



**better**  
*together*

**2019** annual report

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
*for Adoption*<sup>®</sup>

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

---

[davethomasfoundation.org](http://davethomasfoundation.org)



dear  
friends,

For more than 25 years, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has been committed to dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of children waiting in North America's foster care systems. In this 2019 annual report, we are pleased to highlight the signature programs, partnerships and awareness-building efforts that are helping to achieve our vision: **every child will have a permanent home and loving family.**

We are now 36 months into an ambitious 12-year business plan to expand the reach of our Wendy's Wonderful Kids® program to serve children who are most often overlooked, including teenagers, children with special needs and siblings. You will read the story of Maya and Hannah Fontaine and other sibling groups who are together today thanks to Wendy's Wonderful Kids and the support of our donors.

The Foundation is making significant progress toward the aggressive goals set forth in our business plan. Since expansion efforts began, we have added **264 Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters and finalized 1,418 adoptions in the 9 scaling states alone.** The leadership in these states are invested, not just financially, but emotionally in the critical work that we are doing.

As of June 30, 2019, nearly **450 Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters have found adoptive homes for a cumulative total of nearly 9,000 children across the United States.** We are proud of this impact, but there is more work to be done.

While we are successfully moving children into adoptive homes, the Foundation is also aggressively working to raise awareness of our mission.

#### A few highlights of awareness efforts this year:

- Last November, the Foundation partnered with Paramount Pictures around the release of the major motion picture, "Instant Family." Awareness efforts helped fuel a record 30,000 requests for our adoption guide this year. In April, television and movie actor, Chrissy Metz, who played an adoptive mom in the film, "Breakthrough," produced a digital message of support for the cause.
- We launched a new public service announcement, sharing the story of Maci Kean (Florida), who was adopted just weeks before her 18th birthday. Today, Maci is a sophomore in college, studying to become an art therapist. Our public service announcements garnered the equivalent of more than \$8.3 million in donated media value and aired on major national networks across the country.
- The Foundation's impact was featured in national news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *CNN* and *The Chronicle of Social Change*.
- The 20th anniversary of CBS', "A Home for the Holidays," was the #1 rated show in its time slot and resulted in the highest traffic to the Foundation's website all year.
- Finally, individuals began wearing their support for adoption with apparel and accessories from the Foundation's new online store.

We are so grateful to The Wendy's® Company and our many dedicated partners and donors whose continued support helps us accelerate our mission. Together, we will make a lifetime of impact for children still waiting in foster care who need our help the most.

All good wishes,



**RITA L. SORONEN**  
President & CEO



# signature programs

Through its signature programs, the Foundation is **dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of children waiting in North America's foster care systems.**



**Dave Thomas**  
Foundation for Adoption.



**Dave Thomas**  
Foundation for Adoption.

NATIONAL



**ADOPTION DAY**

## WENDY'S WONDERFUL KIDS

The Foundation provides funding to adoption agencies to hire recruiters who implement an evidence-based, child-focused recruitment model, which is **up to 3x more effective** at finding adoptive homes for children who have been waiting the longest to be adopted.

## ADOPTION-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE™

Dave Thomas led the initiative advocating for better adoption benefits in the workplace, because to him, it was just "the right thing to do." The Foundation is carrying that legacy forward through the Adoption-Friendly Workplace program. This year, we partnered with RTI International to conduct the **13th annual Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces** survey, which identifies organizations that strive to make adoption a supported option for every working parent.

## NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is part of a coalition that founded National Adoption Day **19 years ago**. During this annual event, courts in more than 400 communities across the nation open their doors on or around the Saturday before Thanksgiving to finalize pending adoptions from foster care. National Adoption Day has celebrated a total of more than 70,000 children as they moved from foster care to a forever family.

## AWARENESS AND RESOURCES

Public service announcements, social media and events are building awareness and financial support for the Foundation's mission. Learn more and access resources to support the adoption journey at [davethomasfoundation.org/library](http://davethomasfoundation.org/library).



The Broom family  
From left: Elias, Jamar, Kameca and Niyah  
of Mississippi

Elias and Niyah spent more than three years in foster care before being adopted by the Broom family in 2017 through Wendy's Wonderful Kids. This year, the siblings started first and second grade. On the first day, Niyah told Elias, "I'll walk you to your class so you don't get lost!"

Through adoption, Elias and Niyah have grown socially, emotionally and physically, says their mother, Kameca. "My children are not biologically mine, but my heart doesn't know the difference."



# Wendy's gives back

Year after year, The Wendy's Company, its franchisees, suppliers, employees and customers support the Foundation through events, personal gifts and in-store campaigns, raising nearly \$15.5 million this year.



Wendy's general manager, Markiese Lee, sold 10,000+ Frosty Key Tags at his restaurant in Alabama



From left: Jeff Schneider, Cargill; Mary Vanden Berge, Barco Uniforms; Coley O'Brien, Wendy's; and David Murphy, Barco Uniforms, at The Dave Canada golf tournament

## Wendy's of Bowling Green raises \$350,000+ By the Wendy's of Bowling Green team

We believe in giving back and genuinely support Dave Thomas' vision that every child will have a permanent home and loving family.

That is why we "Go All Out to Sell Out" Boo! Books and Frosty Key Tags. The Wendy's of Bowling Green franchise raised \$6,600 per restaurant for a total of more than \$350,000 in 2019. We wanted to raise the bar and encourage other franchisees to do the same.

We are honored to follow the example of Mike O'Malley, who serves on the Foundation's board of trustees. When he shared the Foundation's mission and stories of the many children who now have loving homes, our team was enthusiastic to reach our fundraising goals.

Wendy's exists because of Dave Thomas, and what better way for us, as employees and successful franchisees, to continue his legacy. We want to work hard to fulfill his dream for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. As he stated in his book, *Dave's Way*, "If you had the blessing of a good home life yourself, then you do owe something back."

*Wendy's of Bowling Green owns and operates Wendy's restaurants in Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.*

## Barco reaches \$1.5 million+ in cumulative giving By the Barco Uniforms team

Barco has always been passionate about FAMILY. Our "Barco Caps That Give Back" program is representative of that passion for children and FAMILY, as every cap sold to Wendy's contributes \$0.50 to the Foundation. We are happy to have donated more than \$1.5 million to the Foundation since 2011, raised through this program with the partnership and support of Wendy's franchisees.

Several members of our Barco family have had their lives touched directly or indirectly through adoption. Their stories are a great testimony for the life-altering difference adoption can make in a child's life.

FAMILY is the foundation for hope. We believe every child deserves a loving family. A child who has been blessed with the gift of a FAMILY has the support system to achieve unlimited greatness and become who they were always meant to be.

*Barco's mission is to be a purposeful, innovative and meaningful apparel brand with a caring heart, focused on improving lives around the globe.*

Funds raised help the Foundation continue expanding Wendy's Wonderful Kids across the country, ensuring that there is a recruiter, like Grace Lindgren, to give every child waiting in foster care the time, resources and support they deserve.

Steven, Celeste and Elijah were adopted by the Stotler family in 2009. "What makes the Foundation's model so special is that we have time to build relationships to find the right home for every child," says their recruiter, Grace. "I love watching families be happy and kids grow up and be who they are."



From left: Steven, Celeste, Grace and Elijah of Texas



# better together

Maya and Hannah's Story

In June 2019, we visited Middleborough, Massachusetts to meet with Maya and Hannah Fontaine, sisters who were adopted through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program. **The girls bravely shared the incredible pain and neglect they experienced before adoption because they want other children to be adopted too.**

---

The Fontaine family  
From left: Nathan, Dana, Barbara, Maya and Hannah

From left:  
Maya and Hannah





"I remember my birth parents were so drunk one time they passed out behind the wheel," Maya shared, her hands trembling. "I was 10. There weren't floors in the house where we lived. Our birth dad would jump in dumpsters to find broken presents for our Christmas gifts. I had to be Hannah's mom and sister."

“

**She kept me alive, I would have been scared if we had been separated.**

”

– Hannah

For six years, Maya and Hannah bounced between foster homes and living with their birth parents. Their lives changed forever when they met their Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter, Laura.

At first, Maya told Laura that she wanted to be separated from Hannah because she didn't want to impact Hannah's chances of being adopted. Laura said no. She assured Maya that she would find a family that wanted to adopt them both. "And she did," Maya said with a huge smile. "I knew that I wasn't a troubled kid. I know I'm here for a reason. I just hoped someone would take that chance on me."



The Fontaines with their recruiter, Laura Brooks

Maya and Hannah were adopted by Dana and Barbara Fontaine in 2017. The couple had raised three sons, but felt they still had more love to give. Their youngest son, Nathan, was still living at home when Maya and Hannah joined the family. "Laura will forever be a part of our family," Barbara said. Maya was quick to chime in, "I love Laura. I have no idea what would have happened to us if she hadn't found us our family."

Today, the sisters, ages 16 and 11, are thriving together in their forever home. "Before we adopted the girls, Hannah had never spent an entire year in the same school," Dana said with tears in his eyes. "But this year, she has friends and participated in the school play...I was so proud to see her on stage."

Maya enjoys drawing, which she said helps her to process her emotions and heal from the trauma she experienced. "I've started dance classes," she added.

Maya has perspective beyond her years. She summed up her journey by saying,

“

**Foster care is like a war. The foster homes are little battles. Adoption is like the white flag that goes up at the end of the war. It's time to settle down and rebuild everything that was destroyed. Thank you to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption for giving me and my sister a mom and dad who love us and a second chance for a bright future.**

”

# supporter spotlights

## EXPANDING OUR IMPACT BECAUSE OF YOU

The following individuals and organizations represent the growing number of supporters who are passionately helping to advance the Foundation's mission.



Karen Fifer Ferry of The Bahamas



From left: Jim's caregiver, Jennifer Blank of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Jim Silvin of Florida

### Thank you, Karen Fifer Ferry

In elementary school, Karen wrote that she would like to one day give birth to three children and adopt eight. The dream of adopting a child never materialized, but Karen and her husband, John, were determined to make a difference for children in need of a loving, permanent family. John and Karen saved money for years in a donor-advised fund. Upon retirement, and after much research and soul-searching, they enthusiastically chose the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption as the charity where their contribution could have the greatest impact. John and Karen's generous support provided funding for an additional Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter in Nevada, where there is a significant gap between the number of recruiters and children in need of adoptive homes.

### Honoring James J. Silvin (1939 - 2019)

A frequent visitor of the Wendy's restaurant near where he lived, James (Jim) Silvin wanted to leave a legacy of impact in helping find forever families for children in foster care. Jim chose to include a generous gift to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in his estate plan.

When individuals choose to include the Foundation in their estate plans, their contributions are felt for generations to come.

### Thank you, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Summit Sponsors

In May, more than 500 Wendy's Wonderful Kids team members gathered for the 14th annual Wendy's Wonderful Kids Summit for collaboration, skill-learning and celebration. We are pleased to recognize the following sponsors who helped make the 2019 summit possible:



thank you,  
donors

### THE DAVE THOMAS LIFETIME OF GIVING SOCIETY

The cumulative giving of the following individuals and organizations has reached or exceeded \$1 million to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

James Annenberg La Vea Charitable Foundation	Freddie Mac Foundation	The Dave / Wendy's 3-Tour Challenge
Aramark Uniform Services / Crest Uniform	Donna J. Gustafson Trust	I. Lorraine Thomas
Barco Uniforms, Inc.	Haza Foods, LLC	Thomas 5 Limited
Blue Meridian Partners	JAE Restaurant Group	Valenti Mid-Atlantic / Mid-South Management, LLC
Briad Wenco, LLC	James & Eileen Manning Charitable Trust	Wendelta, Inc. / Carlisle Corporation
Bridgeman Foods, Inc.	Meritage Hospitality Group	WendPartners
Carolina Restaurant Group	MUY! Hamburger Partners, LLC	The Wendy's Company
Cedar Enterprises, Inc.	NPC Quality Burgers, Inc.	Wendy's Advertising Fund, Inc. (NY DMA Co-Op)
The Coca-Cola Company	Pennant Foods Corporation	Wendy's National Advertising Program, Inc.
DavCo Restaurants, Inc.	Quality Supply Chain Co-Op, Inc.	Wendy's of Bowling Green, Inc.
The Duke Endowment	Stanton & Associates, Inc.	Wendy's of Montana, Inc. / Wendy's of Montana Foundation
First Sun Management Corporation	Starboard Group	Wendy's Philadelphia ADI Co-Op
FourCrown, Inc.	SWBG Operations Group	
Fox Group	Tar Heel Capital / FFC Limited Partnership	

### FOREVER HOME SOCIETY

The following individuals have made their intentions known to include the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in their estate plans.

Estate of Robert Paul Anderson	Estate of Albert G. Ebner	Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Rath
James Annenberg La Vea Charitable Foundation	Donna J. Gustafson Trust	James J. Silvin
Anonymous	Denny and Pam Lynch Family	I. Lorraine Thomas
Mildred A. Arnett Revocable Trust	James & Eileen Manning Charitable Trust	Constance Trapp MacCrate
	Anne E. Ranta	Joseph J. and Cathy C. Turner

### ENDOWMENT

The following individuals and organizations have made generous donations to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's Endowment Fund.

Coghlan Family Endowed Fund	Denny and Pam Lynch Family Fund	Shore Morgan Young Wealth Strategies Fund
Andres and Jennifer Garcia Endowed Fund	James & Eileen Manning Charitable Trust	I. Lorraine Thomas Fund
Donna J. Gustafson Trust	R.L. and Barbara Richards Fund	
	The Russell Fund for Adoption	

thank you

TO THE FOUNDATION'S SUPPORTERS AT ALL LEVELS



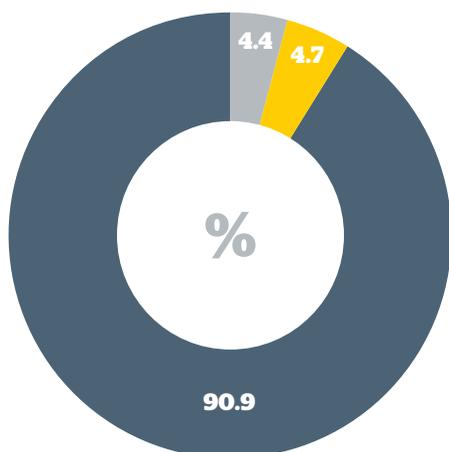
The Foundation is honored to recognize all our donors contributing \$1,000 or more to our mission between July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 at [davethomasfoundation.org/annual-report](http://davethomasfoundation.org/annual-report).

## Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

### 30 June, 2019

### 30 June, 2018

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Revenues, Support and Other Income</b>						
Contributions	\$22,929,767	\$465,570	\$23,395,337	\$25,988,381	\$2,402,427	\$28,390,808
Donated PSA broadcasting	8,367,241	-	8,367,241	10,260,625	-	10,260,625
Government contracts	5,916,993	-	5,916,993	4,066,498	-	4,066,498
Investment income (loss), net	1,253,272	-	1,253,272	971,707	-	971,707
In-kind contributions	33,118	-	33,118	28,990	-	28,990
Interest income	436,181	-	436,181	76,908	-	76,908
Net assets released from restrictions	870,670	(870,670)	-	1,101,579	(1,101,579)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, SUPPORT AND OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$39,807,242</b>	<b>(405,100)</b>	<b>\$39,402,142</b>	<b>\$42,494,688</b>	<b>1,300,848</b>	<b>\$43,795,536</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Grants and allocations	\$17,553,966	-	\$17,553,966	\$19,521,837	-	\$19,521,837
Donated PSA broadcasting	8,367,241	-	8,367,241	10,260,625	-	10,260,625
Other program expenses	3,940,329	-	3,940,329	3,764,390	-	3,764,390
Total program expenses	29,861,536	-	29,861,536	33,546,852	-	33,546,852
Fundraising	1,537,623	-	1,537,623	1,312,198	-	1,312,198
General and administrative	1,459,551	-	1,459,551	1,028,890	-	1,028,890
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$32,858,710</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$32,858,710</b>	<b>\$35,887,940</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$35,887,940</b>
Change in net assets	6,948,532	(405,100)	6,543,432	6,606,748	1,300,848	7,907,596
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$33,906,023</b>	<b>\$1,492,900</b>	<b>\$35,398,923</b>	<b>\$27,299,275</b>	<b>\$192,052</b>	<b>\$27,491,327</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$40,854,555</b>	<b>\$1,087,800</b>	<b>\$41,942,355</b>	<b>\$33,906,023</b>	<b>\$1,492,900</b>	<b>\$35,398,923</b>



### Fiscal Year 2019

- Management and General
- Fundraising
- Program Services, including:

Wendy's Wonderful Kids: **\$19,588,000**

Program Grants and Awareness Programs: **\$10,130,502**

Post-Adoption: **\$9,964**

Adoption-Friendly Workplace: **\$110,809**

National Adoption Day/National Adoption Month: **\$22,261**

# Statements of Financial Position

30 June, 2019

30 June, 2018

<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$28,612,073	\$29,184,463
<b>Receivables:</b>		
Contributions, net	1,544,010	2,397,205
Grants	-	585,383
Government contracts	945,619	460,039
Prepays and other assets	218,965	322,664
Investments	12,346,740	11,396,950
Quasi-endowment	3,834,581	3,548,324
Endowment	82,230	10,000
Property and equipment, net	2,539,426	176,450
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$50,123,644</b>	<b>\$48,081,478</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$247,904	\$148,266
Grants payable	7,629,800	12,199,375
Accrued liabilities	303,585	334,914
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$8,181,289</b>	<b>\$12,682,555</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Without Donor Restrictions</b>	\$40,854,555	\$33,906,023
<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>	1,087,800	1,492,900
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$41,942,355</b>	<b>\$35,398,923</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$50,123,644</b>	<b>\$48,081,478</b>

Financial, program and other information about the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's (DTFA) purpose, programs and activities can be obtained by contacting the DTFA at 716 Mt. Airyshire Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235 or 1-800-ASK-DTFA. Residents of the following states can also receive information in the following manner:

**Florida:** A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR DTFA (REGISTRATION NO. CH3956) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-435-7352 OR VISITING THEIR WEBSITE [www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com).

**Maryland:** Documents and information filed under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copying, from the Secretary of State.

**Michigan:** The DTFA's registration number is MICS 11789.

**Mississippi:** The official registration and financial information of DTFA may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167.

**New Jersey:** INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/charities/Pages/directory.aspx](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/charities/Pages/directory.aspx).

**New York:** Information is available upon request from the Attorney General Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 or at [www.charitiesnys.com](http://www.charitiesnys.com).

**North Carolina:** Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989 (within North Carolina) or 919-807-2214 (outside of North Carolina).

**Pennsylvania:** The official registration and financial information of DTFA may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

**Virginia:** Financial statements are available from the State Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.

**Washington:** DTFA is registered with Washington State's Charities Program as required by law and additional information is available by calling 800-332-4483 or visiting [www.sos.wa.gov/charities](http://www.sos.wa.gov/charities).

**West Virginia:** West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305.

**Registration or licensing in any of the aforementioned states does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by any state.** Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes in accordance with applicable law.



The Connors-Amy family (from left): Serenity, John, Kai, Abby and Kathryn

better together

Siblings, Serenity and Kai, were adopted through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program.

**"We knew that these children were meant to be together. The sibling bond they have is indescribable."**

- Kathryn Connors, mother

## Mission

---

Dramatically increase the number of adoptions of children waiting in North America's foster care systems.

## We Believe

---

Every child deserves a safe, loving and permanent family.

No child should linger in foster care or leave the system at age 18 or 21 without a permanent family of their own.

Every child is adoptable.



“

**You don't have to have the same blood to be family. That's adoption.**

”

– Dana Fontaine, father



Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
*for Adoption*<sup>®</sup>

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

716 Mt. Airyshire Blvd., Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43235  
1.800.ASK.DTFA

---

[davethomasfoundation.org](http://davethomasfoundation.org)