

Foster Care Adoption Today

Foster Care Quick Facts:

- Foster care adoption is the adoption of a child from the U.S. foster care system who is legally available for adoption and whose birthparents' rights have been terminated.
- There are an estimated 513,000 children in foster care in the United States, and more than 114,000 of them are eligible and waiting to be adopted.
- Of the 114,000 children waiting for adoption, 36 percent are Black Non-Hispanic, 40 percent are White Non-Hispanic, 15 percent are Hispanic, 2 percent are American Indian/Alaskan Native, 4 percent two or more Races Non-Hispanic and 3 percent unable to determine.
- The average child waits for an adoptive family for more than 3 years.
- 21 percent spend 5 years or more waiting for a family (24,395 children).
- The average age of children waiting for an adoptive family is 8 1/2.
- Each year about 18 percent of the foster care population is adopted from foster care (51,000 children).
- 24,407 children reach the age of 18 without ever finding a forever family (9 percent).
- Of the families who adopt children from foster care, 68 percent are married couples, 27 percent are single females, 3 percent are single males, and 2 percent are unmarried couples.

Connecting Children with Permanent Homes:

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a non-profit 501(c)3 public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the adoptions of the more than 140,000 children in North America's foster care systems ready and waiting to be adopted. Created by Wendy's founder Dave Thomas who was adopted as a child, the Foundation spearheads programs such as:

- *Wendy's Wonderful Kids*, which puts adoption recruiters in 50 states and Canada to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system, and
- *Wendy's Wonderful Kids* goal is to match 8,000 – 10,000 children with adoptive families by 2010.
- *Adoption-Friendly Workplace*, which encourages employers to offer adoption benefits to their employees.
- The Foundation also works with adoption advocates and officials to streamline the adoption process and make adoption more affordable for families. As the only foundation dedicated exclusively to foster care adoption, they are driven by Dave's simple value: Do what's best for the child.

To learn more about the Foundation's work, please visit www.DaveThomasFoundationForAdoption.org.

(Unless otherwise indicated, statistics are provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children; Interim Estimates for FY 2005.)



DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care