

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

*Opioids Drive More Kids to Foster Care. Missouri Faces Shortage of Licensed Foster Homes. Most Foster Parents Quit After First Year.* It seems like every day the headlines declare a crisis in foster care. But our community has a different story to tell. We have a story of hope.

An African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." 2018 was a year where we went far because we went together. It's the common theme woven throughout every story and achievement. Foster parents, volunteers, community partners, donors, and staff came together to fill the gaps through which our most vulnerable children too often fall.

From 24/7 crisis intervention to teaching foster and adoptive parents how to work through trauma, Coalition families are surrounded with support. When our families had a need - whether it was a gift during the holidays or helping siblings find their forever family - you stepped up. Your generosity allowed our team to go farther in service to our kids than ever before. It has taken every one of us to achieve all that you'll read in these pages.

Because of you, our kids and families can count on nationally-renowned work right here in our community. Because of you, headlines do not define our children's stories. Together, we are writing the next chapter for kids in foster care. Together, we are transforming the foster care system. Thank you for all that you do.

With gratitude,



John Phillips  
President, Board of Directors



## TOGETHER WE...

RAISED

**\$4,366,041**

FROM

**2,639 DONORS**

WITH THE HELP OF

**737 VOLUNTEERS**

WHO GAVE

**5,877 HOURS**

TO SERVE

**17,724**

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



### VOLUNTEERS

"I always get thanked for volunteering. The truth is, I am the blessed one. I get to see the generosity of so many volunteers and donors. Every gift is a celebration of a child's life."

- **Fonda Richards, Coalition Volunteer**

Volunteers sponsored the birthdays of 250 foster children in 2018, making sure that each child received personalized gifts that were exactly what the child wished for.



### FAMILY WORKS

"With the help of Family Works, I learned how to be more patient and more empathetic to my child's journey. Without this team, we may not have become a forever family - thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"

- **LaKenya Mixon, Adoptive Parent**

78 disruptions were prevented in 2018, meaning kids could stay in homes that help them heal.

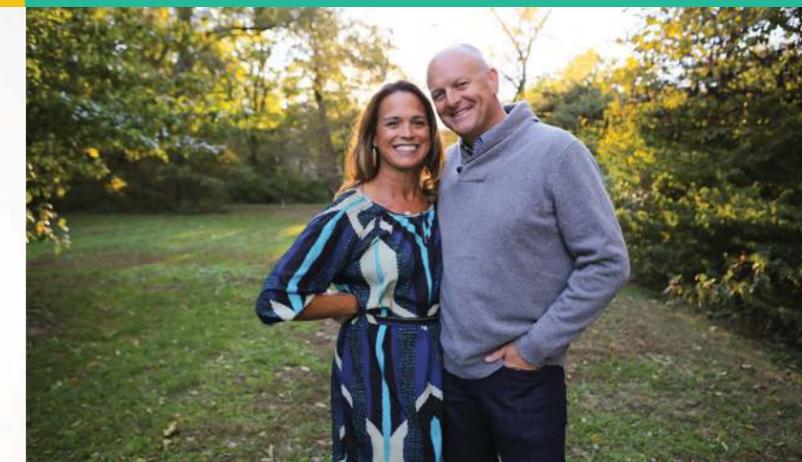


### DENNIS & JUDY JONES FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION PROGRAM

"The Coalition has been a godsend to say the least, providing us with eye-opening training that we rely on daily, and tons of direct support. We would recommend The Coalition to anyone considering fostering or adoption - they all have the heart for what they're doing!"

- **Elaine & Rod Howard, Adoptive Parents**

85 children were placed with Jones Families in 2018.



### DONORS

"We were both fortunate enough to grow up in homes with families that gave us almost everything we could need. It is only right that we give back by volunteering with and serving on the Board of The Coalition so we can help children without those advantages find their forever homes"

- **Joe and Aimée Bergan**

Your investment in The Coalition's groundbreaking work saves Missouri taxpayers more than \$10 million each year.



## A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Stanley and I became foster parents in 2001. It's always been in our hearts; my mother adopted 11 children through foster care. Last April we adopted Kaitlin, even though, after our first adoption, we thought we'd never adopt again.

She came at a difficult time. My mother had died two days before, and Kaitlin became my sunshine. Kaitlin was so scared then. She'd had to leave her mom and her whole family. She was so sick with depression. She often talked about hurting herself. She and I ended up needing each other.

Kaitlin, like so many of the kids I've fostered, thought our love was conditional. She would say to me, "You'll just get rid of me too." They think that the moment something goes wrong, they'll be kicked out. It took almost three years before Kaitlin stopped being afraid, before she trusted us.

But we did not plan to adopt. We had adopted once before. Things got bad. Our daughter had so much trauma. We didn't know what to do. We looked for help, but the support we had when she was in foster care was gone. We were on our own, because our daughter was adopted. Case closed.

We changed our minds when The Coalition got involved. The support available today is unbelievable. Stephanie, our Family Works Specialist, came to our home to help us understand Kaitlin's trauma, and how her behavior would reflect her fear and insecurity. Nikole, our Educational Advocate, helped us get Kaitlin her first special education plan. Karen, an Extreme Recruiter, was the one who convinced us. She made us feel heard. She made us believe we'd never be alone. They supported us so we could support Kaitlin.

On her Adoption Day, Kaitlin cried, which I did not expect. She said, "I didn't think it would really happen." Even after all this time, all this healing, they carry a bit of that fear. But we're here to help her work on that.

For anyone thinking they might foster or adopt, I'd say this: do not be afraid. You will see the reward. Maybe not soon, but you will see. At Christmas, Thanksgiving, or Mother's Day, everyone will be together, and you'll see how you've touched another's life. It's something beautiful, something that lasts forever.

**- Miss Brenda, Foster/Adoptive Parent**

## RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

208 CHILDREN PLACED OR MATCHED IN 2018

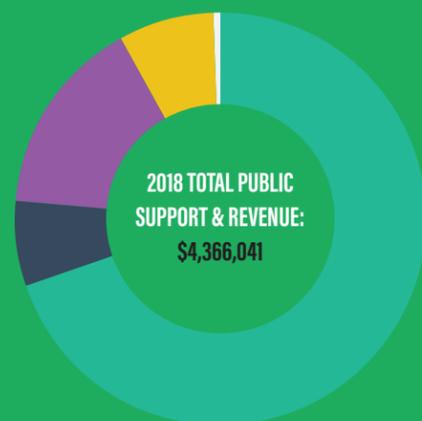
37 NEW FAMILIES TRAINED AND LICENSED

24 ADOPTIONS/GUARDIANSHIPS FINALIZED

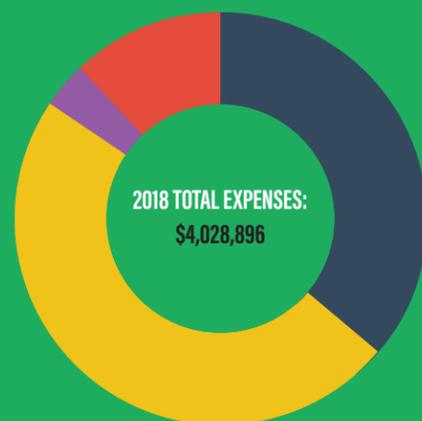
THE FOSTER & ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION STRIVES TO CREATE PERMANENCY IN EVERY FOSTER CHILD'S LIFE BY RECRUITING AND SUPPORTING FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN THE ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY.

*FOR EVERY CHILD... A PLACE TO CALL HOME*

## FINANCIALS



Grants: \$3,114,106
United Way Allocation: \$305,076
Contributions: \$686,943
Special Events: \$288,012
ReFresh: \$16,453
Other Income: \$2,628
Return on Investments: -\$47,177



Program Services
Recruitment: \$1,465,795
Retention: \$1,940,100
Support Services
Management: \$142,649
Fundraising: \$480,352

VISIT [WWW.FOSTER-ADOPT.ORG](http://WWW.FOSTER-ADOPT.ORG) FOR DETAILED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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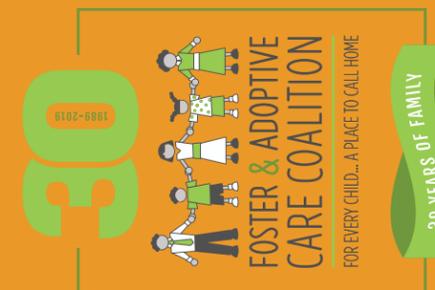
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EMMA, GRACE, AND MAGGIE WERE ADOPTED BY BRIAN AND SARAH IN 2018



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT