she enjoys traveling, going to concerts, thrifting, hiking, and baking. She is excited to meet everyone!



Meet the Hayes



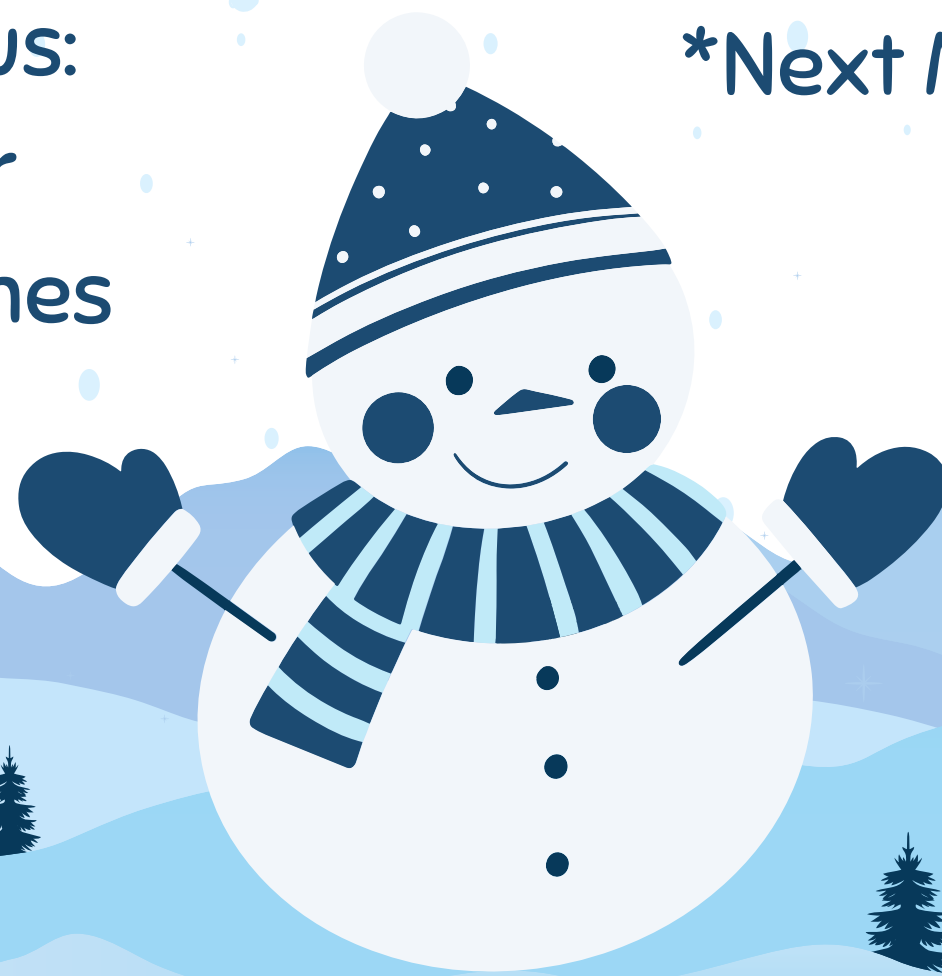
Kent and Heather Hayes have been foster parents since August 2021. Heather works for Alliance Bible Fellowship and Kent works in Avery County schools. They became foster parents after becoming aware of the need in the area, love children and had room in their home and hearts. They raised 3 boys and adopted Hailey from foster care last year. They often serve as our emergency foster home. They enjoy being outside and love sports. They share that fostering and adopting has taught them their lives are not their own and while life can be full of brokenness, great joy and beauty can still exist.

**Foster
Parent #:
37**

**Kids in
Foster
Care: 68**

***Foster Parent referral bonus:
Receive a \$100 gift card for
referring a family that becomes
licensed!**

***Next MAPP Training starts in MARCH**



Help eliminate the stigma!

Instead of saying foster kid(s) or foster child(ren), say a child experiencing foster care or a child in foster care.



Staff

Tom Hughes: Director

Chad Slagle: Foster care Supervisor

Melanie Ellis: Investigations/In Home Supervisor

Ashely Hartley: Investigator

Open: Investigator

Laurel Ashley: Investigator/in home

Janie Finnin: In Home case manager

Alice Langseth: Foster Care case manager

Kelly Stroud: Foster Care case manager

Sarah Wood: Foster Care case manager

Meredith Cole: Foster Care case manager

Amy Bateman: Adoptions

Jessica Hunter: Licensing

Lisa Austin: Intake



Resources

*Resources are listed on
our webpage
[watgov.org/foster help](http://watgov.org/fosterhelp)

*20 Ceu's per year

*Renew CPR every 2 years



TAX REMINDER

Remember to file your taxes early to avoid issues with claiming children. You can claim a child that has been with you more than half the year.



Tip of the Month

QTIP! Quit taking it personal. Prior Foster and Adoptive parent Joel Guinn shares that it can be hard to let go of the feelings when children lash or act out. Adults tend to overthink things while the kids may be over it in 5 minutes. He shares that journaling or jotting down notes can be helpful in your processing.



IDEAS!

If you have an idea for recruitment, retention, training or support please share with Jessica





Contacts:

Office: 828-265-8100

After hours: 828-264-3761

Mobile Crisis: 828-264-4357

Thank You

we appreciate you!