

## Provider Spotlights

### Greene County is honored to spotlight Shirley Ford.



Shirley is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She is highly active in her all of grandchildren's lives which includes both school and church. Shirley and her grandchildren love to travel, and every summer they are off on another great adventure. Shirley has been with the Kids and Kin Program for several years and she

brings so much joy to our trainings. One thing you cannot forget about Shirley is her beautiful smile. We know you will continue to be a shining light in your family and in our Kids and Kin family. You, Shirley Ford, are a shining star!

### Morgan County spotlight shines on Dorothy Bolden.

Dorothy found out about the Kids and Kin Program at the Back-to-School Jam in July 2021 at Ingalls Harbor in Decatur.

She has been faithfully attending classes ever since! Dorothy is the proud mother of 4 children and 16 grandchildren. Although Dorothy is a full-time caregiver, she enjoys frequent trips to visit family in Auburn, where she loves to attend games, cheering on the Auburn Tigers! She also enjoys crafting and making bows in her spare time. She has the prettiest smile ever and is so kind and caring. She said, "I enjoy the Kids and Kin Program. It's been a blessing since day one. When I first

met Ms. Tammie she greeted me and welcomed me to the class with a great smile and heart. It has been very educational for me. I feel like it's done a lot for me." Providers like you, Dorothy, make the program so worthwhile, rewarding and enjoyable. Thank you for your support and dedication to Kids and Kin Program.



### Tallapoosa County features Mrs. Marian Yarbrough.

Marian has been married to her husband Joey for 28 years. She is the mother of seven children, ranging from ages 10 to 27 and grandmother to a newborn and a two-year-old. She is currently a bus aide for Tallapoosa County Schools, in the Dadeville School System. She is also a substitute teacher when she is needed. Her hobbies include cooking, reading, and traveling whenever she can. Marian has also volunteered by being on the Policy Council for Head Start. She has been with Kids and Kin Program since 2018. She said Kids and Kin trainings are highly informative and she enjoys meeting new people. We are so excited to have Mrs. Marian as a part of the Kids and Kin Program in Tallapoosa County!

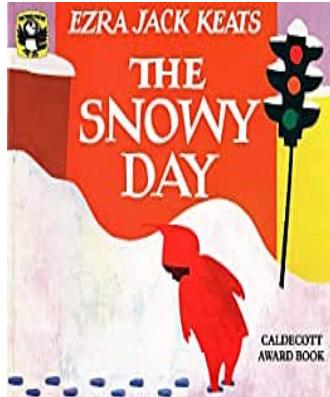


### Macon County spotlights a remarkable woman of strength, dedication and compassion, Ms. Shameki Arnold.

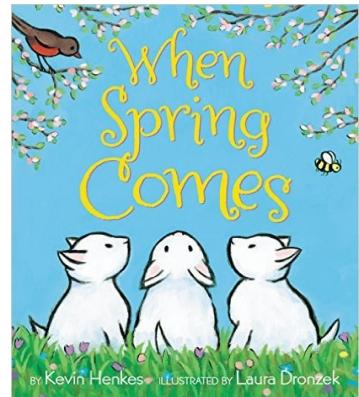
Shameki has been involved in the Kids and Kin Program for the last four years. She is a shining example of selflessness, resilience, and love. As a devoted mother of four and a dedicated aunt of ten, she balances the beautiful chaos of parenthood with extraordinary grace. But her care does not stop at home, she also assists with caregiving for some of her extended family members, offering comfort, support, and stability to those who need it most. She reminds us all that true greatness is found in the everyday acts of love that really counts, so thank you Shameka for being you and for being an inspiration to all of us around you!



## Winter and Spring Reading List:



- The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
- Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
- Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller
- Three Billy Goats Gruff by Stephen Carpenter
- Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
- When Spring Comes by Kevin Henkes



## January, February and March Statewide Evening Zoom Schedule

Below are the dates and times of our upcoming online trainings. See the enclosed calendar for the Relative Care Specialist's name and phone number that covers your county. Let them know you are interested in attending an evening Zoom meeting and they will send you a Zoom link to attend the training. We look forward to seeing you online!

Monday	January 12	6:00 p.m.	The Importance of Nutrition and Fitness
Monday	January 26	6:00 p.m.	A Guide to Managing Behavior Problems
Monday	February 9	6:00 p.m.	Understanding Baby Behavior
Monday	February 23	6:00 p.m.	Life's Little Lessons
Monday	March 9	6:00 p.m.	How to Know if a Preschooler is Ready for Kindergarten
Monday	March 23	6:00 p.m.	OCD Basics

For more information, email [kidsandkininfo@familyguidancecenter.org](mailto:kidsandkininfo@familyguidancecenter.org)



## The Kids and Kin Program Spotlights Relative Care Specialist Kelly Taylor-Wilson

The Kids and Kin Program is proud to spotlight Kelly Taylor-Wilson, the Relative Care Specialist serving Autauga, Chilton, Elmore, and Coosa Counties. Kelly has been with the Kids and Kin Program since 2004; that's 21 years of dedication and service! Kelly loves all the relative care providers that attend her training classes. Kelly stated, "I have enjoyed serving so many providers and I have had many blessed interactions with each one. Throughout the years I have gotten to know their beloved little ones, and this has made my journey worth everything!" Kelly is married and has two children and six grandchildren. Besides her work with the Kids and Kin Program, she has also spent 10 years as a Therapeutic Foster Parent and a co-trainer for foster/adoptive parenting classes. Additionally, Kelly teaches at Celebration Place (celebrate recovery classes for kids) at Journey Church in Prattville, AL. In Kelly's own words, "Even though so many relative care providers compliment how much they love and enjoy our program, I truthfully feel I love and enjoy it every bit as much as they do, if not more!"

## The Kids and Kin Program Welcomes Andrea Kelly

Andrea Kelly is our new staff member, serving Houston, Henry, Dale, Barbour, and Coffee Counties in south Alabama. She and her husband and three daughters are originally from Oklahoma, and they made their home in Alabama in 2023. She loves south Alabama weather and is excited to be the new Relative Care Specialist for these counties. Andrea's background is in education. She taught elementary school for 15 years before moving to Alabama. Welcome to the Kids and Kin family, Andrea, we are glad you are here! If you live in Houston, Henry, Dale, Barbour, or Coffee County and would like to contact Andrea about upcoming classes, email her at [akelly@familyguidancecenter.org](mailto:akelly@familyguidancecenter.org).



### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. When he was growing up, life was hard for African Americans. He had his first experience of segregation at just six years old, when he was told he could not play with his white friend anymore because his friend's father would not allow it. Dr. King was a great believer in peaceful protests. In 1963, he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the importance of civil rights. It focuses on his dream of a society where black people and white people live together in harmony. In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed, outlawing racial segregation and discrimination in the U.S. He won the Nobel Peace Prize that year. It had been a long, hard fight for civil rights. Tragically, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in 1968 as he stood on the balcony of his hotel in Tennessee, where he had given a speech the day before. Dr. King is remembered for his tireless work during the Civil Rights Movement and his dream that one day everyone would be treated as equals. A statue built in his memory stands in Washington, D.C. and each year, on the third Monday in January, we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, an American federal holiday.

### Easy Valentine Sugar Cookies



#### Cookies:

- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

#### Royal Icing:

- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons of meringue powder
- 5-6 tablespoons water (adjust for consistency)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Food coloring (pink and red)
- Sprinkles for decoration

#### Instructions:

1. Prepare the dough in medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. In a separate bowl, beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla, mix well.
2. Chill the dough. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
3. Roll and cut. Preheat oven to 350°. Roll dough on lightly floured surface to 1/4-inch thickness. Use heart shaped cookie cutters to cut out cookies and place on lined baking sheet.
4. Bake for 10-12 minutes until edges are slightly golden. Let cool completely on wire rack.
5. Prepare Royal Icing. Beat powdered sugar, meringue powder, vanilla, and water until smooth and glossy. Divide into two bowls and add food coloring as desired.



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### New Year Blessings!

Here comes a brand new year,  
Lots of new things to explore,  
A clean, blank slate to write on,  
Fun happenings galore.  
To you we wish the best of things,  
All the blessings a new year brings!

by Joanna Fuchs  
[Poemsouce.com](http://Poemsouce.com)

The staff of the Kids and Kin Program wishes each of our relative care providers and their families a Happy New Year! We thank you for your faithfulness to our program and we look forward to serving you in 2026!



*Kids and Kin is a program of Family Guidance Center of Alabama and is funded by the Alabama Department of Human Resources.*

