



Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
for Adoption®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

## Vision

Every child will have a permanent home and a loving family

## Mission

The Foundation will dramatically increase the number of adoptions of waiting children from North America's foster care systems.

## Who We Are

There are more than 110,000 U.S. and 30,000 Canadian children in foster care waiting to be adopted. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption works on behalf of these children, because we believe every child deserves a permanent home and a loving family.

## What We Do

We believe, like Dave Thomas said, that "These children are not someone else's responsibility; they are our responsibility." Through the money we raise, we are able to support adoption professionals and agencies throughout the United States and Canada, provide free educational resources, promote awareness and work with policymakers and employers to ensure that every child finds a forever home.

## Fast Facts

Once in foster care, a child can wait three years or more for an adoptive family.

In the U.S. alone, more than 23,000 of these children age out of the system without families to call their own.

We believe that every child is

ADOPTABLE

## Wendy's Partnership

Wendy's supports the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption as its charity of choice throughout the year, through special fundraisers and awareness programs. Wendy's restaurants and franchisees collect customer donations with coin canisters and other in-store campaigns, and implement local fundraising and awareness efforts.

### Signature Programs

**Wendy's Wonderful Kids** is making a difference for thousands of children each year. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption awards grants to public and private adoption agencies to hire adoption professionals who implement proactive, child-focused recruitment programs targeted exclusively on moving North America's longest-waiting children from foster care into adoptive families.

### Research and Advocacy

Since 2002, we have commissioned several groundbreaking studies to measure how the American public view adoption, and how to promote evidence-based adoption practice. A national evaluation of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program was released in 2011. The rigorous five-year study revealed that children in foster care served by Wendy's Wonderful Kids are up to three times more likely to get adopted. These findings show children who may be considered "unadoptable" is simply untrue.

The U.S. and Canadian Foster Care Adoption Attitudes Surveys aim to understand the opinions, beliefs and perceptions people have about foster care adoption. The most recent surveys were released in 2013.

We work every day to inform and educate North Americans about the realities of foster care adoption. Research helps us better craft our messages and find out the best ways to drive change.

### National Adoption Day

Every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and during National Adoption Month in November, judges across the country make it a priority to finalize pending adoptions while communities celebrate families who adopt. We're honored to be a founding member and proud supporter of this important national effort.



**Adoption-Friendly Workplace** makes adoption an affordable option for every working parent. Our goal is to provide companies with the support and tools needed to provide adoption benefits to employees. We recognize the forward-thinking employers that already have adoption benefits in place through our annual 100 Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces List.



### Awareness and Education

Our commitment is to communicate the message of foster care adoption to anyone and everyone who is, or will become, an ambassador for these children. Our year-round awareness efforts include media communications, seasonal marketing programs, development and distribution of free educational resources, nationally-televised public service announcement campaigns, media and public speaking opportunities and participation in events across North America.

Among our most popular resources is Finding Forever Families: A Step-by-Step Guide to Adoption, that is available to prospective adoptive parents in the U.S. and Canada. We also partnered with Jockey Being Family to create Strengthen Your Family: A Step-by-Step Guide to Post-Adoption, a resource with helpful information for parents to use for support after adoptions are finalized.

### Corporate and Individual Giving

Businesses and organizations support the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption through giving campaigns, awareness initiatives and in-kind donations.