We all have a role to play in helping prepare Weld County’s children for the future.

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Remember to look for your license number embedded in each newsletter! You could be the next winner of a Human Bean gift card!

If you find your number call 970-304-6184.

Greetings!

Welcome Our New Staff!

Vanessa Whitney - Quality Improvement Specialist/English PASO Trainer

Vanessa joined the Promises for Children team in November of 2019. She assists recruits who are pursuing licensure and child care providers offering support of quality improvement and coaching. Her role works closely with Weld County Department of Human Services to ensure that provider activities are of sufficient quality. She also co-trains for the English PASO program (Providers Advancing School Outcomes) teaching
curriculum on child development (cognitive, language/literacy, social-emotional, physical/motor, school readiness, child safety, nutrition, learning environment and more.) Throughout her career, Vanessa has experience in: advocacy work, project management, community collaboration, managing budgets, marketing and event coordination and working with individuals that represent a variety of needs, abilities, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. Prior to her current role, she was the Child Care Recruitment Specialist for the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County. She was born and raised in Fort Collins but has also briefly lived in other parts of Colorado and Minnesota. Vanessa recently graduated from the Family Leadership Training Institute program through CSU Extension to learn about more ways she can get involved and help her community. She is currently working on implementing the first skateboarding event in northern Colorado for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to skate one on one with a mentor. Vanessa enjoys spending time with her son, painting, reading, doing yoga and practicing meditation. She loves to travel, especially to the Philippines where most of her family lives. She is passionate about volunteering with various organizations around Colorado that help different social causes (suicide and mental illness awareness, homelessness, cultural awareness, racial/gender inequality, etc.)

Jessica Doran- Early Care and Education Specialist

Jessica was born in Greeley Colorado, moved away for schooling but moved back to Greeley to be with family and the Greeley community. Currently, Jessica lives in Greeley with her husband Ben and her son Grayson. Jessica graduated from Northridge High School and went on to get her associates from Western Nebraska Community College. Jessica’s career includes; banking, customer service in many areas, and an administrative assistant for Greeley-Evans School District 6. Jessica has always had a passion for helping others especially in the area of early care and education. She believes children are our future and as much as we can positively impact their and their family’s lives the better we will all be for it. Jessica’s interests and hobbies include: all things Colorado, reading, biking, music, soccer, and spending time with family and friends.

Adriana Carrillo- Promises for Children Coordinator

Adriana was born and raised in Greeley, Colorado. After graduating from Northridge High School, she went on to the University of Northern Colorado where she graduated with a Bachelors in Psychological Sciences as well as a Bachelors in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. While at UNC Adriana worked full-time in the restaurant industry. She also interned at Hearts & Horses Therapeutic Riding Center in Loveland, CO, where she found a deep passion for non-profit work. After graduating in, Adriana took a job at the Boys & Girls Club of Weld County where she worked at the Galeton location. There she worked with children in academic success and wrote a significant amount of curriculum. Adriana is new to United Way of
Weld County as the Promises for Children Coordinator. She is very excited for her position and to be making a difference in her community.

Unstructured Playtime May Improve Children’s Executive Functioning!

Research from the University of Colorado Boulder finds that children with more unstructured playtime did better than their peers on tests of executive function skills. Executive function skills enable children to plan, meet goals, and overcome setbacks. The researchers recommend that parents give young children time for spontaneous, self-directed play. Watch the video below to learn more.

Learn more here

Standard Precautions Training Available online in 2020

The Office of Early Childhood is excited to add a new option for standard precautions training. Beginning early 2020, Standard Precautions, Including Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases and Immunizations will be available as a free, online course on the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System. A Spanish version of the course will be available in the Spring of 2020. This course will meet both pre-service and annual requirements for standard precautions training. Stay tuned for more details! The course is still available in person through approved training vendors. See a list of current standard precautions trainers here.

WE WANT YOU!!!

We are looking for a family child care home provider to serve on the early childhood council. Are you interested in supporting and collaborating with other community members to advocate for children and families in Weld County? The Early Childhood Council meets once a month for 90 minutes, 10 months out of the year. We realize that this is a challenging time to meet, but to eliminate some of the barriers we are offering a stipend and mileage. You are also allowed to attend the meeting via web chat or phone call.

If you are interested, please contact Adriana Carrillo at acarrillo@unitedway-weld.org for more information.
Enter to Win!!!

Receive a Level 2 in Colorado Shines by January 20, 2019 and be entered to win tickets to the RMECC ($350 value!)

Contact Susanne Gallegos at susanne@unitedway-weld.org to get started

Promote the 2020 Census among young kids and families with a new toolkit!

By Sarah Hughes
Early childhood providers and others who work with young children and their families have a critical role to play in making sure young Colorado children are counted in the 2020 Census, and a new toolkit is here to help. The U.S. Census Bureau and other organizations have put together lots of resources to help providers promote the 2020 Census among families with young children, but these resources can be hard to find and aren’t always in one place. The new Early Childhood Census Toolkit compiles links to these materials, including flyers to share with families, FAQs about the census for providers and even a 2020 Census activity booklet for young children, all in one convenient document. The toolkit also includes sample language that can be used in newsletters, as well as social media posts to share about the 2020 Census between now and next summer.

Help Expand Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services in Colorado

Right Start for Colorado is an initiative led by the Mental Health Center of Denver that aims to expand infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) services across Colorado communities by providing trainings to professionals who work with young children but do not provide mental health treatment. Share your feedback to help inform the types of trainings offered. Click here to take the survey. The survey will be open until December 31, 2019. All survey participants have the opportunity to be entered into a raffle to win a $100 gift card.
Are you interested in getting your Child Development Associate Credential?

United Way of Weld County’s Promises for Children now has resources available. With two different options available to you, either in-person classes or online, we have a format that can work for everyone.

Providers Advancing School Outcomes is our in-person classes, which is available in English and Spanish. English is 4 hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Spanish is 8 hours on Saturdays. In just 15 weeks you can obtain all the training needed to apply for your CDA. Over this time you will meet other child care providers, develop supportive relationships, learn about resources, enter to win quality improvement items, and grow your knowledge on caring for children. We will also offer an online option through CDA Stars. This is a start and stop approach so you can have the ability to complete this on your own time. The online option would be the best choice for someone who wanted to be more independent in their journey to getting their CDA.

To hear more details or discuss cost for the online or English version of the class please contact Tessa at tessa@unitedway-weld.org or call 970-304-6189. For more details or to discuss cost for the Spanish in-person version of the class please contact Lorena at lorena@unitedway-weld.org or call 970-304-6183.

Looking for ways to improve your child care area? OR Do you want to become licensed but money is a barrier?

Are you looking to increase the quality in your child care? Are you looking to become licensed? Don’t let cost be a barrier to high quality, health and safety, or pursuing licensure! Promises for Children currently has funds to aid providers with their various needs such as health, safety, professional development, quality improvement, and more. Have you been cited for something in your home? Do you have some health and safety or quality improvement materials in mind that could make your day to day a little more manageable? Reach out to us!
Who qualifies? EVERYONE!

How do I learn more? Please contact Tessa at tessa@unitedway-weld.org or call 970-304-6189.

2019 Cold Weather Shelter Open

The high cost of housing in Weld County and the shortage of affordable housing are leaving people homeless. United Way of Weld County and Catholic Charities are working with other local organizations to provide services to help people through the winter months. United Way of Weld County’s Housing Navigation Center cold weather shelter in the Greeley/Evans area is a place where people can eat a hot meal and sleep safely from November to mid-April.

2930 11th Avenue
Evans, CO
(next to entrance of the Monfort Family Clinic)

More information here

Pre-Licensing Q & A

Do you like to work with children? Would you like to learn more about helping children thrive and become their best? Would you like to be your own boss and own your own business? Then you might be a perfect candidate to become a Licensed Child Care Provider in Weld County.

It’s always a good idea to learn as much as possible about a new career opportunity before you sign up for classes. That’s why we’re offering a question and answer session where you’ll hear more about the classes you’ll take, the process of getting your license and be able to ask questions.

Wednesday, January 8
6:30 – 8 p.m.
KidCare Nutrition -
929 38th Avenue Court – Greeley

Register to attend here

Secondhand Smoke Prevention

ONE Step training prepares Early Childhood Educators (ECE) and organizations serving low-income status parents/caregivers to have health focused conversations with parents about:

- Secondhand smoke and electronic smoking devices
- The health impact of exposure to secondhandsmoke (SHS) on children
- Steps to take to protect children from SHS exposure
- Local and statewide tobacco cessation

Trainings are offered in-person or online for your convenience.
For more information, email ONEStepColorado@lung.org or call 303-847-0279
Basic information about asthma and how to manage it

Make sure you register!

To Register for classes or request additional classes, please contact Anne Moyer: AnneMoyerRN@gmail.com or 970-232-8482. Checks should be made out to AMRN Consulting, LLC Anne Moyer, RN is a CDHS and Healthy Child Care CO approved trainer for child care providers.

CPR/Pediatric First Aid Training – American Heart Association (Limit 9 people)

- Sun January 19th – Noon to 5PM CPR and First Aid $75/person including book
  HMS Richards Adventist School, 342 42nd St SW, Loveland, 80537 (South Loveland)

- Sat February 8th – 9AM to 11:30AM Blended* CPR and First Aid $48/person
  My house, 6232 Treestead Ct, Fort Collins, 80528 (SE Fort Collins)

- Sat March 7th – 9AM to 2PM CPR and First Aid $75/person including book
  Location TBD based on requests

Please bring a snack or lunch. To shorten the day we do not give enough time to go onsite for lunch.

*Blended attendees must take the online portion before class and bring the certificate as proof. The online portion costs $21 and gives an option to purchase a book.

Medication Administration Training (Limit 12 people)

- Thurs January 16th – 6:30 PM Hybrid* $35/person
  My house, 6232 Treestead Ct, Fort Collins, 80528 (SE Fort Collins)

- Fri February 21st – 12:15 PM Hybrid* $35/person
  HMS Richards Adventist School, 342 42nd St SW, Loveland, 80537 (South Loveland)

- Wed March 11th – 6:30 PM Hybrid* $35/person
  My house, 6232 Treestead Ct, Fort Collins, 80528 (SE Fort Collins)

*Do not take the online portion of the hybrid course before you have confirmed a spot in class.

Standard Precautions/Bloodborne Pathogens (Limit 12 people)

- Wed January 22nd – 6:00 PM $15/person
  Bright Horizons West, 3513 Richmond Dr, Fort Collins, 80526

February/March TBD – Expect free PDIS version of this course in “early 2020”

Notes for all classes
Payment is due the day of class, but if you no show or cancel less than 24 hours before class you will be billed. No shows are unacceptable. There are often waiting lists, so please call to cancel if you are unable to attend.
Due to allergies, please refrain from wearing perfumes or having tobacco smoke on your clothing during class.
When a family-friendly workplace is encouraged, there is a huge return on investment and value on investment. This encourages new employees to choose your organization and top talent at that. It supports individuals in all stages of life to thrive at work, at home, and in the community.

**Limited Scholarships ($325 value) are available.** Read more [here](#).

**UNC Greeley Treasure Chest program**

An early language and emergent literacy development program for children and their caregivers. The program is run by UNC graduate clinicians in the Speech-Language Pathology Program.

More information [here](#).

**Spring EQIT Registration is open**

**EQIT** Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care

This 48-hour training provides early care and education professionals with the knowledge and resources to enhance their work with infants and toddlers.

**Topics Include:**
- Infant and Toddler Development
- Relationship Based Care
- Developing Responsive Curriculums and Environments
- Meeting Children’s Social and Emotional Needs
- Partnering with Families
- Responsive Caregiving
- Safe and Healthy Environments
- Language and Literacy
- Children with Special Needs... and more!

Successful completion meets the Division of Child Care Licensing’s infant/toddler training course requirements for:
- Infant Nursery Supervisor
- Early Childhood Teacher
- Center Director Qualification
- Home providers needing the infant/toddler training requirements for the experienced provider, 3 under 2, or the infant/toddler home license.

More information and Registration [here](#).

LEAP, Colorado’s Low-income Energy Assistance Program, helps
United Way of Weld County is partnering with Weld County to spread the word about Colorado’s Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), a federally funded program that helps families, individuals, seniors and those with disabilities pay a portion of their winter home heating costs. LEAP is not intended to cover all costs of home heating for qualifying participants, but rather to help alleviate some of the energy burden associated with the colder winter months.

For more information click here

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.
—Melody Beattie

Text Your Openings

Looking to fill your child care openings?

Colorado Shines Child Care Referral will refer families to your program.
SAVE THE DATE

Love to Learn 2020
Saturday, February 22, 2020
It takes two!
A fresh perspective on challenging behaviors.
Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)
www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/L2L

Northern Colorado Children's Festival
Saturday April 11th, 2020
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN, FOOD, ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ENTERTAINMENT
Family activities, food, hands-on arts and crafts, health and safety information, children’s merchandise and great entertainment.
For more information contact PromisesforChildren@UnitedWay-Weld.org

Child Care Provider Celebration
Saturday, April 25, 2020
Give-a-ways
Discussion
Collaboration
Lunch

Upcoming Trainings & Events

January 6
COAEYC Book Club

January 8
Pre Licensing Orientation

January 10
QAS Open House

January 18 & 25
OTHER LICENSING REQUIREMENT TRAININGS...

**Medication Administration, CPR/AED & First Aid renewal, and Standard Precautions**
Offered by Bryan Maki, RN, Instructor/Owner of Colorado CPR & Safety Professionals, LLC.
(720)708-9705 or bryan@coloradocprpros.com. Offers online Standard Precautions as well. [Click here for upcoming events in Northern Colorado](#).

**2020 TRAINING DATES - HEART SMART - STANDARD PRECAUTIONS/CPR/FIRST AID**

**AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION - Medication Administration** ($35), CPR and First Aid trainings. $58 for just CPR; $75 for both. Contact Mary Mast @ (970)381-5395.

**STANDARD PRECAUTIONS** - Contact Heartsmart (above). Also, KidCare Nutrition Training @ (970)351-8779, or Wildwood @ (303)730-0460 (Jane Martinez). Mary Mast @ (970)381-5395.

**Medication Administration** - Offered by Molly Orlando, RN, Child Care Health Consultant. Contact her at (303)669-9039 or mol-ly_bbnc@outlook.com. She will be teaching classes in Greeley.

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**RESOURCES**

- ChildCare Aware
- Colorado Shines
- [Colorado Office of Early Childhood](#)
- [Colorado Early Learning & Development Guidelines](#)
- [Early Childhood Colorado Framework](#)
- [PDIS) Professional Development Information System](#)
- [UWWC Promises for Children](#)
- [UWWC Roadmap4Kids](#)
- [Weld Child Care](#)

**UPDATE**

- [Child Care Provider Updates](#)

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**Finding Child Care**

**Become a Child Care Provider**
We invite you to suggest topics you’d like us to include in our future newsletters.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance contact 2-1-1. Whether it is for utility assistance, after school care, help for an aging relative, legal advice or any health and human service, our navigators can help connect you.

CALL | SEARCH & CHAT | TEXT

Call: 2-1-1

Search and Live Chat Online:
UnitedWay-Weld.org/211

or Text your zip code to 898-211

STAY CONNECTED With United Way of Weld County

Invest in your hometown by making a gift today. Thanks!
Secure online at www.UnitedWay-Weld.org
or Text to Give: Text UWWCGIVE to 41444

United Way of Weld County | 814 9th Street - Greeley | 330 Park Avenue - Fort Lupton
www.UnitedWay-Weld.org | 970-353-4300