

What is Kids First?

Kids First is dedicated to fulfilling the unmet needs of children who are in foster care by building Partnerships that link children with opportunities in Island County.

Established in July 2009, Kids First is a non-profit, community-based organization that is driven by a team of volunteers who include Island County foster & adoptive parents, grandparents, artisans, small business owners, social workers, adult adoptees, military veterans, retired educators, & compassionate others.

The Kids First Team aims to promote partnerships throughout the entire community to help children in foster care enjoy normal childhood opportunities. Opportunities like:

- Having a Bike to call your own
- Music & Dance Lessons
- Summer Camping Experiences
- Class Yearbooks & Senior Year Photos

By supporting Kids First you are helping children in foster care access educational, vocational, and recreational opportunities that will make meaningful differences in their lives.



How to Help

In Island County, there are many ways to help kids who are in foster care.

Advocate for the best interests of a child as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). washingtonstatecasa.org or contact Island County CASA at 360.240.5560

Be a Big Brother or Big Sister for a child who is in foster care. bbbsislandcounty.org 360.279.0644

Consider becoming a licensed foster parent or provide occasional childcare for local foster parents. Island County Fostering Together. fosteringtogether.org 1.866.958.5437

Make contact with elected representatives. Let them know that improving outcomes for children in foster care is a priority matter in Island County. apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx

Serve as a Tutor for a child in-care. Contact your local school district.

Stay aware of legislative matters that are shaping the future for children & youth & WA State's child welfare system. mockingbirdsociety.org

There are also many ways to support the mission of Kids First.

Share time, talent & heart for children in-care. Join the Kids First Team.

Partner with Kids First & other organizations to link children with opportunities in Island County.

Help Kids First continue to meet the ordinary needs of children who are in foster care. Donate by mail or at our website. Kids First is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization Tax ID (#27-1091517).



PO Box 581 • Clinton, WA 98236
360.639.4966 or 888.969.4877
www.kidsfirst-ic.org



**Building
Partnerships
and
Opportunities
For Children
In Foster Care**

How Kids First Works

When a child has a need or an aspiration to participate in an educational, vocational, or recreational opportunity and child welfare funds run short, the child's social worker, parents, or CASA submits a request for support to Kids First.

The Kids First Team collaborates with Partners to pool resources, and to generate matching funds, scholarships and even fee waivers. Partnerships are built. Children are linked with opportunity!

Requests for Kids First support might include help with:

- Basic Clothing & Shoes
- Prom Dresses & Tuxedo Rentals
- Specialized Vision or Hearing Aids
- Backpacks & School Supplies
- Sports Fees, Lessons & Gear
- Summer Camp Fees
- Costs of Travel to Visit Siblings
- Graduation Events



Who Are the Children in Foster Care?

Children in foster care are regular kids—but life has been especially hard on them. They have endured maltreatment and they are in foster care to be protected from further harm. Children remain in foster care while their parents access resources that help them provide safe, stable, nurturing home environments.

Children in foster care just need a little help to access normal childhood opportunities.



PO Box 581 Clinton, WA 98236
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1.888.969.4877
email help@kidsfirst-ic.org
www.kidsfirst-ic.org

Community Partnerships

Kids First aims to build partnerships that link children in foster care with educational, vocational and recreational opportunities in Island County.

The Kids First Team is grateful for the compassionate response that this aim is receiving from fellow community members in Island County and throughout the Region.

There are many ways that you can share time, talent & heart with Kids First.

As a Partner, you are helping children gain experiences & build memories that will make positive & meaningful differences in their lives.

