



Dave Thomas
Foundation
for Adoption®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

GOING THE DISTANCE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

IT'S WORTH IT.

OUR MISSION
TO DRAMATICALLY
INCREASE THE NUMBER
OF ADOPTIONS
FROM FOSTER CARE

OUR VISION
EVERY CHILD WILL
HAVE A PERMANENT
HOME AND
LOVING FAMILY

273

Wendy's
Wonderful Kids
Recruiters

17

ANNUAL NATIONAL
ADOPTION DAY
CELEBRATIONS

11

ANNUAL TOP 100
BEST ADOPTION-FRIENDLY
WORKPLACE LISTS

WWK
RECRUITERS
IN ALL
50
STATES

25
years strong

NEARLY
7,000
ADOPTIONS

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Dear friends, 25 YEARS IS A MILESTONE TO BE CELEBRATED!

A quarter of a century ago, Dave Thomas had a simple vision – to dramatically increase the adoptions of children from foster care. Today we are honored to share with you the grantmaking, awareness and signature program efforts that have matured from that initial vision into nationally recognized and results-driven successes.

This year, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption entered into an unprecedented phase of growth supported by a robust business plan that will allow us to reach our goal of embedding and fully scaling Wendy's Wonderful Kids in all 50 states and D.C. in the next 12 years. That means that every child in our target population of older youth, children in sibling groups, children with special needs and youth who have lingered in foster care the longest will have a specially-trained adoption recruiter using an evidence-based model working on their behalf to assure that they leave foster care with the permanent family they deserve.

We did not get to this stage of the Foundation's journey alone. We have received the generous support of countless dedicated partners and donors, not the least of which is The Wendy's Company, its franchisees, suppliers and customers. This amazing model of partnership between an internationally recognized and successful iconic brand and a nonprofit public charity is unique in its unconditionally shared commitment, and simply raises the bar for other cause relationships to make

a difference for our most vulnerable citizens. It is with deep gratitude that we work alongside our Wendy's family each and every day, and on behalf of children in foster care waiting for their family and a home.

But this cause cannot rest solely on the shoulders of one partner. We are so very grateful to the growing list of passionate individuals and groups who have also stepped up to help a child in need through their support of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. This year, the Foundation received a significant commitment to help take Wendy's Wonderful Kids to scale, through an investment from the Blue Meridian Partners, a capital aggregation collaboration that is strategically investing \$1 billion in proven nonprofits poised to make a national impact on economically disadvantaged children and youth.

Through our work, nearly 7,000 children who were most at risk of leaving foster care without a family now have one to call their own – **but there are more than 110,000 children in the United States still waiting to be adopted.** In this 25th year of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, we remain indefatigably driven by Dave Thomas' words that "these children are not someone else's responsibility. They are our responsibility." Thank you for being on this journey with us and for assuming the shared responsibility of achieving the vision of a permanent home and a loving family for every child waiting to be adopted.

With deep gratitude,



RITA L. SORONEN
President & CEO



GOING THE DISTANCE

For 72 days, Wendy's franchisee Ed Anderson did what few people could. He rode his bicycle from coast to coast and he did it for us. There are 110,000 children in the United States waiting to be adopted from foster care, and Ed hit the road in their honor with a goal of raising awareness and funds to help find them forever families.

Ed's "Tour de Adoption," as he coined it, was born from Dave Thomas' value of giving back. Celebrating 36 years as a part of the Wendy's family was a milestone Ed wanted to mark in a big way.



ED ANDERSON'S TOUR DE ADOPTION

"Dave had done so much for children in foster care. I thought, even if I help one child find their forever family, I will have done the right thing. I will have given back."

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

JOINED BY FELLOW CYCLISTS ALONG THE WAY:

- FRANK LEARY
- GASPAR GIORDANO
- JIM SCHNEIDER
- JIM EVANS
- VICKIE CHEATHAM



He started by reaching out to family, friends and the Wendy's community, asking for pledges to meet his fundraising goal. **On July 25, 2016, he kicked off his trip with his back tire dipped in the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia Beach.** During the trip, his wife, Judy, followed behind him in their trailer with extra bicycles, supplies and gear (a SAG wagon, as it's called). Others also stepped in for the SAG driver role: their youngest son, good friends and even other Wendy's franchisees. In addition to the six-wheel assistance, Ed was joined by five bicyclists along the way who rode next to him, some for one day, others for up to two weeks, offering motivation and encouragement.

Over mountains, across rivers and through deserts, Ed biked, meeting strangers and sharing the core beliefs of the Foundation – that every child deserves a loving, permanent family and that every child is adoptable. In fact, Ed was inspired by the number of people who came out to support him because of their own connection to adoption. His favorite story from the road came from a 90-year-old man, who shared that he was adopted and that to this day, he is eternally grateful to his adoptive parents and the permanent, loving home they provided.

Ed noted, "It was amazing to hear from people who either adopted or were adopted themselves, and shared with me how thankful they were for their families."

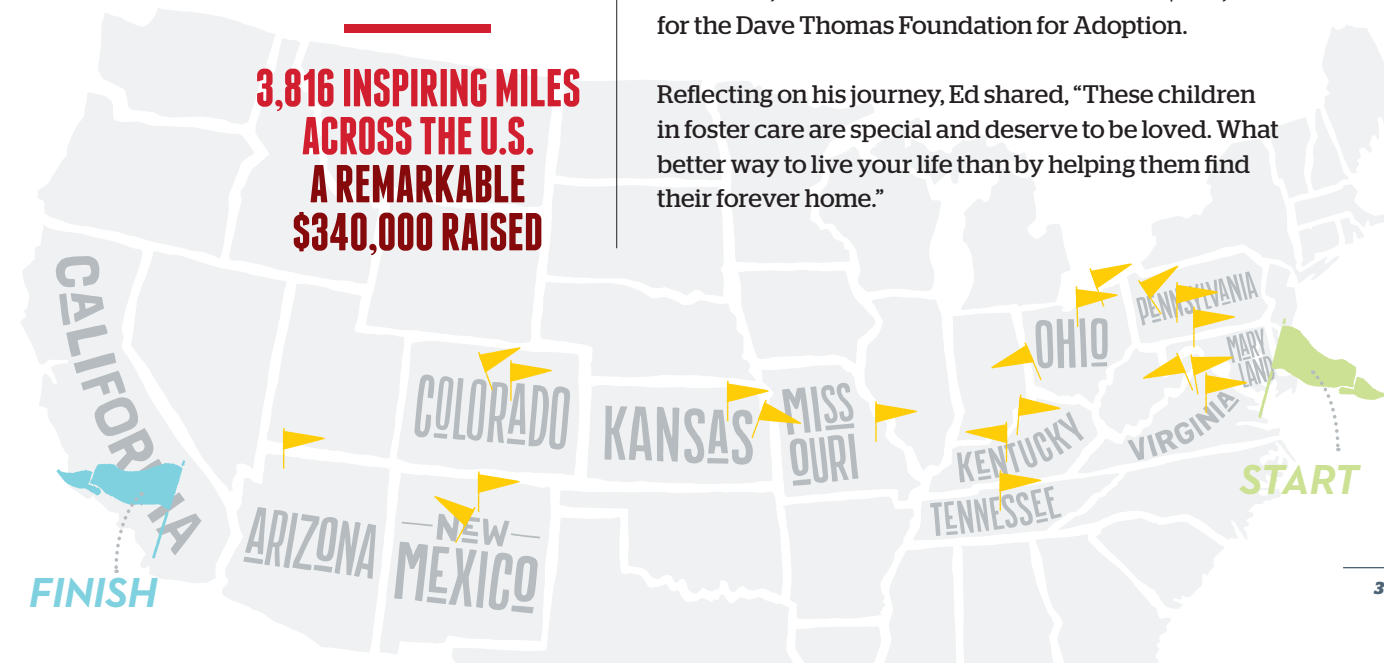
When possible, Ed stopped at Wendy's restaurants along his route, meeting with fellow franchisees. These heartwarming stops reminded him that his Wendy's family supports this cause all across the country. He walked onto the field at Nissan Stadium in Nashville to receive a donation, and threw out the first pitch for the River City Rascals in O'Fallon, Missouri.

"Judy was my cheerleader, always staying positive and keeping my spirits up. I could never have done this without her support."



Though setbacks put him behind schedule, and at times he worried he wouldn't be able to continue, Ed did what we ask of the children we serve – he didn't give up. On October 4, 2016 with abundant relief and a bit of pride, Ed dipped his front tire into the Pacific Ocean, completing his ride. With that last pedal, he had traveled 3,816 miles and raised a remarkable \$340,000 for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Reflecting on his journey, Ed shared, "These children in foster care are special and deserve to be loved. What better way to live your life than by helping them find their forever home."



HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

We owe so much to our supportive donors. You truly make forever families possible for children in foster care. Your support will continue to make a lasting impact as we work toward our goal: **a forever family for every child.**

Donations reflect gifts made during the July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 fiscal year

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.

Aramark Uniform Services / Crest Uniform	Fox Group	I. Lorraine Thomas
Barco Uniforms, Inc.	Freddie Mac Foundation	Valenti Mid-Atlantic
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Carolina Restaurant Group	NPC Quality Burgers, Inc.	Wendy's Advertising Fund, Inc. (NY DMA Co-Op)
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The Coca-Cola Company	Quality Supply Chain Co-Op, Inc.	Wendy's National Advertising Program, Inc.
DavCo Restaurants, Inc.	Stanton & Associates, Inc.	Wendy's of Bowling Green, Inc.
The Duke Endowment	SWBG Operations Group	Wendy's Philadelphia ADI Co-Op
First Sun Management Corporation	Tar Heel Capital	
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FOREVER HOME SOCIETY

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

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Donna J. Gustafson Trust
Denny and Pam Lynch Family
James & Eileen Manning Charitable Trust
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Rath
I. Lorraine Thomas
Constance Trapp MacCrate
Joseph J. and Cathy C. Turner

ENDOWMENT

The following individuals and organizations have made generous donations to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption Endowment Fund. These gifts are helping to ensure the sustainability of our mission into the future and will be felt for generations.

Donna J. Gustafson Trust
Denny and Pam Lynch Family Fund
James & Eileen Manning Charitable Trust
The Russell Fund for Adoption
Shore Morgan Young Wealth Strategies Fund
I. Lorraine Thomas Fund

DONORS

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption recognizes and celebrates individuals and organizations who so generously supported our vision between July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017:

Founders (\$10M and above)

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The Wendy's Company

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Wendy's of Bowling Green, Inc.

Wendy's of Colorado Springs, Inc.

Wendy's Philadelphia ADI Co-Op

Western Reserve Restaurant Management, Inc.

NEVER GIVING UP

After nine years in foster care, Cody is finally with his forever family.

It would have been easy for him to give up hope, but thanks to his Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter Rachel, he has the family he deserves. Our Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters work every day to make the dream of a family come true for children. They always go the extra mile. They are able to do this critical work because our donors never give up either.



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DEDICATED FOR DECADES

Mike O'Malley, a dedicated member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and a Wendy's Franchisee, has supported the Foundation every year since its founding in 1992. Relationships like this are the heartbeat of the Foundation. Donors like Mike make it possible for the Foundation to raise awareness, support families and find children homes. Thank you, Mike, for 25 years of dedication to the mission!



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CONSISTENTLY COMMITTED

The Wendy's Company, its franchisees, suppliers, customers and corporate employees unwaveringly support the Foundation through in-store campaigns and events like National Adoption Night, Halloween Coupon Books, Frosty Key Tag sales and canisters, which this year raised more than \$15 million. The Foundation is thankful to Wendy's for their commitment to our daily work. At every turn they help educate their customers and crews on our critical mission to engage them in supporting our work to find forever families for waiting children.



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EVERY
 STEP
 OF THE WAY



Wendy's Wonderful Kids adoption recruiters go the distance for the children they serve. In fact, Marcie Baker Hinds, a WWK recruiter in Rhode Island, found a home in the nick of time for Kenny, a 17-year-old young man who spent 11 years in foster care.

Marcie was with Kenny and his adoptive family every step of the way. At every court hearing she advocated for this match, she supported Kenny as he strove to advocate for himself while she helped the family adjust to each requirement they faced. Thanks to Marcie's unwillingness to let the system fail Kenny, his adoption was finalized just a week shy of his 18th birthday.



Dave Thomas
 Foundation for Adoption.

Each year, more than 20,000 children turn 18 or 21 and age out of foster care, putting them at a higher risk of negative consequences like homelessness or unemployment. Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters work every single day to create more endings like Kenny's. Dave Thomas frequently reminded us that "these children are not someone else's responsibility. They are our responsibility." For 25 years, we have worked to live up to Dave Thomas' commitment to find a forever home for every waiting child. Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters, like Marcie, have taken Dave's words and our mission to heart and found families for nearly 7,000 children!

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 Wendolive
 Wendoma, LLC
 Wen-Dominion, LLC
 Wendovis, LLC
 Wendphil, LLC
 Wendponca, LLC
 Wendquan, LLC
 Wendtaz Corporation
 Wendtwo, LP
 Wendwil Corporation
 Wendwise Corporation
 Wendworth Associates, LP
 Wendy's of Ft. Wayne, Inc.
 Wendy's of San Antonio
 Wendy's of Sioux Falls, LLC
 Wendy's of Walcott / Peels, Inc.
 Wendy's Pittsburgh Advertising Corporation
 Wen-Ram
 Wenwest, Inc.
 Daphne Wert
 Valerie Whitfield
 William T. Rice and E. Janice Woodruff Charitable Fund
 Stephen M. Williams
 Craig Wilson
 Winnerco
 WIT Group, Inc.
 Michael and Carole Witte
 WOF - Salinas, Inc.
 WRT, Inc.
 E.J. and Sara Wunsch
 YourCause, LLC
 Z-Best Burgers, Inc.
 Chuck and Bobbi Zimmerman
 Zwick Construction Company
 Darin Zwick

CONNECTED

TO THE CAUSE

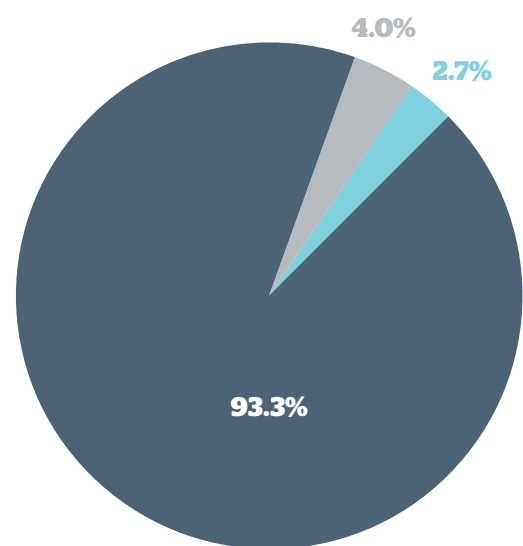
Joy and Jeremy Jenkins of Tulsa, Oklahoma are passionate about their monthly gift to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

As workers in the social services field – Joy as a nurse and Jeremy as a mental health counselor – they have seen the life-changing impact that successful adoptive placements make. When asked why they give, they replied, “We have been abundantly blessed and cannot think of a better way to share this abundance than to invest it in an organization that is creating a better future for all of us by finding children the forever families they deserve.”



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES
IN NET ASSETS FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED:

	30 June, 2017			30 June, 2016		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenues, Support and Other Income						
Contributions	\$29,208,489	\$186,518	\$29,395,007	\$15,738,632	\$471,196	\$16,209,828
Donated PSA broadcasting	7,629,347	-	7,629,347	-	-	-
Government contracts	4,048,037	-	4,048,037	3,733,267	-	3,733,267
Investment income (loss), net	1,141,032	-	1,141,032	(138,425)	-	(138,425)
In-kind contributions	36,231	-	36,231	31,953	-	31,953
Interest income	22,203	-	22,203	15,574	-	15,574
Net assets released from restrictions	262,131	(262,131)	-	2,272,806	(2,272,806)	-
TOTAL REVENUES, SUPPORT AND OTHER INCOME	\$42,347,470	(75,613)	\$42,271,857	\$21,653,807	(1,801,610)	\$19,852,197
Expenses						
Grants and allocations	\$18,973,221	-	\$18,973,221	\$14,921,586	-	\$14,921,586
Donated PSA broadcasting	7,629,347	-	7,629,347	-	-	-
Other program expenses	3,112,802	-	3,112,802	2,470,458	-	2,470,458
Total program expenses	29,715,370	-	29,715,370	17,392,044	-	17,392,044
Fundraising	1,242,708	-	1,242,708	1,138,953	-	1,138,953
General and administrative	896,885	-	896,885	750,698	-	750,698
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,854,963	-	\$31,854,963	\$19,281,695	-	\$19,281,695
Change in net assets	10,492,507	(75,613)	10,416,894	2,372,112	(1,801,610)	570,502
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$16,806,768	\$267,665	\$17,074,433	\$14,434,656	\$2,069,275	\$16,503,931
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$27,299,275	\$192,052	\$27,491,327	\$16,806,768	\$267,665	\$17,074,433



FISCAL YEAR 2017

2017 Program Services is broken down among the following programs:

- Wendy's Wonderful Kids: **\$19,991,971**
- Program Grants and Awareness Programs: **\$9,220,534**
- Child-Focused Recruitment Model Training: **\$218,549**
- Post-Adoption: **\$182,971**
- Adoption-Friendly Workplace: **\$70,415**
- A Home for the Holidays: **\$63,763**
- National Adoption Day/National Adoption Month: **\$30,929**

- PROGRAM SERVICES ● MANAGEMENT & GENERAL
- FUNDRAISING

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION:

	30 June, 2017	30 June, 2016
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$23,218,492	\$13,203,425
Receivables:		
Contributions, net	548,245	361,978
Grants	191,322	146,309
Government contracts	629,565	396,794
Prepays and other assets	281,744	203,833
Cash surrender value of life insurance, net	194,059	252,573
Investments	10,644,098	10,138,205
Quasi-endowment	3,310,437	-
Property and equipment, net	80,800	72,969
TOTAL ASSETS	\$39,098,762	\$24,776,086
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$214,843	\$224,728
Grants payable	11,211,767	7,358,350
Accrued liabilities	180,825	118,575
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$11,607,435	\$7,701,653
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$23,988,838	\$16,806,768
Board-designated funds	3,310,437	-
Temporarily restricted	192,052	267,665
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$27,491,327	\$17,074,433
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$39,098,762	\$24,776,086

Financial and other information about the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's (DTFA) purpose, programs and activities can be obtained by contacting DTFA at 716 Mt. Airyshire Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235 or 1-800-ASK-DTFA, or for residents of the following states, as stated below. Florida: DTFA's registration number in Florida is CH3956. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free, within the state, 1-800-help-fla or via the internet at www.800helpfla.com. Maryland: For the cost of postage and copying, from the Secretary of State. Michigan: DTFA's registration number in Michigan 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/ocp.htm#charity. New York: Upon request, from the Attorney General Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. 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: From the State Office of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. Washington: From the Secretary of State at 1-800-332-4483. 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. Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes in accordance with applicable law. Registration in a state does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption by the state.



SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters use child-focused recruitment to find adoptive homes for children and youth most at risk of turning 18 or 21 and leaving foster care without an adoptive family – older children, sibling groups, children with special needs and children who may have given up hope for a family.

Adoption-Friendly Workplace

Adoption-Friendly Workplace is a campaign that encourages and supports employers who offer adoption and foster care benefits. It is accompanied by an annual ranking of the companies in the United States with the best adoption benefits, the *Top 100 Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces List*.

National Adoption Day

National Adoption Day is a grassroots effort that is held on or near the Saturday before Thanksgiving. It raises awareness and celebrates adoptions – in courtrooms, community centers and gatherings across America. In November 2016, more than 4,700 children had finalized adoptions on National Adoption Day. More than 65,000 children have been adopted at National Adoption Day events since it was founded in 2000.

Awareness

The Foundation drives awareness using a multi-platform strategy that includes free resources, social media, public service announcements and sponsorships. Together these outlets reach millions of stakeholders. Our resources educate families on the process and expectations of foster care adoption. Our *Finding Forever Families: A Step-by-Step Guide to Adoption* is one of our most requested resources and a new series of public service announcements are airing throughout the United States. The Foundation also produces *Strengthen Your Forever Family: A Step-by-Step Guide to Post-Adoption* to help families find the resources they need after they bring a child into their family.

WHAT WE DO

THE MISSION OF THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION IS TO **DRAMATICALLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ADOPTIONS FROM FOSTER CARE.**

TODAY, **THERE ARE MORE THAN 110,000 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE** IN THE UNITED STATES SIMPLY WAITING AND HOPING FOR A FOREVER FAMILY.



Dave Thomas
Foundation
for Adoption®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

716 Mt. Airyshire Blvd., Ste. 100
Columbus, OH 43235

davethomasfoundation.org

1.800.ASK.DTFA (1.800.275.3832)



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.

