

June 2023

Youth News

Educational, Motivational, & Inspirational Stories - Foster! Adopt! Mentor!

**Foster
children in
the U.S.**

402,378

**Former foster
children who earn
a college degree
by the age of 25**

3%

**Former foster
children who are
employed by the
age of 24**

50%

**Women formerly
in foster care
pregnant by the
age of 21**

71%

**Former foster
children in justice
system within 2
years of leaving**

25%

Youth News

child  family
placement happiness
court case worker plan
heart **Foster care**
support healing trauma
home hope 
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Youth News



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Thank you foster, adoptive parents and mentors. You are amazing people providing safe and loving homes for children in need. Every child deserves to have a stable and supportive family and caring people in their lives. While the journey of foster parenting can be challenging, it is also incredibly rewarding.

Youth News strives to educate, motivate and inspire people to support youth. One way you can help is with a monthly donations of \$10.00. Donate at: www.whalers-creation.us.

From city-to-city, coast-to-coast, and nation-to-nation our focus is: FAMILY:

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"I Support Youth."

La' Toria

Executive Director/Publisher





Youth News is an online magazine developed by teens, adults and senior citizens working together to bring readers Educational, Motivational, & Inspirational Stories for Adults and teens.

To volunteer please contact our editor at: admin@whalers-creation.us
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FOSTER CARE

Every Child Should be Loved and Supported

Susan Ramirez, CEO of the National Angels, said in an interview with Fox News Digital that her organization's mission is to "change the way children, youth and families in our country experience foster care." She said: "However, we believe that each person can make a difference in a child's life."

According to the National Angels, children are often displaced from their homes through neglect events. Some children may become victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. (National Angels). National Angels CEO Susan Ramirez is based in Austin, Texas. (National Angels) National Angels is active in 21 cities and 16 states. We provide opportunities for people to interact with foster children through two major programs. One option is the Love Box program, which matches monthly visiting volunteers with foster families.

The National Angels have witnessed a "massive" change in the care system. Ramirez said the year long effort will focus on conscious giving, relationship building and mentoring. LoveBox volunteers help provide supplies such as groceries, household items, and school supplies. They may even donate their time.

Volunteers carry the National Angels Love Box. (National Angels) "This shows that this is changing the [family's] experience," she said. "We also look at

placement stability." On average, a foster child moves about seven times in her two years, making placement stability a "big factor. Apart of the healing process is when a child is taken away from home and placed in a foster home with love and compassion. The second National Angels program is called Dare to Dream, a one-on-one coaching program.

Ramirez is looking for volunteers who share their value and compassion. Just a few hours a month can really brighten a youth's broken heart. If you have a little free time reach out to see how you can help support these beautiful young people.



A photograph of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie with their two children. Brad Pitt is on the left, wearing a black shirt and a gold chain. Angelina Jolie is on the right, wearing a black sleeveless top. The children are in the center, one wearing a grey beanie and a light blue blazer, and the other wearing a black top. The background is dark with a textured wall and a small sign that says "IFIX".

From Foster Care to Fame

**Brad Pitts and
Angelina Joel
Adoptive Parents**

A large, illuminated neon sign for Chilis restaurant. The sign features a red chili pepper shape with yellow neon outlines and a green neon outline of a chili pepper. Below these shapes, the word "chilis" is written in large, white, 3D block letters. The sign is mounted on a dark brick wall.

chilis



Child Abuse Prevention Awareness

This April marks the start of Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and this is a time for us to unite together to raise awareness about this pressing issue. Too many children have been abused and hurt in one way or another, and this is a time for us to recognize the plight of these innocent victims.

As a community, it's our responsibility to come together to end the silence surrounding this critical issue. One of the most important things we can do is to speak out when we witness or suspect abuse and neglect. By being aware of our surroundings and taking action, we can make a difference in a child's life and help prevent them from experiencing the lifelong consequences of child abuse.

Let's join hands this April and take the necessary steps to raise awareness, end the cycle of child abuse, and make sure every child is protected and kept safe.

The recent national child abuse stats reveals a sobering reality, revealing an alarming number of children facing various forms of mistreatment and abuse. The grim statistic is heartbreaking, yet its necessity has illuminated the unfortunate truth of child abuse in our nation. Although this information may be difficult to digest, understanding the prevalence of child abuse is necessary to provide support and develop resources for affected children and families.



Foster Care Facts

1. In the United States, there are approximately 423,000 children in foster care, according to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) report release.
2. The average age of children in foster care is 8 years old, and the average length of stay in foster care is approximately 20 months.
3. About 50% of children in foster care reunite with their birth families, while the remainder may be adopted or placed in other types of permanent homes.
4. Children in foster care are more likely to have experienced abuse, neglect, or other forms of trauma than children in the general population.
5. Youth in foster care have higher rates of mental health issues, developmental delays, and educational difficulties than their peers.
6. There is a significant shortage of foster families in many parts of the country, which can lead to overcrowding in group homes and other institutional settings.
7. Older youth in foster care, particularly those who age out of the system without being adopted or placed in a permanent home, are at greater risk of homelessness, unemployment, and involvement in the criminal justice system.
8. Foster care is a complex and multifaceted system that involves collaboration between child welfare agencies, courts, foster parents, birth families, and other stakeholders to ensure the safety and well-being of children in care.
9. Approximately 32% of children who age out of foster care will experience homelessness at some point in their lives. In 2021, approximately 69,000 children in foster care were waiting to be adopted.
10. Foster parents are typically between the ages of 25 and 54, but there are also many older foster parents who provide homes for children. In the US, 60% of children in foster care are placed in non-relative foster homes, while 23% are placed with relatives.

There is a critical need for foster families, particularly for older children, siblings, and children with special needs.

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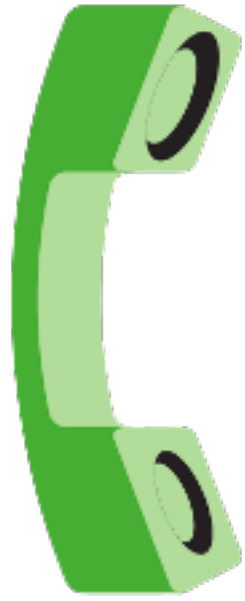
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By: Rhea, The Scholarship Doctor

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Rhea is a two time #1 best selling author, a highly sought after speaker, and expert in financial aid and scholarships.

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How to Become a Foster Parent

Becoming a foster parent involves several steps, which may vary depending on your location. Here are some general steps to become a foster parent:

1. Contact your local foster care agency: The first step is to get in touch with your local foster care agency. You can find the agency in your area by searching online or contacting your state or county department of social services.
2. Attend an orientation session: Most agencies require prospective foster parents to attend an orientation session to learn about the foster care system, the needs of children in foster care, and the process of becoming a foster parent.
3. Complete the application process: After attending the orientation session, you will need to complete the application process, which includes background checks, home inspections, and training.
4. Complete training: Foster parents are required to complete training before being licensed. The training covers topics such as child development, the impact of trauma on children, and how to work with birth families.
5. Receive licensure: Once you have completed the application process and training, the agency will evaluate your application and decide whether to grant you a foster care license.



More than **23,000 kids** age out of U.S. foster care every year.



70%

of foster kids would like to go to college.

Only

3%


of kids who age out will earn a college degree

and

1 in 4


won't graduate from high school or get a GED.

60%



of boys who age out or are legally emancipated have been convicted of a crime.

1 in 2



kids who age out will develop a substance dependence.

7 in 10

girls who age out will become pregnant before age 21.



32%

of children who reached 18 in foster care were waiting in the system for more than

3 years

**You can change their future.
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chlss.org/fostercareadoption



Children's Home Society of Minnesota



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

*Stats from National Foster Youth Institute

A Foster Care Story

As for the greatest need in foster care, there is a critical need for foster families who are willing to care for older children, siblings, and children with special needs. These children often have a harder time finding permanent homes, and they may stay in foster care for longer periods of time.

Additionally, there is a need for families who are willing to provide short-term, respite care for children who are currently in foster care. Respite care provides a break for the child's primary foster parents and allows them to take care of personal needs or go on vacation while ensuring that the child is still in a safe and stable environment. There are many heartwarming and inspiring stories about foster care, but one of the best stories ever told is that of the "Christmas miracle" of the Bingham family.

In 2011, Utah couple Jeff and Sonia Bingham had been foster parents for several years and had taken in 24 children over the years. They had six biological children of their own, but they wanted to provide a stable and loving home for as many foster children as possible.

One year, the Binghams took in a set of four siblings who had been separated from their mother due to drug addiction. The children had been in and out of foster care for years and had never experienced

a stable home environment. The Binghams were determined to make the siblings' Christmas a special one and created a Christmas wonderland in their home, complete with presents, decorations, and festive activities.

On Christmas Day, the Binghams received a surprise visit from a woman who turned out to be the children's birth mother. She had been clean for several months and wanted to see her children. The Binghams welcomed her into their home and allowed her to spend Christmas with her children.

What happened next was truly miraculous. The birth mother was so moved by the Binghams' love and care for her children that she decided to give up her parental rights to them so that they could be adopted by the Binghams. The siblings were finally able to experience the stability and love of a permanent family, and the Binghams were able to fulfill their dream of adopting more children.

The story of the Binghams' Christmas miracle is a testament to the power of love and the impact that foster care can have on the lives of children and families. It is a reminder that, with the right support and care, children in foster care can overcome the challenges they face and thrive in a loving home.





Focus Coach Denny Maheux



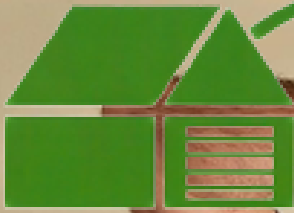
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US Adoption Resources

- Centers for Disease Control International Adoption Health Guidance
- U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs Adoption Process
- AdoptUSKids.org
- Child Welfare information Gateway
- Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI)

Additional Resources

- Adoptive Families Magazine
- Adoptive Parents Committee
- American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA)
- Child Welfare League of America
- The Center for Adoption Support and Education
- Dave Thomas Foundation
- Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
- International Social Services
- National Adoption Center
- National Council for Adoption (NCFA)
- North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)

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120,000 children and teens are waiting to be adopted. The number of children in foster care nationwide increased 2.3% this year to 437,465. Making it a figure that has risen every year since 2012. Studies indicate that one out of every four youth who age-out of foster care will end up in a homeless shelter within three years.

Do you want to help a youth?

Foster! Adopt! Mentor!

Together we can make a youth strong community

For state-to-state information visit: www.childwelfare.gov

1.800.394.3366 (9:30 am - 5:30 pm) (EST)

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EVERY KID IS
ONE CARING
ADULT AWAY
FROM BEING
A SUCCESS
STORY.

—Josh Shipp



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