



December 2023 | Issue 12

## Happy December RISE Families!

I hope this finds each of you in the midst of a comfortable holiday season!

We are leaning into a cozy December, packed with holiday celebrations and gatherings with colleagues, friends, and family. I am hoping that this December is treating each of you and your families to cozy evenings, seasonal joy, togetherness and peace.

As we reflect this December, our team is humbled by the good fortune we have had this year. We have been grateful to add new team members who have added their own expertise and passion for serving families to our merry band. We are humbled by the good opportunity that we have had to hear from, support and serve such incredible families in Idaho.

We are looking forward to entering a brand new year of serving you all through learning about you and your experiences, advocating for you in meaningful ways and celebrating your wins with you!

*Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!*

Sarah Andrade, Executive Director

Please reach out via email at **id-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org** or 208-252-6117. We look forward to answering questions and working with your family.

[Visit our website](#)

## Who Is RISE?

RISE, Inc is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1987. RISE provides a range of services to adults, children, and families in Utah, Oregon, Arizona, Florida, and Idaho.

RISE provides services such as foster care, after-school and summer programs, early intervention, mental health therapy, behavioral supports, respite, and disability services.

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Are you experiencing challenges that you didn't expect following an adoption, achieving permanency or dealing with changes in your family? Well, no one can plan for everything! Encountering unanticipated challenges or circumstances when a family experiences a change is one of the only certainties that can *really* be guaranteed. The other certainly, is that WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! RISE Family Services Post-Permanency Support team members are standing by to support you throughout your journey.

RISE Family Service post-permanency support services offer a wide range of assistance options, tailored to the specific needs of your family. Supportive services can include:

- Supporting your family in applying for a renegotiation of subsidy payments to assist with the increased cost associated with more intensive needs,
- Supporting your child and family in gaining access to grant funding to allow for resources, enrichment activities, stabilization, or the overall well-being of your child(ren),
- Case Management/Intensive Case Management to support you in advocating for exceptional or emotional needs for your child, navigating the child welfare system or community resources and accessing support networks.

The bottom line is that *we are here for you!* If you or someone you know is in need of support related to a post-permanency adoption, please reach out to us. We know that supporting Idaho Families through their post-adoption journey is every bit as critical as entering an adoption. *We are here.*

Please feel welcome to contact us via email at  
**[idadoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org](mailto:idadoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org)** or by telephone at 208-252-6117. As

always, we look forward to answering questions and working with your family.

Wishing you joy this holiday season! 🎄 As the year winds down, we express our gratitude for your continued support. May your days be merry and bright.

Happy holidays from all of us to you! ✨

## Embracing the Magic: Holidays for Adoptive Families

The holiday season is a time of joy, togetherness, and creating lasting memories. For adoptive families, this time holds a unique significance: they come together to celebrate their own traditions and shared love. Here's a heartfelt exploration of how adoptive families navigate and revel in the magic of the holidays.

### Embracing Unique Traditions

Adoptive families often blend diverse cultural backgrounds, creating a rich tapestry of traditions. Whether it's incorporating customs from the child's birth culture or establishing new rituals, the holidays become a beautiful amalgamation of heritage and shared experiences. This festive fusion not only builds a sense of belonging but also instills pride in one's roots.

### The Gift of Connection

For adoptive families, the holidays underscore the gift of connection. It's a time to reinforce the bonds that go beyond blood ties. From special holiday-themed activities to heartfelt conversations about the meaning of family, this season offers adoptive parents and children an opportunity to deepen their understanding and appreciation for each other.

### Navigating Unique Challenges

While the holidays bring joy, they can also present unique challenges for adoptive families. Sensitivity to a child's emotions, especially around the topics of identity and belonging, becomes crucial. Open communication and creating a safe space for discussions about the significance of the holidays can help navigate any complexities that may arise.

## **A Celebration of Love**

At its core, the holiday season is a celebration of love. Adoptive families embrace this love in all its forms- the love that brought them together, the love that grows with each passing day, and the love that transcends biological connections. The holidays serve as a poignant reminder of the beauty found in chosen families.

## **Building Lasting Memories**

From decorating the tree to sharing festive meals, adoptive families cherish the opportunity to build lasting memories during the holiday season. These shared moments contribute to the unique tapestry of warmth and love that will be carried forward for generations.

In conclusion, the holidays for adoptive families are a time to honor the beauty of their unique journey. As they navigate transitions, embrace connections, and face challenges with resilience, the essence of family shines through. It's a season filled with love, understanding, and the unwavering belief that, in the end, family is what makes the holidays truly magical.

## **RISE IS SEEKING TREATMENT FOSTER CARE PARENTS**

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of children and youth in need? If, so we have an exciting opportunity for you!

We are actively seeking compassionate individuals or families who are interested in becoming treatment foster care parents in Region 3 & 4. Whether you are a seasoned foster parent looking to expand your impact or someone considering treatment foster care for the first time, we welcome you to join our dedicated team.

As a treatment foster care parent, you will have the unique ability to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for children and adolescents who have experienced trauma or have behavioral and emotional challenges.

By opening your heart and home to these vulnerable young individuals, you can play a pivotal role in their healing and growth. As a treatment foster care parent, you will receive specialized training, ongoing support, and a generous stipend to ensure that you have the resources and knowledge needed to provide the best care possible.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a treatment foster care parent, please contact RISE Family Services at 208-252-6117 or email [saraha@riseservicesinc.org](mailto:saraha@riseservicesinc.org).

## FREE Parent Training Video From Healthy Foundations

## Empowering Parents Program Grant

The Empowering Parents program provides eligible families with grant funds for use towards eligible education services and devices to help students recover from learning loss. Section 33-1030, Idaho Code, defines eligible education expenses. Eligible education expenses and a chart of commonly approved and denied items.

Learn more about the eligibility at <https://empoweringparents.idaho.gov/>

## Idaho's Wednesday's Child

### What is Idaho Wednesday's Child?

Idaho Wednesday Child is a program aimed at connecting children in foster care with permanent families through adoption. The program began in 1981 as a partnership between Idaho's Child Welfare system and local media outlets. Every Wednesday, a child who is waiting to be adopted is highlighted and introduced to the community through various media channels, including television, radio, and online platforms.

Idaho Wednesday's Child has played a vital role in transforming the lives of children in foster care, offering them hope, stability, and the love of a forever family.

Learn more at: <https://idahowednesdayschild.org/>

The TBRI® Podcast features conversations about Trust-Based Relational Intervention®, an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children.

On this podcast we talk about the elements of trauma-informed care and chat with experts in the field about implementing TBRI® across different communities of care and practice.

To learn more [click here](#)

Silverwood Theme Park has partnered with Idaho Family and Children Services to provide all foster children in the state of Idaho the opportunity to visit the park for FREE once a year! The goal of this program is to help children in foster care create healthy bonds with their new families by providing a safe, fun, and exciting place to make lasting memories together.

[\*\*LEARN MORE HERE\*\*](#)

*\*\*Currently, this program is only offered to foster families in the state of Idaho, but we are looking into future expansion to our bordering states.\*\**

## **Idaho Resiliency Project**

[\*\*https://www.idahoresilienceproject.org/resources\*\*](https://www.idahoresilienceproject.org/resources)

The Idaho Resilience Project (IRP) is an organization dedicated to helping Idaho's youth and families build resilience and forge a path beyond trauma. Understanding that adversity happens at the individual, family, and community levels, IRP is working with organizations across the state to improve and create a shared understanding of resilience-informed communities. Through regional collaboration, IRP is working to create safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments to positively impact the development of skills that will help youth and families reach their full potential. Explore the calendar to find upcoming training and events. Check out the resource page to find videos, documentaries and lesson plans for every age and stage.

## **Find Help Idaho**

[\*\*https://findhelpidaho.org/\*\*](https://findhelpidaho.org/)

Idaho Health Data Exchange is collaborating with findhelp to provide a safe, secure, and effective platform for users to connect people with social services. Simply search and immediately connect to identify medical, behavioral, financial and basic supports relevant and available to meet your needs.

## Brown like Me

Brown like Me has become many of our family's favorite nonprofit organizations in the area. Brown like Me is a "local nonprofit that is helping black youth in Idaho connect with their culture through community outreach".

To learn more about this organization and to view their upcoming events, please visit <https://brownlikeme.org/>.

## The Mayfly Project: Mentoring Foster Children through Fly Fishing

\*information obtained from [themayflyproject.com](http://themayflyproject.com)\*

The Mayfly Project is a national non-profit organization that is changing the lives of children in foster care across the country. Our mission is to mentor children in foster care via the sport of fly fishing and provide opportunities for children in foster care to have fun, build self-esteem, and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

The children that participate in our projects learn all the basics of fly fishing, join in our conservation initiative efforts, and receive a 2:1 mentor ratio at our 5 TMP outings where we teach and mentor in groups together. When the project is completed, each child receives their own curriculum, specialized buttons for participating in the program, fly rod setup, and all the gear they need to continue to pursue fly fishing. Foster parents, relative caregivers, adoptive parents, and group home staff are invited to participate as well! THERE IS ABSOLUTELY ZERO COST TO PARTICIPATE! We fundraise year round to ensure each kid/youth who participates has what they need to fly fish on their own!

**Register A Child Here**

Watch video: <https://vimeo.com/330261257>

## Kids Bowl Free!

Select bowling centers and schools around the country are participating in the first ever Kids Bowl Free program. Registered Kids Receive 2 FREE GAMES Of Bowling Each Day Of The KBF Program All Summer Long! This program is designed by bowling centers to give back to the community and provide a safe, secure, and fun way for kids to spend time this summer. Children whose age does not exceed a limit by a participating bowling center are eligible to register for 2 free games each day of the KBF program, all summer long, courtesy of the participating bowling centers along with the schools and organizations.

### **Participating Bowling Centers in Idaho**

- Boise: Emerald Lanes, Westy's Garden Lanes
- Burley: Snake River Bowl Emerald Lanes
- Coeur D'alene: Sunset Bowling
- Idaho Falls: Bowl-Ero Lanes
- Lewiston: Orchard Lanes
- Meridian: Meridian Bowling Lanes, Pinz Bowling Center
- Pocatello: Tough Guy Lanes

To register, click the bowling center associated with your location.

[https://www.kidzbowlfree.com/all\\_centers.php#ID](https://www.kidzbowlfree.com/all_centers.php#ID)

## **Idaho Care Line**

The 2-1-1 Idaho Careline is a program of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. It is a free statewide community information and referral service.

## **National Parent Helpline®**

1-855-4A PARENT 1-855-427-2736

To get emotional support from a trained Advocate and become empowered and a stronger parent.

## Youth Resource and Opportunity Collaborative

The Youth Resource and Opportunity Collaborative (YouthROC) provides upstream prevention support and resources to assist youth aged 10-17 with behavioral health needs. The ultimate goal is to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice and child welfare systems by providing connection to community-based resources and services. YouthROC will assist youth in acquiring the resources and support they need to improve their health, well-being, and future success.

For more information about the YouthROC program or advisory committee please reach out to Savannah Swisher, Project Manager at Southwest District Health.

To learn more, click [here](#)

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