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
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

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: $3,244,819

United Way Allocation: $35,076

Corporations: $481,052

Special Events: $180,692

Networks: $46,453

Other Income: $2,203

Return on Investments: $4,677

2018 TOTAL EXPENSES: $4,328,896

Program Services:

Recruitment: $1,493,705

Retention: $1,000,000

Support Services:

Management: $34,260

Fundraising: $803,102

Program Services: $3,847,470

Support Services: $451,425

2018 TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE: $4,366,041

2018 TOTAL EXPENSES: $4,028,896

RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

208 CHILDREN PLACED OR MATCHED IN 2018

37 NEW FAMILIES TRAINED AND LICENSED

24 ADOPTIONS/GUARDIANSHIPS FINALIZED

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President John Phillips
Stifel Bank & Trust
Vice President Marcia Ambrose
Community Volunteer
Treasurer Christina Schoemehl
Community Volunteer
Secretary Cari Wegge
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FINANCIALS

2018 TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE: $4,366,041

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

ANNUAL REPORT

2018