

Potential Guest Speakers for Foster Care Ministry in the Puget Sound

MAIA ANDERSON

Fostering Together Liaison (KingWest & Everett regions)

Passionate about: "Active Foster Parenting"- entering into child's situation, supporting & advocating for best outcome for that child's life (includes building relationships with the child's bio family).

Speaks on: licensing, foster parent support, holistic support (including both foster parents & bio parents), Biblical based inspiration for engaging the foster care system.

Bio:

Maia's passion for fostering comes first from faith-based conviction of serving those in need as well as having a personal connection from a parent who grew up in foster care. As a liaison, she is committed to supporting healthy families for kids to grow, develop and thrive in and has been caring for kids in foster care for 3.5 years.

Maia Anderson (Maia-Anderson@olivecrest.org)

LAURIE WASHINGTON

Region 2 Program Manager- Adoption & Permanent Planning- DSHS Children's Administration

Speaks on: Inspiring listeners to become licensed foster-ADOPT parents; and other ways to get involved besides being foster-adopt parents

Bio:

Laurie has BA @ U of Oregon in CSPA (community service & public affairs) and Master of Social Work @ U of Washington. As of Aug 2017 Laurie's had 33 years building families through adoption from foster care in OR and WA . Laurie's position is primarily dedicated to facilitating the Region's Children Finding Families Adoption Program; child specific adoptive family recruitment; collaborating with community organizations such as Rotary Clubs, Microsoft, Expedia, Faith Community, etc.; provide training and consultation on adoption and permanency issues to social workers and supervisors around the region.

Laurie Washington (laurie.washington@dshs.wa.gov)

CHRISTY TENNANT KRISPIN

Foster Parent & You-Tube creator of "A Fostered Life"

Passionate about: "**The Church & Foster Care: The Capacity to Change Who Waits,**" if every church had one foster family and a few additional families involved as respite/support, there could come a day when licensed foster providers would be waiting for placements, instead of children waiting for homes (hence, "change who waits")

Speaks on: Becoming licensed foster parents, supporting foster parents (especially new ones), Biblical basis for foster care support & licensing, "How to be involved with Foster Care without becoming a foster parent."

Christy's especially passionate about ministry to new foster parents

(a note from her: "I feel that group is most vulnerable to burn out, discouragement, and even PTSD. I'm very willing to share opening about how hard our first year was, especially, and what got us through and kept us firm in our calling to foster parenting, despite the toll it took - Marriage counseling by the end of the first year, ongoing therapy for me, and even, ultimately, medication. That first year hit me especially hard, as many things happened I was simply unprepared for. I want to help others not have to walk through those first hard months alone!")

Bio:

Christy Tennant Krispin and her husband, Karl, have been licensed foster parents since 2013. Christy creates resources for new and perspective foster parents at "A Fostered Life" ([YouTube](#), [Blog](#), and [Instagram](#)).

Christy Tennant Krispin (christykrispin@gmail.com)

MATTHEW SAVAGE

Pastor- Journey Church in Everett & adoptive/foster dad

Of the topics above, I am most interested in #2- the Biblical “why” of foster care ministry. I desire to mobilize the church to meet this need.

Passionate About: The Biblical “why” of foster care ministry and recruitment of believers to live out their faith in caring for the vulnerable, oppressed and orphaned. Beyond that, any emphasis I have is focused on the children themselves.

Bio: My wife, Nikki and I have three sons by way of adoption and birth and serve as foster parents. My wife worked as a Family Preservation Therapist for 8 years in the Puget Sound and I have served as a local pastor for 10 years. We've been licensed foster parents for 7 years. We were compelled by the gospel to become foster parents when we saw vulnerable children in our community. Having been filled with the love of Christ, we have a lot of love to give. And we enjoy sharing showering that love on children in need of families.

Matthew Savage (Savage@joininthejourney.com)

ANIBAL RUIZ

Olive Crest – Church Engagement

Passionate about:

- Removing the mystery/fear of foster care, DSHS, and child welfare.
- Training foster families to be prepared for the foster care journey: The good, bad and the ugly.
- Our responsibility to take care of foster families as they serve on the front lines.

Bio: Anibal Ruiz has been involved in child welfare serving foster children and families for 17 years. He has a passion for helping to develop strong families to serve vulnerable children in our communities.

Anibal Ruiz (Anibal-Ruiz@olivecrest.org)