

FAM CARES Lifestyle Magazine

JULY 2018

BLACK CARD

GIFTS



**Child Welfare League
of America (CWLA)**

**CARING FOR
YOURSELF WHILE
TAKING CARE OF
FOSTER CHILDREN**

**ASK LILLIE
(PARENTING ADVISOR)**

Myesha Wilson

**Executive Director of Olive Crest
(Strong Families, Safe Kids)**

Black Card Gifts

PUBLISHER: FAMILY ARTS @WHALER'S CREATION

MANAGING EDITOR: LA'TORIA KERN

LAYOUT AND DESIGN: ALEXIS GUERRERO
TRAINEES

EDITOR: EMI KREMER

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CIRCULATION COORDINATOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: TRAINEES

PHOTOGRAPHERS : KONI KAMI
LARRY FEAZELL
LA'TORIA KERN

Trainees are current and aged out of foster youth developing job skills training under Professional supervision.

CONTENTS

FEATURED

- 04 Myesha Wilson
- 08 CARING FOR YOURSELF WHILE TAKING CARE OF FOSTER CHILDREN
- 10 Ask Lillie
- 13 Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

Black Card Gifts is a lifestyle magazine providing amazing deals to people with an appetite for leisure and luxury. This magazine offers you the best in fine dining, shopping, and an awesome way to give and receive from business we call **CARES**:

Community Retailers, Artist, Restaurants, Entertainment and Service Providers

Local and national Cares business support the work of **FAMILY ARTS**, a non-profit organizations that encourages foster care and adoption. Family Arts also offers foster, adoption, and kinship care youth the opportunity to obtain job skill training in the arts and media. Look for Black Card Gifts in this issue, cut it out and present it to our advertisers. These advertisers offer an array of discounts and gifts just for you like: two-for-one, free gifts and special discounts.

Also featured in our magazine are interviews, community events, restaurants and movie reviews, parenting and sports news. Each issue contains the work of foster and adopted youth striving to make their mark in the world. Become a part of their journey by supporting Black Card Gifts.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
CARES
LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE



Cut out and present
to our CARES
advertisers for
special offers!

Any questions please
call (702) 235-5490

Caring For You, While Caring About You



Lisa Lyons, MD

Care Offered:

- ✓ Cold and Flu
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Preventative Care
- ✓ Sports Physicals
- ✓ Thyroid Disorders
- ✓ Wellness Evaluations
- ✓ And More...

Conveniently located off I-215 and Sunset
9280 W. Sunset Road, Suite 426, Las Vegas, NV 89148

Additional providers and specialties available.



Make your appointment today.
(702) 688-8110 | WellHealthMedicalGroup.com

**FOSTER!
ADOPT!
MENTOR!**

Always in
BlackCard Gifts

Contact Us
Black Card Gifts
(702) 235-5490

admin@whalers-creation.us
whalers-creation.us



Myesha Wilson

**Executive Director of Olive Crest
(Strong Families, Safe Kids)**

Olive Crest is a non-profit organization aimed at transforming the lives of at-risk children through the healing power of family. True to its mission, the organization's name means "*peaceful family*". Myesha Wilson, the Executive Director of Olive Crest, says this focus on family is what drew her to the "non-profit." "It's different when an organization is run by a husband and wife who started it

40 years ago," she said. "Everyone has a deep compassion for youth and family.

According to Wilson, there are nearly two million adopted children in the United States. An estimated 135,000 boys and girls will be added to that total this year, with many of them in the Las Vegas area. "That's one child adopted every four minutes."

Founded in 1973, the organization is both family-driven and faith-based, as it promotes the teachings of Judeo-Christian principles while respecting every individual's religious background.

Olive Crest provides a wide range of services, from case management and social services to transportation assistance and healthcare referrals. It also offers basic necessities such as food, clothing, hygiene products, and infant care packages. Many programs are offered as well, such as Strong Families, foster care, respite care, and various mental health services.

The non-profit's youth-driven programs, such as Operation Independence, work with current and former foster youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The program helps foster youth find positions in the job market. Since every youth has different needs an intake assessment is completed to help determine what services are best suited for each individual.

One of the major issues Olive Crest is paying close attention to is the rate of graduation for foster children. In 2017, only 50 foster youth graduated

from schools in the Clark County district. In 2018, 110 foster youth are expected to graduate.

Unfortunately, Las Vegas is ranked fourth in the nation for youth homelessness, but Wilson says Olive Crest – with the help of other similar organizations have the ability to change that. "We believe in collaboration with local business and other non-profit organizations," she says.

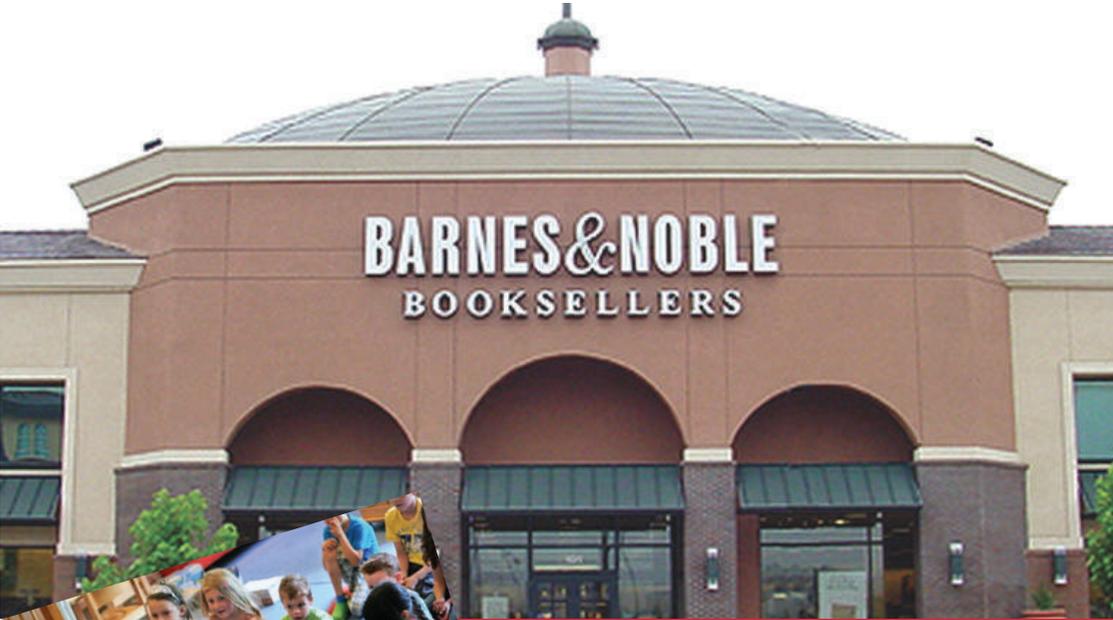
With funding from the government and private institutions, Wilson stands by her conviction that Olive Crest and Las Vegas' various non-profit organizations can put an end to youth homelessness and unemployment.

Olive Crest has offices in California's Orange County, Los Angeles, the Inland and Desert Communities, San Diego, Las Vegas, and much of the Pacific Northwest.

To help support Olive Crest, please visit www.olivecrest.org or call (702)685-3459. For more information about Operation Independence, contact Amy Licht at Amy-Licht@olivecrest.org To learn more about the foster care program, call Sarah Gant at (702) 835-1921.

OLIVE CREST

Strong Families, Safe Kids



BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS



Promoting literacy..
"On Air"
KFAM Youth Radio

KFAM Youth Radio



Reading is fun!

www.whalers-creation.us

Sunday-Saturday

6:00pm-9:00pm

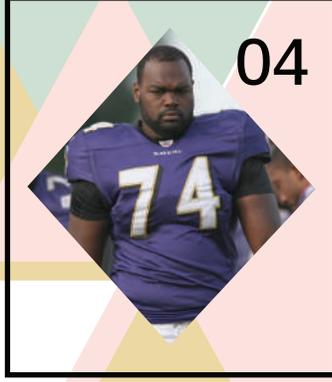
702-235-5490

admin@whalers-creation.us

www.whalers-craetion.us



FROM FOSTER CARE TO FAME...



1. Marilyn Monroe
2. Willie Nelson
3. Babe Ruth
4. Michael Oher
5. Victoria Rowell



CARING FOR YOURSELF WHILE TAKING CARE OF FOSTER CHILDREN

By Dr. John DeGarmo

For the first time in about nine months, I was able to get outside and do some work in the yard. I have been a lifelong gardener, and I often found refuge while gardening; time for myself to reflect, think, and relax. Of late, I had neglected my gardening chores, due in large part to having nine children in the home. I was not making time for the garden, and thus not taking time for myself. As a result, I was becoming worn out, exhausted, and was approaching a burn out that I did not want or need.

As I tackled the job of pruning back the many butterfly bushing my yard, I felt the stresses and tension that had been in my shoulders the past months quickly slip away. Indeed, it had been a difficult time the past six months, with a house full of children. The latest children in foster care in our home had come with a variety of challenges and needs that were all too demanding of my wife and me. We had both grieved when the

two youngest foster children were placed into another home; a home with no children and where the foster parents could completely focus on their many needs. With nine children in our home, my wife and I were spending all our time trying to meet the needs of these two, while almost ignoring the other seven. Perhaps it was best for all if these two were placed into another home; a home that could give them all the support and resources they needed. The oldest foster child stayed with us; a decision that the courts, the case workers, and the teen all felt was best, and one that we so very wanted, as well.

Pruning back the branches and Spent flowers from the previous season, I allowed myself the first opportunity in a long time to take some time for myself, doing something I enjoyed. I needed this time alone, and I could tell right away that I would be better for it, and my family would benefit from it, as well. In an almost humorous light, I laughed to my-

self, thinking that seven children seemed much easier than nine. Foster parents certainly have a different perspective of things in life.

Without a doubt, foster parenting is hard work! It may just be the hardest work you ever do. You will often find yourself exhausted, both mentally and physically, and feel drained. There is very little money available to help you, and you will not be reimbursed for all the money you spend on your foster child.

The job will require you to work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with no time off. You will probably feel overworked and unappreciated. You will work with children who are most likely coming from difficult and harmful environments. Some of these children will have health issues, some will come with behavioral issues, and some will struggle with learning disabilities. Many times, the children you work with will try your patience, and leave you with headaches, frustrations, disappointments, and even heartbreaks. There is a reason why many people are not foster parents, as it is often too difficult. The turnover rate for foster parents in the United States is between 30% and each year.

I know of some people that become so engrossed in being a parent and taking care of children that their own personal identity disappears over time. Don't neglect who you are and what makes you special. After all, your spouse fell in love with you for who you are! When foster parenting becomes too stressful, you, your family, and your foster child will all feel the effects. Thus,

one of the most important reminders for you, as a foster parent, is the fact that you need to take care of yourself, physically, mentally and emotionally. If you neglect yourself, your family will suffer as a result. Finding time for you will not be easy, but it's very essential. Make time to do something you enjoy, and that you find relaxing.

Spend time with some friends, perhaps over lunch or dinner. Do not neglect your own personal health; make sure you get plenty of exercise regularly and eat healthy. If you take time for yourself, you will help to ensure your well being, as you care for others in your own home.

Dr. John DeGarmo has been a foster parent for 14 years, now, and he and his wife have had over 50 children come through their home. He is a consultant to legal firms and foster care agencies, as well as a speaker and trainer on many topics about the foster care system. He is the author of several foster care books, including *The Foster Parenting Manual*, and writes for several publications, including *Fostering Families Today*.



He can be contacted at drjohndegarmo@gmail.com, through his Facebook page, Dr. John DeGarmo

Ask Lillie
(These are my opinions)

Words of Wisdom

Dear Lillie,

I am a professional 37 years old good-looking woman never been married but really want to get married. I just found out that I am pregnant again with my fourth child. None of my kids have the same father. I am so tired of this. I want to get married. What can I do to get a man to want to marry me?

Sara

Oh my Sara, this is a problem. Let me say...you have to fall in love with yourself first and stop having children by men who do not want to be with you for life. Every time you get pregnant you have a lifetime connection to you these men even if they do not want to marry you, so ask yourself, what's the difference? If you're not using protection, you should. The more children you have unmarried the less chances you have in finding that life-long mate. Focus on your self and ask God to bless you with a husband. Write it down and put in place you will see daily. Not a solution just a suggestion. Good luck.

Dear Lillie,

I am an online shopaholic. I love shopping online. Everyday I check online to see what special deals are going. I have even come up short for my mortgage a few times. I really want to slow down. Please help me to stop shopping.

Jennifer

Jennifer I like shopping also. I think you should create a monthly budget and pay things off ASAP.

Dear Lillie,

I love my kids, I love my kids, I love my kids, but they are driving me crazy!!! Sometimes I don't want to go home. Please help me.

Juan

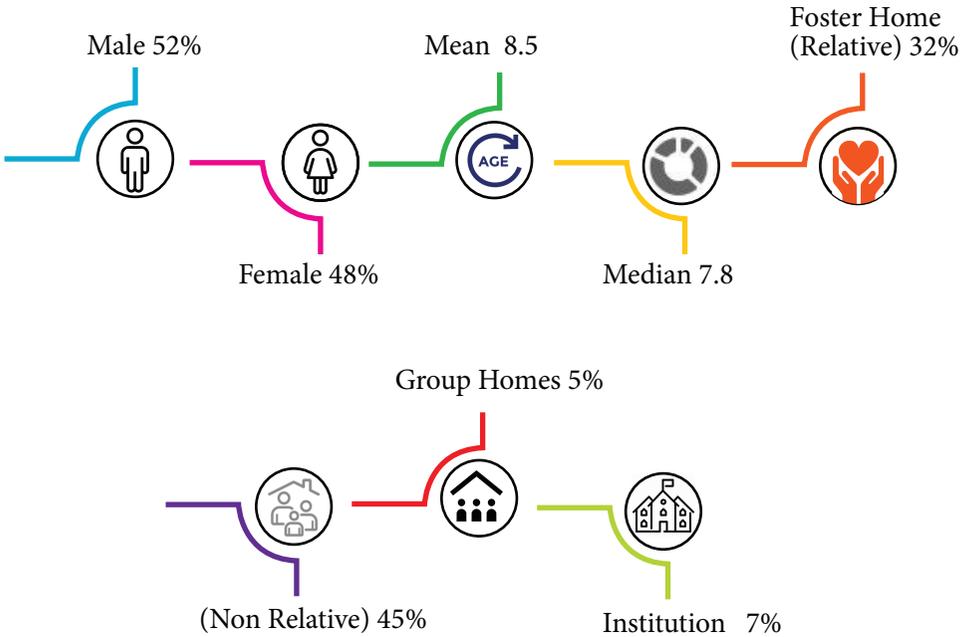
Dear Juan, it's ok. Just remember that this too will pass. Most children are very active. Be patient, 20 years from now you will be laughing over these good old days.

Ask Lillie is a Parenting and Youth advise column. The advise and comments are the sole opinions of Lillie, a mother of four, 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grand children. Her no-nonsense advise is based on her opinion and decades of advocating for the safety and well being of children.

Lillie's views may not reflect the views and or opinion(s) of FAMILY Arts. If you have a parenting question send them in to:

Ask Lillie:
lillie@whalers-creation.us

2016 Children in Foster Care: 437,465



Race

American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%
Asian	1%
African-Americans	23%
Native Hawaiian Other Pacific Islander	0%
Hispanic (of any race)	21%
White	44%
Unknown	2%
Two or More Races	7%

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2016

data The AFCARS Report (US Department of Health and Human Services. (www.acf.hhs.gov/cb))

STEPHANIE KERN

Your Las Vegas Real Estate Expert

Wardley Real Estate
Las Vegas, Nevada
cell 971-506-6352
stephaniekernhomes@gmail.com



Need Accessible & Affordable Financing Solutions?

Custom Financing Solutions To Fit Your Needs

Commercial Real Estate Financing

Recourse and Non-Recourse Loans
All property types considered:
Multifamily, Office, Retail, Owner-occupied, Self-Storage, Hotels, Industrial, Medical
Acquisition, Refinance, Recaptizations and Construction Loans considered
Debt and Equity for Commercial Real Estate
Mezzanine Financing
Bridge and Hard Money loans
CMBS Loans
Competitive SBA Programs (7a and 504 programs)
Large Project Financing

Business Financing

The Most Competitive SBA loans
Franchise Financing
Equipment Leasing programs
Working Capital Solutions
Accounts Receivable Financing
Line of Credit (Secured and Unsecured)
Private Equity / Joint Venture
Mezzanine Loan
Contract Finance
Asset Based Lending or Structured Finance
Partner Buyouts
Consumer Finance
Programs for Retail Businesses
Purchase Order and Trade Finance
Mergers & Acquisition Financing
Short Term Working Capital Loans

Financing Programs
\$10,000 to over \$100,000,000

BG Capital Funding Group is a Trusted
Partner for Your Business Financing Needs

- Wide Array of Funding Solutions
- Competitive Rates and Terms
- Over 1 Billion Dollars in Transactions Funded Annually
- Over 7 Years in the Capital Markets

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)



John Sciamanna, Vice President
Public Policy

The CWLA is a national member-based organization founded nearly 100 years ago. The organization came during or around Teddy Roosevelt's creation of the children's bureau for the well-being of children. We lead and engage our network of public and private agencies and partners to advance policy, best practices and strategies for better outcomes for children and youth and families that are vulnerable. The organization shares news policies about a range of services, and provides training, counseling and support for child welfare agencies.

We have a set of standards and trainings that non-profits can rely on them depending on what specific programs are needed. Assist with practices that can lead to accreditation standards for a federal level that will influence their policies. Members are non-profits, county government, child welfare agencies conduct a range of services in foster care placements, residential providers, and adoption support services.

Members can receive consultations to access to best practices, technical voice. There are annual fees associated and limited single membership levels.

Most organizations are concerned about the best interest of children, we

understand that the few are better and permanency is important. Advocate for moving placement if it promotes permanency; however prevention of removal is ideal. About 20,000 youth age out of the system each year, we would like to see a decrease in the numbers. It is a challenge that we are trying to address that these youth have access to affordable care act and other services.

CWLA has assisted with the impact on changes that have been made. Kinship care has been a more effective policy to assist permanency in youth. Legislation packages in the past, fostering connections act and several others. It is never too late to be adopted. Encourage young people not to give up on being adopted even after 18 or 21, it creates a system and network of support.

In April we hosted our national conference in Washington, DC. Open to anyone. Training sessions, CEUS for social workers, policy workshops, opportunity to go to Capitol Hill and have your voice heard. Youth are invited to attend to voice their opinions and attend workshops.

LOVEST BRIDAL BOUTIQUE



YOUR STYLE YOUR DAY

We make it Happen

Find the dress you love without paying designer prices. We are a private label bridal shop with our own designs that allow for easy customization. Come in today and find your dream dress today!



9730 W TROPICANA AVE. SUITE 120 LAS VEGAS, NV 89147

702-910-4955 | lovestbrides.com



Chef Mayra
Vegan Chef & Restaurant Consultant
(702) 722-0108

LAS VEGAS WEEK OF FASHION

A LITTLE BIT OF FASHION FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

Interested in modeling or being a vendor.

Please call (702)235-5490

OCTOBER

18

Youth Praise awards Dinner and Fashion Show (Children, Teens & Youth)

19

Full and Petite Male and Female Fashion Show

20

Seven Amazing Men Dinner and High Fashion Show

The Las Vegas week of fashion supports job training programs for foster youth in Las Vegas area. Join us to extend a helping hand in our most vulnerable community!

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP



@whalerscreation



@whalers.creation



@whalerscreation



www.whalers-creation.us

TIME: 6PM-8PM

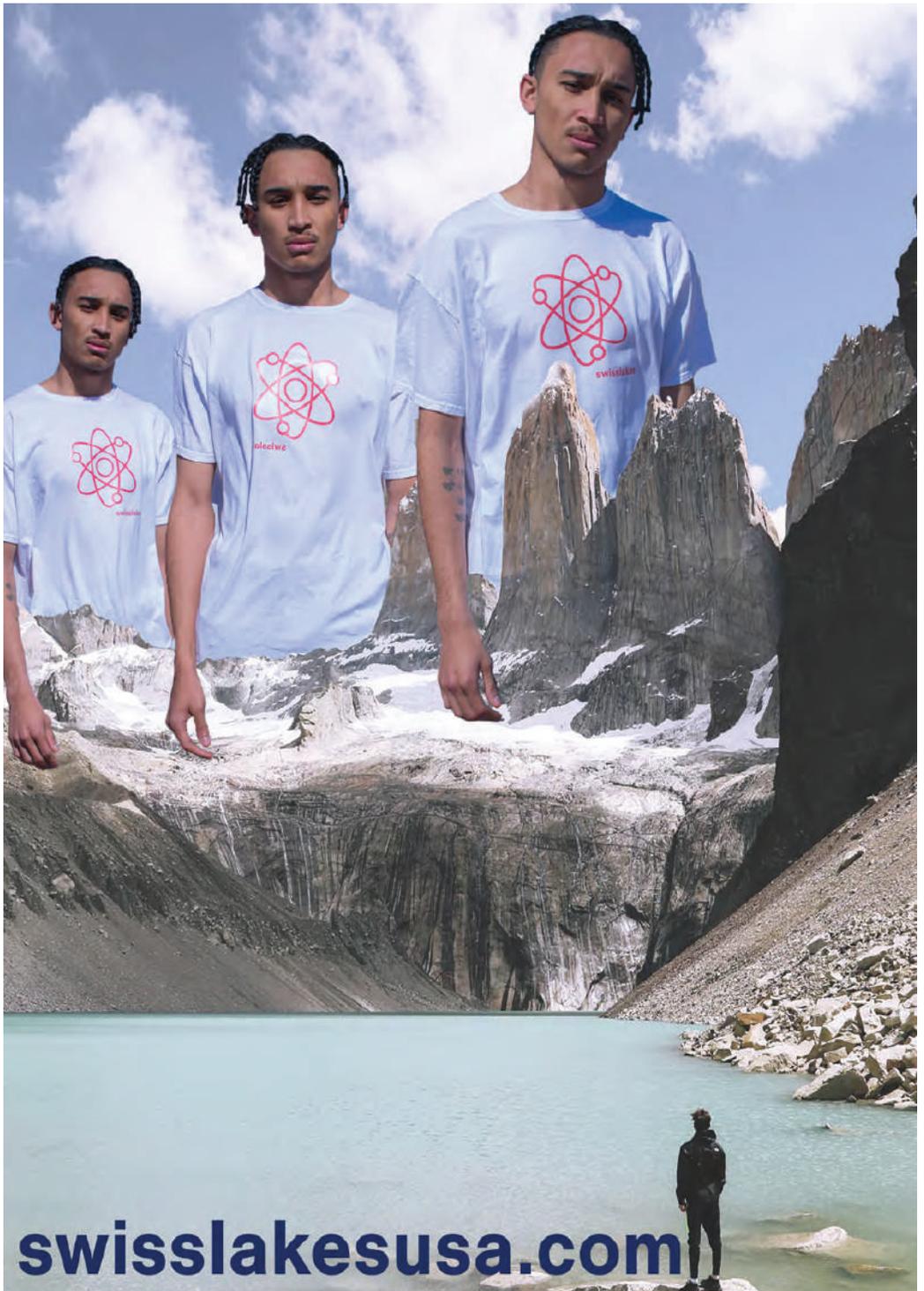
Tickets \$25

LOCATION | 920 South Commerce Street, Las Vegas



TICKETS

www.eventbrite.com/e/las-vegas-week-of-fashion-tickets-46534398639



swisslakesusa.com

READY! SET! JUMP!

★★★ INTO YOUR FUTURE! ★★★

Job Training Classes
Enrolling Foster Youth Now:
admin@whalers-creation.us
(702)235-5490





GROUNDSWELL

LEGIT COFFEE & BOARD GAMES

707.901.8197

**BUSINESS HOURS:
11 AM- 11 PM**

**9730 W TROPICANA #130
LAS VEGAS, NV 89147**

GROUNDSWELL@GMAIL.COM

LAS VEGAS WEEK OF FASHION SHOW

BY: FAMILY ARTS

OPEN CALL

MODELS + VENDORS
+ VOLUNTEERS

OCT 18-20

CONTACT:
admin@whalers-creation.us





boost
mobile
By

Dharma

Wireless
Rainbow & Oakey

1725 S Rainbow Blvd #9

Las Vegas, NV 89146

www.dharmawireless.com

*Phones

*Accessories

*International calls

*credit

*Celebrities

*Free Phones

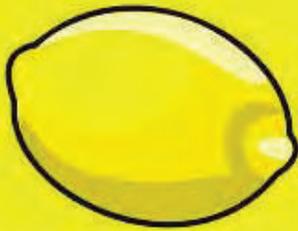


Boost Makes it
Easy to Switch
Switching Makes it
Easy to Save

Free Accessory with new activation
Accesorio gratis con nueva activacion



Biyato Life Headphone 40%off



LEMON LLC

JANITORIAL SERVICES & HOUSE CLEANING

LIC#NV20171554955

RELAX AND LEAVE THE DIRTY WORK FOR US!

RESIDENTIAL CLEANING



OFFICE CLEANING



AFTER CONSTRUCTION CLEANING



• FREE ESTIMATES •

- Residential & Commercial • Offices • Window Washing
- Power Washing • Patio Cleaning • Concrete Cleaning • & More

CALL TODAY: (702)287-2345



IN A CLASS BY IT SELF

WE MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE SUPERSTARS
www.whalers-creation.us



To advertise with us, please
email or call:
admin@whalers-creation.us
(702) 235-5490



Facebook.com/WHALERsCreation



@WHALERsCreation



whalerscreation



Youtube.com/user/whalerscreation

How social are you?

FOLLOW WHALER's Creation to stay in the know for special events and opportunities to volunteer.

#foster #adopt #mentor

Success has a lot to do with your drive...How driven are you?



FAMILY Arts

@ WHALER's Creation



Foster! Adopt! Mentor!

www.whalers-creation.us
(702) 235-5490

COMING TO A STORE NEAR YOU!



CRYPTOCURRENCIES. ARE YOU READY?

FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION

(202)607-6601



Braud's Funnel Cake Cafe
Vegas' Only Gourmet Funnel Cakes!

10% OFF
With this ad

TRY OUR 18 DELICIOUS TOPPINGS!

LOCATED IN TOWN SQUARE ACROSS FROM THE
APPLE STORE BEHIND BRIO TUSCAN GRILLE

702-818-4484 | www.braudsfunnelcakecafe.com

A vintage boombox with two large circular speakers and a cassette deck, mounted on a wall with a colorful, abstract pattern of red and blue shapes.

KFAM YOUTH

RADIO

WWW.WHALERS-CREATION.US

A vintage boombox with two large circular speakers and a cassette deck, mounted on a wall with a colorful, abstract pattern of red and blue shapes.

A STATION

A vintage boombox with two large circular speakers and a cassette deck, mounted on a wall with a colorful, abstract pattern of red and blue shapes.

FOR ALL EARS