

Why Do We Exist?

TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

Our Purpose:

**BREAK THE CYCLE OF
GENERATIONAL CHILD
ABUSE AND NEGLECT**



**EVERYONE CAN DO
SOMETHING TO HELP
A CHILD IN NEED.**

Join us.



Learn more at fosteradopt.org



LORI ROSS CEO

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of this year, I'm sure all of us were dreaming of a different 2021 than the one we got. We had hoped that COVID-19 would go away and that our world would return to normal. Like all of us, the 20,000 children in foster care in Missouri and Kansas were likely hoping for a different 2021 than the one they received. Children cannot control being removed from their homes, put into foster care, and often being moved away from their neighborhoods, schools, and even their siblings.

By the time we meet them, children in care have experienced more losses and barriers than most of us will experience in our lifetimes, including the loss of safety, innocence, and most of the people they love. But when generous folks like you decide to use your time, talents, and resources to make a difference by supporting the work of FosterAdopt Connect, you allow us to better support families as they work to help kids heal.

Your financial support empowers us to help families at risk resolve issues so that their kids can remain safely in their homes. It enables us to find members of a child's own extended family network who will serve as their forever family. It makes it possible for us to wrap supports around older youth and assist them even after they've aged out of foster care so that we can stop the generational cycle of child abuse and neglect. In this publication, you will learn more about some of our programs and the families whose lives have been changed because of them.

Through your gift this season, you will be an important partner in our effort to change the trajectory for the kids we serve. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do. Your gift, large or small, will truly impact the life of a child.

Lori Ross

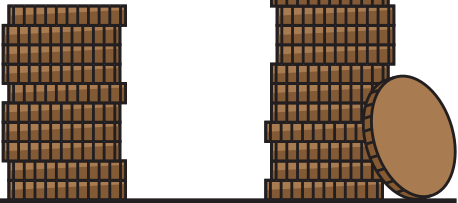
Lori Ross
CEO

90 cents of every dollar raised directly supports our mission to help keep kids safe.

FosterAdopt Connect is committed to serving children and families in Missouri and Kansas. From newborns just entering care to teens who are aging out of the system, we have programs designed to meet the diverse needs of every situation.

No matter their circumstances, all children in the child welfare system have experienced trauma – trauma that upended their lives – and our goal is to provide them with the safety, love, and the resources they need to heal and move toward stable futures.

Thank you for your support in our work to end the cycle of abuse and neglect for children in care.



2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE POSSIBLE BY DONORS LIKE YOU



A PERFECT FIT

Disclaimer: All names and images have been changed to protect people's identities.

As a foster child with a terminal illness, two-year-old Carter needed to be adopted soon. Without parents to make decisions about his healthcare, his young life would be in the hands of the state of Missouri.

He was on a waitlist for Extreme Family Finding, our program responsible for identifying extended family members of children in foster care. Carter's foster family could not continue to care for him, and we worried that he would have to be moved to another foster home, further delaying the possibility of adoption.

Through Extreme Family Finding, our program responsible for identifying extended family members of children in foster care, we worked tirelessly to expedite the process of finding Carter a forever home. He needed a family that would offer him unconditional security and love, no matter how long he had to enjoy it.

Kids with serious illnesses often bounce around within the foster care system without getting adopted, but this would not be Carter's fate. By the end of that same weekend, our Extreme Family Finders had found Carter a perfect fit.

To this couple, Carter was worth more than his diagnosis. He was a curious, spirited toddler, full of joy and affection. They fell in love with him immediately, and adopted him six months later.

Carter spent his final years with parents who were fully committed to his happiness, comfort, and safety before passing away at age four. His adoptive family was heartbroken, but they were grateful they'd been able to give Carter the care he deserved.

Thanks to donors like you, Carter didn't have to spend his last days alone. Your financial support enables FosterAdopt Connect to operate programs like Extreme Family Finding, which help children like Carter find devoted families.



EXTREME FAMILY FINDING™

Too often, children linger in care because there are not enough families willing to adopt. Extreme Family Finding™ puts a team of recruiters and private investigators to work finding multiple extended family members, kin relationships, and other sources of relational permanency for children and youth. As a result, 80% of the children served are matched with permanency resources and 90% are reconnected with safe and appropriate lifelong support.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS YOUTH PROJECT®

Transitioning into adulthood is already fraught with hurdles, but especially so for youth who age out of foster care without being reunified or adopted. Community Youth Connections Project® (CCYP) helps older foster youth navigate the struggles of being thrust into adulthood with no resources or support system.

ANYTHING BUT EASY

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Blair's life had been anything but easy. A former foster child, she was now homeless and had been fired from her job after filing a sexual harassment complaint. At 20 years old, Blair was finding it difficult to remain optimistic about her future.

Blair also had two young daughters who had been removed from her home after their paternal grandmother, Lou, reported Blair to the Children's Division for neglect. Lou had been the girls' caretaker ever since.

Through our Community Connections Youth Project® (CCYP), Blair found a new job at a nursing home. Next, we helped her get an apartment, as well as pay off her past eviction. Blair was a strong, driven young woman, but she was entering adulthood without the guidance and love of a family and struggling to do it on her own. From gifting her a used car to helping her with legal counsel, we did everything we could to give Blair extra resources and assistance. Once she had a place to live and a steady job, she could begin working toward her ultimate goal: getting her kids back.

Due to the trauma she had experienced in foster care, Blair struggled with her mental health. The last important step toward getting her kids back was to demonstrate that she was stable and taking her medication. Now that she was healthy, employed, and had a place to live, Blair could rebuild the relationship with her daughters, starting with regular visitations. Lou delayed the reunification process at every chance she had, accusing Blair of being back on drugs.

In the end, Blair received custody of her daughters so long as they could continue to have regular visits with their grandma. She felt an overwhelming sense of relief and joy as she showed her girls their new bedroom in her apartment. She now felt prepared to move forward and begin creating a new life for herself and her girls.

Your generous donations make it possible for FosterAdopt Connect to operate programs like CCYP, which gives former foster kids like Blair the skills and support necessary to thrive in adulthood.