



Benchmark Family Services
Therapeutic Foster Care

Happy Halloween!

"There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly-lit front porch."
- Robert Brault

Start planning your family costumes now, Halloween is right around the corner! There are many ways to celebrate this fun filled holiday with your family; trick or treating, carving pumpkins, Halloween parties, etc. No matter how you celebrate, be sure to add "making spooky treats" to the list of activities - check it out below!

[Visit our Website](#)

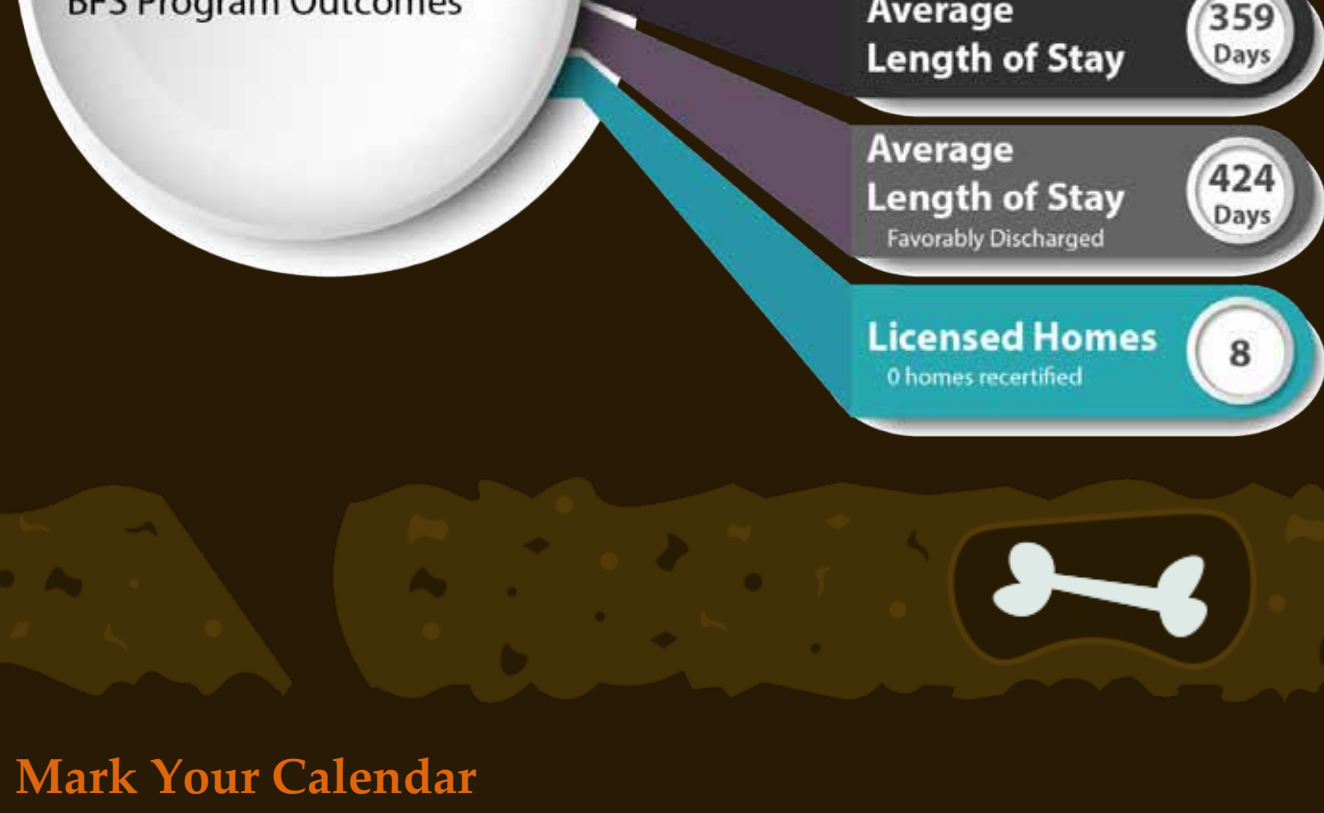
DROP-BY FRIDAYS



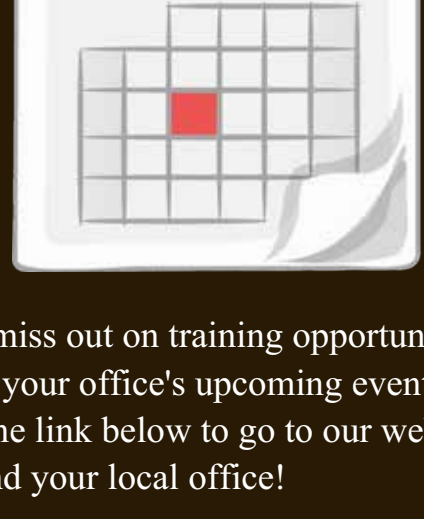
Benchmark Family Service is here to support our foster parents! We owe it to you.

Starting 10/14/2022, you can stop by your local Benchmark office on any Friday, between 9-10am, to have refreshments and snacks with the Staff. This is a great opportunity for building relationships with staff and other Foster Parents and getting to know everyone in the office. Why not do it over coffee and donuts! Children are welcome.

Program Outcomes



Mark Your Calendar



Don't miss out on training opportunities or any of your office's upcoming events! Just click the link below to go to our website and find your local office!

[View Calendar](#)

Virtual Training

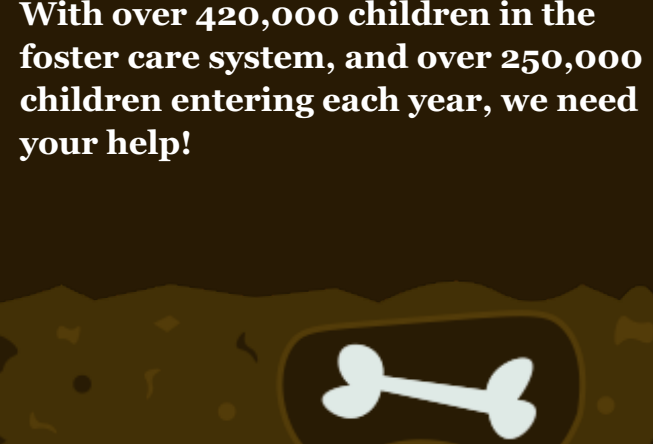
Our virtual training sessions are live webinars, and count toward your live-to-face training hours for the year. We added all virtual training opportunities for the year to our website. [Click here](#) to easily find and sign up for the courses that are most convenient for you!

October

- 10/6 : Child Problem Behaviors and Attachment
- 10/13 : Fun and Creative Academic Supports
- 10/22 : Effects of Childhood Trauma

Referral Bonus Opportunity

Every month, our agency receives more referrals for children in foster care than we have beds to accommodate. With your help, we will be able to provide more of these children with a good home and a bed to rest their head. Please help spread the word and get your friends and family involved in our mission. Remember, if you are currently a foster parent with us and you successfully refer a new foster parent to our agency, you will receive a referral bonus. Please reach out to your regional office for more information!



With over 420,000 children in the foster care system, and over 250,000 children entering each year, we need your help!



Boo! Time for Treats!

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Make things a little spookier this Halloween with these 3 ingredient Halloween treats to make with kids! You can make these easy Halloween treats for school or for a party. All of the treats are easy enough for kids to help with!

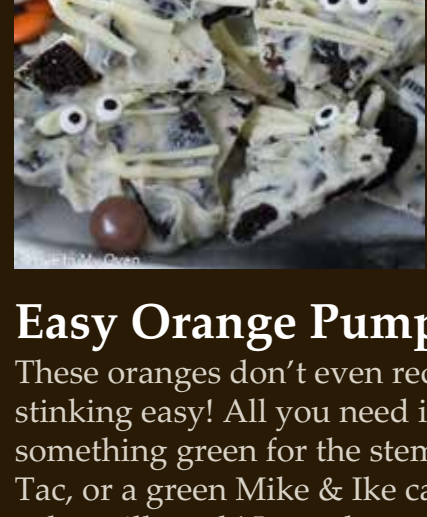
Peanut Butter Spider Cookies

These cute little spider cookies are my favorite of the bunch - mostly because I'm a huge fan of Reese's. You'll love these! [Recipe](#)



Mummy Cookies and Cream Bark

If you're a fan of cookies and cream you will LOVE this white chocolate bark. It's crazy easy and so good! Mix in some chopped up Oreos for that classic cookie and cream flavor and add some little eyeballs on for the spooky effect! [Recipe](#)



Easy Orange Pumpkins

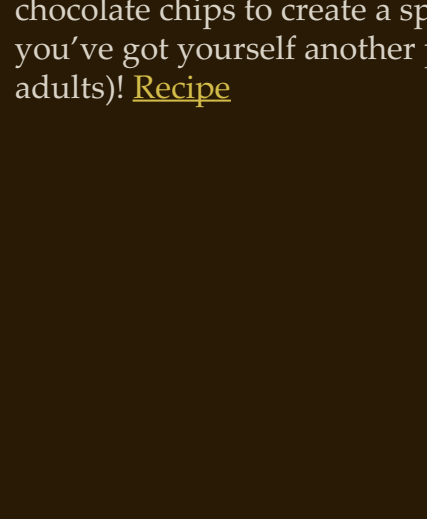
These oranges don't even require a recipe, they're SO stinking easy! All you need is mandarin oranges and something green for the stem. You could use a green Tic-Tac, or a green Mike & Ike candy. Anything that shape and color will work! Just take a mandarin orange, peel it, and place the "stem" inside. Voila! The oranges are ok to leave at room temperature (or pack into a lunch) for 5-6 hours but after that they'll start to dry out without their peel!



Rice Krispie Monsters

Of all the easy Halloween treats to make with kids, this one is the most fun!! My kiddos LOVED these. If you have your favorite Rice Krispie square recipe, you can use that, OR you can use the store-bought Rice Krispies to make these even easier.

Use any color of candy melt you want, as well as any color of sprinkle! So fun! These also make a terrific little treat to pack into school lunches. [Recipe](#)



Strawberry Ghosts

These 3 ingredient strawberry ghosts are so super easy and soo delicious! If you haven't had a white chocolate covered strawberry yet, you need to try these! Add in a few mini chocolate chips to create a spooky little ghost face and you've got yourself another perfect treat for kids (or adults)! [Recipe](#)



Oreo Mummy Cookies

Another mummy cookie! These Oreos are cute, easy and always a fan favorite. My kiddos love Oreos, so adding a bit of white chocolate on top is just the "icing" on the...cookie? Another recipe using cute little candy eyeballs! [Recipe](#)

Employee of the Month

Indiana: Kayla DeLaTorre,
Therapeutic Support Specialist,
Fort Wayne Office

Kayla has shown great leadership from day one. She is always willing to step up and ask her coworkers what she can do to assist them, and goes above and beyond to help in anyway. Kayla shows great leadership in the way she trains her homes (parents) and acclimates new homes and placements to the Benchmark culture. Kayla has shown great growth in taking on new roles and learning new steps and participating in new trainings including: Licensing roles and SAFE training to help the Fort Wayne office. Kayla is always going the extra mile, for example always offering an extra hand to Kirby with waiting individuals in the lobby for fingerprint appointments prior to Jessica. Kayla has shown initiative by taking care of her assigned children and homes, while following the chain of command and confirming with Kirby prior to completing protocol regarding a critical incident. Kayla has been challenged with difficult children and has shown, time after time, she is more than capable of handling her caseload and more. Kayla we are forever grateful for you and your hard work and dedication to the Fort Wayne office!

Kentucky: Skyler Billiter,
Regional Director,
Elizabethtown Office

Autumn "Skyler" Billiter is the new Regional Director of our Elizabethtown office however she is not new to Benchmark, and it shows! Skyler was part of our Prestonsburg office for nearly five years where she excelled in several different roles, such as Therapeutic Support Specialist, Supervisor and Licensing Specialist, before making a move across the state a few months ago to lead our Elizabethtown office. She embraces everything she does with an incredible work ethic and tenacity that is truly inspiring to all she works with in the office, the agency, in foster homes with youth and families, and the community. Her passion to serve others is seen in all she does with her "whatever it takes" approach, what seems to be endless energy and an infectious positive attitude. Skyler is a valuable member of our Benchmark Team and is greatly appreciated for her years of commitment to quality work!

