

# Wait No More<sup>®</sup>



## Finding Families for Colorado's Waiting Kids



# Frequently Asked Questions about Foster Care and Adoption<sup>1</sup>

## 1. What is foster care?

Foster care means the placement of a child into the legal custody or legal authority of a county department of human/social services for physical placement of a child in a certified or licensed facility.

A family foster care home provides the child with an emergency or temporary home and a supportive and stable family environment while the birth family addresses the concerns or situation that prevents them from parenting their child. Typically, foster parents care for the child until reunification with the birth family, there is an adoption or guardianship with kin, or the child is legally adopted by another family. Sometimes foster parents become the permanent home for the child through adoption.

## 2. I don't make a lot of money. What if my foster child gets sick?

Foster parents receive a monthly reimbursement. Medical and dental coverage is provided for children in foster care through Medicaid, or private insurance sources.

## 3. What does the child's caseworker do?

The caseworker will...

- Provide you with the pertinent information that you need to meet the child's needs.
- Bring the child to your home and help him or her move in and get settled.
- Visit you and the child regularly.
- Encourage you to work with the birth family in varying capacities.
- Depending on the situation, arrange for and in some cases, supervise visits between the child and the birth parents and/or other relatives.
- Help you coordinate educational services, health, dental, mental health services, or counseling that the child needs.

## 4. What does a foster care resource caseworker do?

- Provides monthly supervision and support in your home.
- Answers questions that you have about the foster care program.
- Provides information about available training, support, and resources.

## 5. I'm 60 years old and retired. Can I be a foster parent?

A person's age is not a barrier. You need to be in general good health and have the energy and desire to provide a stable, loving environment to a child. Take a look at the qualifications to be a foster parent.

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<sup>1</sup> All information taken from [www.ChangeALifeForever.org](http://www.ChangeALifeForever.org), a web site of the Colorado Department of Human Services.

## **6. Do foster parents have to stay at home?**

No. However, it's the responsibility of working foster parents to make appropriate child care arrangements for the children in their care.

## **7. What is adoption?**

Adoption is the lifelong commitment to give a child a permanent home. Adoptive families provide a safe, loving environment for their children, and strive to meet their emotional, developmental, physical, social, educational, and cultural needs.

## **8. How much does it cost to adopt?**

The costs associated with adoption are typically nominal. There are adoption subsidies available for adoptive parents of qualified children.

## **9. Can I adopt an infant?**

Although some infants in foster care are waiting for adoption, many of the children in Colorado's public child welfare system are five years old and older.

## **10. I'm divorced and rent an apartment. Can I adopt?**

Yes. You can adopt a child if you're single, married, divorced or widowed, and you don't have to own your home to adopt a child.

## **11. What does an adoption caseworker do?**

Your caseworker will:

- Help you find a child who is a good fit for your family.
- Introduce you to your prospective adoptive child, either one-on-one or at an adoption party where prospective parents meet lots of waiting children.
- Arrange for visits between you and your prospective adoptive child, so you can get to know each other.
- Give you information about your child and his or her background.
- Visit you regularly before the adoption is finalized, and in some situations you may receive services after the adoption is finalized.

# Foster Care Adoption Process<sup>2</sup>

## QUALIFICATIONS

- \*Are at least 21 years old
- \*Are single, married, divorced, or widowed
- \*Own or rent your home
- \*Have adequate financial resources to maintain the home
- \*Can provide for the child's physical, mental, and character development
- \*Have parenting experience or none at all
- \*Already have children in your home or not

## THE PROCESS

People just like you provide foster care or adopt children every day. If you work with Colorado's public child welfare system, you'll find that becoming a foster or adoptive parent is a straightforward process. Once you successfully complete these steps, you may be certified to foster a child in order to adopt.

**Step 1:** Attend the foster care/adoption program orientation

**Step 2:** Complete and submit an application

**Step 3:** Attend parent training classes sponsored by the county departments, private child placement agency, or the State of CO

**Step 4:** Participate in a comprehensive foster family assessment

### Step 1: Orientation

You will attend an orientation with the county department or private child placement agency where you choose to pursue the family certification. Along with other prospective foster and adoptive parents, you'll learn:

- What foster care and adoption means and your roles and responsibilities as a parent
- About the children who are placed in out-of-home care (their backgrounds and ages)
- What the certification process involves, such as the application form, the possible costs, the required training classes, and the family assessment
- How the child's caseworker and the foster care resource caseworkers will work with and support you and your family
- The necessary legal procedures
- About assistance and resources available to foster and adoptive parents
- About permanency, concurrent planning, and situations where children may be placed in a foster home for temporary care and later become legally free for adoption

### Step 2: The Application

The Colorado Department of Human Services Application to Care For Children doesn't take long and is free to complete. The county department or private child placement agency where you choose to pursue the family certification will provide you with an application. **Every applicant will have a Colorado and national background check for prior criminal and child abuse records.**

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<sup>2</sup> All information taken from [www.ChangeALifeForever.org](http://www.ChangeALifeForever.org), a web site of the Colorado Department of Human Services.

### **Step 3: Training Classes**

Foster and adoptive parents are required to attend training classes as part of the certification process. The classes are taught by experienced child welfare professionals. In addition to helping to prepare you and your family, the training covers topics including legal processes and issues, child growth and development, discipline, parenting and family dynamics, the importance of the team approach, working with the birth family, individual differences, as well as the challenges and the rewards of fostering and adopting.

### **Step 4: Family Assessment**

A family assessment – also called a "home study" – is the process that helps us find appropriate families for the children who are in out-of-home care. Information is gathered through individual and joint interviews with a caseworker or another professional who will visit your home.

Here are some of the areas covered in the family assessment:

- Social history, background, personal characteristics, and values
- Problem solving and communication skills
- Parenting skills and family preparation
- Children and other people living in the home
- Family relationships and family support network
- Physical and social environment
- Demographics and birth family

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Foster care maintenance payments**

To assist you with the costs of caring for a child while in out-of-home care, the county department of human/social services who has legal custody of the child provides certified foster families with foster care maintenance reimbursements, medical coverage for the child, a clothing allowance and assistance in locating resources for other special expenses.

### **Medical coverage**

Children in foster care are covered under Medicaid. When a child comes to live with you, you'll receive a health insurance card that will cover doctor's visits, prescriptions, and other medical needs. Medicaid will also cover approved services such as counseling or physical therapy that the child needs.

### **Clothing allowance**

Upon request, you will generally receive an initial clothing allowance to help purchase some of the items the child needs.

### **Special expenses**

Sports, summer programs, after-school activities, school trips, graduation expenses - it all adds up! While the county department can't promise to meet every expense, your caseworker will work with you to find funds for those additional expenses that are important to the child's growth and development.

# Tips on How to Choose an Adoption Agency

Adoption is a life long process for parents and children, and it is important to choose an agency that can help you assess your readiness to adopt and has the expertise to help you through the process. Child placement agencies must meet the licensing standards for Child Placement Agencies to provide adoption services in Colorado. A personal evaluation prior to selection of an agency will generally lead to positive results for families. The following points may be helpful in choosing an agency:

## **1. Learn about adoption and the issues involved**

- Read books and articles on adoption
- Attend an adoptive parents' group
- Talk to other adoptive parents
- Attend agency orientation and information meetings

## **2. Determine the type of child you are interested in adopting**

- Infant or older child
- Domestic or International
- Special needs (emotional problems, mental or physical handicaps) or minimal problems.

## **3. Contact the agencies and learn about their programs.**

- Ask about any requirements/restrictions on adoptive parents such as length of marriage, age, etc.
- Ask for brochures on their program
- Attend orientation/information meetings



## **4. Evaluate the agency's program**

- Ask about the steps in the agency's process such as orientation, application, study, parenting classes and the estimated time frames involved. Make a list of special questions you want answered.
- Make sure the agency is licensed; ask when was the last time the agency was visited by a representative from the licensing unit.
- Find out if complaints have been filed against the agency and if so, how they were resolved.
- Find out the staffs' education, background and experience in adoption.
- Ask about the services the agency gives to birth parents and evaluate the completeness and sensitivity of this work.
- Learn the costs involved for the screening, orientation meeting, home study, supervisory visits, court reports, educational groups, services to and expenses in connection with birth parents in designated adoptions, extra work in connection with interstate placement and other possible expenses. Obtain written detailed information on all costs involved including the agency's policy on refunds.
- Ask about any support groups the agency facilitates and any post finalization services they might offer.
- If possible, talk to other adoptive parents about their experience with the agency.

## **5. After you have chosen the agency**

- Keep in regular contact with the agency but be realistic with the staff's time.
- If you have a complaint or are dissatisfied, talk honestly to the person with whom you are working and, if this is unsatisfactory, than talk to the director.

## Agency and Ministry Overview

<b>Adams County</b>	
	<p>There are many children in our community who need safe, nurturing families who will host and support them as a foster family or provide a permanent home through adoption.</p> <p>In Adams County, 600 to 800 children are in the foster care system each month. At any given time, 40 - 50 children are available for adoption in Adams County. We ask that you answer our call for help.</p> <p>We are convinced that if the people in our community understand that they do not have to be perfect to be a perfect parent, they'll realize they do have what it takes to be foster or adoptive parents. From infants and toddlers to youth and teens, each child deserves someone to take care of them and a loving place to call home. Together, we can make a difference. <i>On behalf of our children, thank you!</i></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>          303.412.KIDS (5437)  <a href="mailto:Diane.Hansen@dss.co.adams.co.us">Diane.Hansen@dss.co.adams.co.us</a>  <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@dss.co.adams.co.us">Elizabeth.Miller@dss.co.adams.co.us</a>  <a href="mailto:Renee.Teague@dss.co.adams.co.us">Renee.Teague@dss.co.adams.co.us</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Service Area: Adams County</b></p>
<b>Arapahoe County Department of Human Services</b>	
	<p>Arapahoe and Jefferson County Departments of Human Services have joined forces to recruit foster and adoptive homes for children who need to be removed from harmful environments. On average, there are more than 1,000 children combined in out-of-home care and 60 children awaiting adoption in Arapahoe and Jefferson County at any given time. The children needing adoptive families are generally older and have been in foster care for some time awaiting a permanent adoptive home. Foster families are also needed to care for children temporarily with the possibility of adopting if these children become legally freed for adoption.</p> <p>Please check out our website to see photos and information about our waiting kids, and sign up for one of our free Information Nights to learn more about making a difference in the life of a child!</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Mindy Heckler,</i>  <i>Adoption Recruiter</i>          14980 E. Alameda Dr.          Aurora, CO 80012          (303) 636-1661          303-636-1KID  <a href="mailto:mheckler@co.arapahoe.co.us">mheckler@co.arapahoe.co.us</a>  <a href="http://www.collaborativefostercare.com">www.collaborativefostercare.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Service area: Arapahoe County</b></p>

**Bethany Christian Services Colorado**



**Contact Information:**

*Heather Hailes,*  
*Foster Care Coordinator*  
(303) 221-0734 Denver office  
(720) 256-2654 Heather  
Fax: (303) 221-0960  
[hhails@bethany.org](mailto:hhails@bethany.org)  
[www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)  
Colorado Springs Office:  
(719) 591-7595  
Grand Junction Office:  
(970) 986-2713

Bethany Christian Services is a national organization with offices in over 30 states. Here in Colorado, Bethany has local offices in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction that serve the entire state. We offer adoption services for domestic, international, and embryo adoptions as well as birthparent counseling and post-adoption services. Another primary service of Bethany Colorado is our foster care program, licensing and supervising over 50 families to provide foster care homes to children from many Colorado counties. Within our foster care program, we also work with many families adopting waiting children through the foster care system of Colorado.

Bethany exists to manifest the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services. We would love the opportunity to work with you as you pursue God's plan for your family.

**Service Area: Colorado (offices in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction)**

**Broomfield County**



**Contact Information:**

*Sherry Bethurum*  
*Foster Care Coordinator*  
Broomfield Health and Human  
Services Department  
(720) 887-2266  
[sbethurum@broomfield.org](mailto:sbethurum@broomfield.org)  
Ronda Burgin  
(720) 887-2238  
[rburgin@broomfield.org](mailto:rburgin@broomfield.org)

Broomfield Health and Human Services works with community leaders to create successful strategies in an effort to support children who are in foster care.

As the community continues to grow, support of children in foster care continues to be a need. Foster care provides protective services for children. Foster parents provide 24-hour temporary care for children who cannot remain in their own homes due to neglect, abuse, or other significant family problems. The goal of Broomfield Health and Human Services is to strengthen the family of origin to safely return children to their own homes.

*Become a foster and/or adoptive parent for Colorado's children. You can change a life forever.*

**Service Area: Broomfield County**



**Catholic Charities**



**Contact Information:**

*Melissa Maile,*  
*Director of Child Welfare Services*  
 4045 Pecos Street  
 Denver, CO 80211  
 (303) 742-0823 x2050  
 (303) 742-4373 fax  
[mmaile@ccdenver.org](mailto:mmaile@ccdenver.org)  
[www.ccdenv.org](http://www.ccdenv.org)

Catholic Charities Foster Care Program is designed to certify foster and foster adopt families who provide a stable, safe and nurturing environment for the child while a permanent plan is made for the child. Our program provides services to children ages 0-18 years old that are in the custody of a County Department of Human Services.

**Goal:** Assist and support the County Department of Human Services to facilitate concurrent planning for children in foster care in order to achieve permanence through reunification or alternate placement including adoption.

**Goal:** To recruit and retain appropriate resource families for foster children.

**Goal:** To provide ongoing support and education to foster parents while certified with our agency.

In order to achieve these goals, the Foster Care Program provides the following services:

**To Children in Foster Care:** case management, treatment planning, social, emotional and developmental support, and therapeutic support.

**To Foster Parents:** education and training, family assessment, certification, case management, multi-system support and therapeutic support.

**Service Area: Denver Metro area**

**Colorado Family Services**



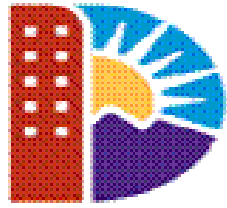
**Contact Information:**

*Lynn Davis,*  
*Licensing Administrator*  
 (303) 229-3965 cell  
*Ron Fritsche, MA*  
*Executive Director, Board Certified*  
*in Professional Counseling*  
 (303) 229-8588 cell  
[ron.fritsche@gmail.com](mailto:ron.fritsche@gmail.com)  
[ColoFamilyServices@gmail.com](mailto:ColoFamilyServices@gmail.com)  
 7220 W Jefferson Ave. Ste 450  
 Lakewood, Colorado 80235  
 (303) 935-3199  
 (303) 935-3199 fax

Colorado Family Services (CFS) is an Evangelical, Christian-oriented Child Placement Agency. We are licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services to license foster homes. We have an emphasis on coordinating foster-adoptions and writing S.A.F.E. Home Studies. We provide foster care and adoptive care in most parts of Colorado.

For a foster adoption in conjunction with a county department of social services the only fee we charge is to cover background checks and the textbook for CPR & First Aid. Thus a typical foster adoption is usually \$150 or less. Our services include core training (16 hours of face-to-face training is required). We also have 4-5 one hour trainings per year and CPR & First Aid on a quarterly basis. We also license people to be foster parents.

**Denver County**



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

*Our Mission:*

To protect Denver's children and youth through services, advocacy, and respect for diversity, while promoting family stability and strengthening family connections to community resources.

All Child Welfare services are consolidated within the Child Welfare Division of the Denver Department of Human Services. This Division has been accredited by the Child Welfare League of America since 1946.

Our goal is to work cooperatively with families and to provide services to keep families together. Working in collaboration with community agencies, the Denver Police Department and Denver Juvenile Court, all allegations of child maltreatment are addressed through services designed specifically to identify and to protect victims from further abuse. These services often include substance abuse and mental health treatment for parents and children, day treatment, home-based services, and sexual abuse treatment. The Department provides temporary placement of a child out of the child's home when needed, and works toward a permanent plan for that child.

The Child Welfare Division is comprised of five major sub-divisions: Intake, Child Protection, Youth Services, Operations, and Resources, coordinating services such as foster care, kinship care, adoption, etc.

**Contact Information:**

*B. Ann Pierce,*  
*Adoption Liaison*  
Richard T. Castro Building  
1200 Federal Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80204  
(720) 944-2306  
[Barbara.Pierce@denvergov.org](mailto:Barbara.Pierce@denvergov.org)

**Service Area: Denver County**

**El Paso County Department of Human Services**



**Contact Information:**

*Yvonne Sletta*  
(719) 444-5973  
[YvonneSletta@elpasoco.com](mailto:YvonneSletta@elpasoco.com)  
<http://dhs.elpasoco.com/>

The El Paso County Department of Human Services assists people in our community who are seeking resources to meet some of life's many demands. We work to ensure our county's residents are able to live and grow in an environment free of extreme poverty, abuse or neglect. We accomplish this by using local, State and Federal programs that are available to El Paso County residents. We strive to view the family unit as a whole and provide the best assistance through combining all the support and services we have available in an integrated and efficient manner.

With regard to waiting children and adoption, the Department serves the Colorado Springs and surrounding El Paso County area. Although we do not have any of our own foster and adoptive homes, we contract with nine child placement agencies in the area to provide these homes.

**Service area: El Paso County**

**Jefferson County Human Services**



**Contact Information:**

*Beth Cassese,*  
*Adoption Recruiter*  
(303) 271-4038  
[bcassese@jeffco.us](mailto:bcassese@jeffco.us)  
[www.collaborativefostercare.com](http://www.collaborativefostercare.com)  
(303) 636-1KID

Arapahoe and Jefferson County Departments of Human Services have joined forces to recruit foster and adoptive homes for children who need to be removed from harmful environments. On average, there are more than 1,000 children combined in out-of-home care and 60 children awaiting adoption in Arapahoe and Jefferson County at any given time.

The children needing adoptive families are generally older and have been in foster care for some time awaiting a permanent adoptive home. Foster families are also needed to care for children temporarily with the possibility of adopting if these children become legally freed for adoption.

Please check out our website to see photos and information about our waiting kids, and sign up for one of our free Information Nights to learn more about making a difference in the life of a child!

**Service Area: Jefferson County**

## Larimer County



### Contact Information:

*Ruben Guerrero – Foster Care  
Recruitment Coordinator*  
2555 Midpoint Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
(970) 219-0803  
Fax: (970) 498-6988  
[rguerrero@larimer.org](mailto:rguerrero@larimer.org)  
[www.larimer.org/dhs.cyf](http://www.larimer.org/dhs.cyf)

Larimer County family foster homes provide temporary care for children from infancy through age 18 who have been temporarily removed from their families due to physical, sexual or emotional abuse, parent neglect, or the inability of the parent to care for the child.

These foster parents offer companionate day to day support and care until the child can either reunite with his or her birth family, be placed with extended family, find an adoptive family, or transition to independent living.

The Foster Care Program provides recruitment, training, certification and retention services for family foster care providers and adoptive families.

Adoptive families have the love, attitude, stamina and support to develop skills to effectively deal with the many behaviors and feelings displayed by children and youth. Services and support are provided to adoptive families to help the child/children transition to their forever family.

**Service area: Larimer County**

## Lutheran Family Services



Lutheran Family Services of Colorado is a non-profit organization serving children, adults, and families since 1948. The agency began as an adoption agency 60 years ago.

Since 1974, LFS has provided foster care services for abused and neglected children as a Child Placement Agency contracted by the Colorado Department of Human Services.



The foster care/foster adoption services are designed to provide healing, help and hope to children and their families. In the event the child is unable to return home and parental rights are terminated, the foster family can be considered as an adoptive placement for the child.

LFS is a Pikes Peak United Way Member Agency, making a difference in the community.

**Service Area: Offices in Fort Collins, Denver, and Colorado Springs**

### Contact Information:

*Julie Witkowski,*  
*Director – Foster Care Program*  
2032 Lowe Street Ste 200  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
(970) 266-1788  
Fax (970) 266-1799  
[julie.witkowski@lfsco.org](mailto:julie.witkowski@lfsco.org)  
[www.LFSCO.ORG](http://www.LFSCO.ORG)  
*Metro Denver Office:*  
363 S. Harlan Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80226  
(303) 922-3433  
[adoption@lfsco.com](mailto:adoption@lfsco.com)  
*Colorado Springs Office:*  
*Gwendolyn S. White,*  
*Foster Care Program Director*  
108 E. St. Vrain Street #21  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
(719) 227-7571  
[gwendolyn.white@lfsco.org](mailto:gwendolyn.white@lfsco.org)

<b>Maple Star</b>	
	<p><i>Open your mind, Open your heart. Then open your door...to a child.</i></p> <p>With you as a specialized foster parent/family, you and your family become the most important, positive influence in a child's chaotic life. By giving of yourself, the child will learn that there is a safe family to count on. This unconditional security is something most of our children in foster care may have never had. This is not an easy job. Parenting never is. But with our intense, ongoing foster family training and unlimited support, everyone can succeed. Adoptive families provide love, discipline, direction, and support to the children placed in their homes. Providing this care helps children develop both a positive self-image and the necessary skills to function independently and make positive contributions to their community.</p> <p>Won't you be the healing family that every child deserves?</p> <p><b>Service area: Front Range</b></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b> Denver Metro: <i>Krisshetta Gilliam</i> 2250 S. Oneida St. Suite 100 Denver, CO 80224 (720) 212-6795 cell (303) 433-1975 office (303) 433-1980 fax <a href="mailto:kgilliam@maplestar.net">kgilliam@maplestar.net</a> Southern Colorado <i>Jeremy Chisum</i> 2220 E. Bijou St. Suite 221 Colorado Springs, CO 80909 (719) 271-9644 cell (719) 635-6080 office (719) 635-6081 fax <a href="mailto:Jchisum@maplestar.net">Jchisum@maplestar.net</a> <a href="http://www.maplestar.net">www.maplestar.net</a></p>	
<b>Pueblo County Department of Social Services Adoption Unit</b>	
	<p>The goal of the Pueblo County Department of Social Services Adoption Unit is to establish permanency for children who are in the custody of Pueblo County Department of Social Services and are in need of an adoptive home. Pueblo County Adoption Unit will locate adoptive family resources for waiting children, facilitate placement of a child in an adoptive home, identify special needs of children, and make referral to community resources. Pueblo County will provide financial assistance in finalizing the adoption through the Subsidized Adoption Program. An adoption subsidy and Medicaid benefits are available for children with special needs.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b> <i>Karen S. Hiraki, Adoption/Visitation Center Supervisor</i> Pueblo County Department of Social Services (719) 583-4716 (719) 583-4717 Fax</p>	<p><b>Service Area: Pueblo County</b></p>

## Helpful Organizations

<b>Adoption Exchange</b>	
 <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>The Adoption Exchange</b>          Connecting Children and          Families Since 1983       </p>	<p>The Adoption Exchange provides the connection between children who wait and families who adopt. The Adoption Exchange finds families for children who have survived abuse and neglect, provides training and knowledge to permanency planning professionals, and provides information and follow-up support to adoptive families.</p> <p>We are a 26-year-old nonprofit and almost all of our services are free. We recruit families for waiting children on our website and through Wednesday's Child segments, adoption parties, print media and other recruitments. We have a monthly orientation class for families considering adoption.</p> <p>Our extensive post-adoption services are available to families who have adopted from the child welfare system, as well as those who have adopted internationally and through private domestic agencies.</p> <p><b>Service Area: CO, NM, UT, OK, WY, SD, MO, NV</b></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Beth Bacon, Prospective Families</i>  <a href="mailto:beth@adoptex.org">beth@adoptex.org</a>  <i>Denise Leffingwell, Training</i>  <a href="mailto:denise@adoptex.org">denise@adoptex.org</a>  <i>Lisa Tokpa, Project Director</i>  <a href="mailto:ltokpa@adoptex.org">ltokpa@adoptex.org</a>          14232 East Evans Avenue          Aurora, CO 80014          (303) 755-4756          (800)-451-5246          Fax: (303) 755-1339  <a href="http://www.adoptex.org">www.adoptex.org</a></p>	
<b>Colorado State Department of Human Services</b>	
 <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>cdhs</b> Colorado Department          of Human Services  <i>people who help people</i> </p>	<p>The Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare Services, constitutes a specialized set of services that are intended to strengthen the ability of a family to protect and care for their own children, minimize harm to children and youth, and ensure timely permanency planning. Services are aimed at stabilizing the family situation and strengthening the family's capacity to care for their children. When safety is not possible within the family, services are focused on the child's need for a stable, permanent home as quickly as possible.</p> <p><b>Service Area: Colorado</b></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Laurel Moore,</i>  <i>Foster &amp; Adoptive Parent</i>  <i>Recruitment &amp; Retention Specialist</i>          (303) 866-4306          (303) 396-4900          (303) 866-5563 fax  <a href="mailto:laurel.moore@state.co.us">laurel.moore@state.co.us</a>  <i>Connie Vigil, Adoption Specialist</i>          (303) 866-3209          1575 Sherman St.          Denver, CO 80203  <a href="http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/childwelfare/">www.cdhs.state.co.us/childwelfare/</a></p>	

## Focus on the Family



### Contact Information:

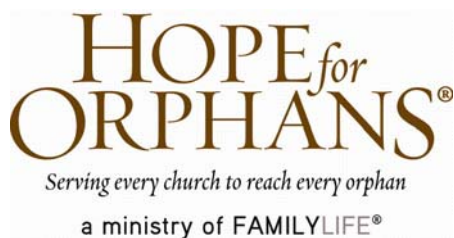
[www.iCareAboutOrphans.org](http://www.iCareAboutOrphans.org)  
[orphancare@family.org](mailto:orphancare@family.org)

At Focus on the Family we believe that every child deserves to know the love of a forever family. Therefore, our goal is to raise awareness of and recruit families for the children and youth waiting in foster care.

Our awareness and recruiting efforts are complemented by desperately needed post-placement resources for adoptive families that are both biblically based and relevant to their unique struggles. These resources also provide practical ways for churches and individuals to support the adoptive families in their communities.

And while not every family is called to adopt, we believe everyone can play a role through prayer support, mentoring, giving, or mobilizing the church.

## Hope for Orphans, a ministry of FamilyLife





### Contact Information:

*John Moore – Content Manager*  
2001 W. Plano Pkwy. Suite #3442  
Plano, TX 75075  
[jmoore@hopefororphans.org](mailto:jmoore@hopefororphans.org)  
[www.hopefororphans.org](http://www.hopefororphans.org)

At Hope for Orphans, we want to serve your church by helping you do what God has called you to do in serving children in foster care here in the United States and orphans around the world. We provide biblically-based materials about adoption, foster care, and orphan care, and we build relationships with partner organizations that we can introduce to you in order to help you live out God's call for your church. Through our *If You Were Mine* DVD Adoption Workshop, you can learn more about adoption from a biblical perspective. We also have various resources designed to help you launch an effective orphans ministry in your church. To find out more about how we can serve you and your church, please visit [HopeForOrphans.org](http://HopeForOrphans.org).



<b>LifeBridge Christian Church</b>	
 <p><b>LifeBridge</b> CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p>	<p>LifeBridge Christian Church's "Foster and Adoption Support Group" meets the first Wednesday of every month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn from specialists.</li> <li>• Share and learn from other foster or adoptive families.</li> <li>• Discover new resources.</li> <li>• Get the support of prayer.</li> <li>• Time: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>• Childcare is provided.</li> </ul> <p>You are welcome at any of these events. Please RSVP w/ Julie Mavis.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Julie Mavis</i>  10345 Ute Hwy.  Longmont, CO 80504  (970) 686-5519  <a href="mailto:Juliemavis23@gmail.com">Juliemavis23@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.lbcc.org">www.lbcc.org</a></p>	
<b>Project 1.27</b>	
 <p><b>Project</b> 1.27 answering God's call for adoption™</p>	<p>Project 1.27 is a ministry from the Churches of Colorado to the Orphans of Colorado.</p> <p>Project 1.27 provides:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Adoption training that meets and exceeds state standards,</li> <li>2) Streamlining of adoption paperwork &amp; administration,</li> <li>3) Christian-based and State-certified parent training in a church,</li> <li>4) Experience in working with 12 of the largest Colorado counties and Placement Agencies,</li> <li>5) Guidance to build adoption ministries and family support groups in churches everywhere,</li> <li>6) Training for friends, family, and church leaders, and</li> <li>7) Connections to other Christian support resources.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  3651 S. Colorado Blvd.  Englewood, CO 80113  (303) 256-1225  (303) 788-0100 Fax  <a href="mailto:info@project127.com">info@project127.com</a>  <a href="http://www.project127.com">www.project127.com</a></p>	<p>Project 1.27 is a statewide initiative working to empty the pool of waiting children in Colorado foster care by the year 2014 by recruiting, training and supporting Christian parents to achieve successful adoptions.</p>

## Next Steps

Each of the adoption agencies and ministries listed in this attendee guide has specifically identified the next step for an interested family to take as you explore your role in meeting the needs of a waiting child.

Please utilize the information on the following pages of this guide and your opportunity to interact directly with those organizations today to select the agency that seems best for your family.

Next Steps:

- Visit the agency booths
- Determine which agency you prefer to work with
- Obtain any relevant paperwork
- Find out their orientation and training schedule

**If you are planning to further explore adoption, please fill out the green interest form and place it in the marked boxes throughout the church or hand them to one of our event volunteers.**

**It is important to do this even if you are not sure which agency you prefer to work with yet.**

For more information on any of the orientations, trainings, or other events listed on the pages that follow, please contact the agency hosting the particular event. Thank you again for your willingness to help Colorado's waiting kids!

## September 2010

### **Adoption Exchange**

- Visit [www.adoptex.org](http://www.adoptex.org) for the most updated training schedule
- Wednesday, Sept. 22 – Transitioning from Foster to Adoptive Parenting, 6-9pm, Aurora
- Friday, Sept. 24 – Family Diversity in Education, 9am-2pm, Aurora
- Friday, Sept. 24 – AdoptCare Network Training, Advanced, 8am-3pm, Aurora

### **Arapahoe and Jefferson County**

- Wednesdays, Sept. 1 – Oct. 20, Pre-Service Training Series, 6-9pm. Golden
- Thursdays, Sept. 30 – Nov. 18, Pre-Service Training Series, 6-9pm, Littleton

### **Catholic Charities**

- Wednesday, Sept. 15 – Queen of Peace, 7-8pm, Aurora

### **Colorado Family Services**

- Saturday, Sept. 25 – CORE Training, Part 1, 9am-5pm, Lakewood

### **Denver County**

#### **Foster & Adoptive Parent Information Meetings:**

- Monday, Sept. 20 – SW Family to Family Site, 6-8pm, Spanish Meeting
- Friday, Sept. 24 – Grace United Lutheran Church, 10-12pm
- Tuesday, Sept. 28 – Northeast Family to Family Site, 5:30-7:30pm

### **Project 1.27**

- To register for the training events, please visit [www.project127.com](http://www.project127.com)
- Thursday, Sept. 23 – Parent Orientation, 7-9pm, Greenwood Village

## October 2010

### **Adams County**

- Thursday, Oct. 7 – Foster & Adoption Information Workshop, 12-1:30pm
- Thursday, Oct. 21 – Foster & Adoption Information Workshop, 6:30-8pm

### **Adoption Exchange**

- Visit [www.adoptex.org](http://www.adoptex.org) for the most updated training schedule
- Tuesday, Oct. 5 – Helping Children Cope, 6-9pm, Aurora
- Thursday, Oct. 21 – Effective Matching Practices, 9am-12pm, Aurora

### **Arapahoe and Jefferson County**

- Wednesday, Oct. 6 – Information Night, 6-7:30pm, Arvada

### **Bethany Christian Services**

- Wednesday, Oct. 6 – Information Meeting, 6-7pm, Denver

### **Colorado Family Services**

- Saturday, Oct. 9 – CORE Training, Part 2, 9am-4pm, Lakewood

### **Denver County**

#### **Foster & Adoptive Parent Information Meetings:**

- Tuesday, Oct. 5 – Capitol Hill Family to Family Site, 6-8pm, Spanish Meeting
- Wednesday, Oct. 6 - Capitol Hill Family to Family Site, 6-8pm
- Thursday, Oct. 7 – Denver Indian Family Resource Center, 6-7:30pm
- Saturday, Oct. 9 – Denver Human Services, 10am-12pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 13 – NE Family to Family Site, 6-8pm
- Monday, Oct. 18 – SW Family to Family Site, 6-8pm
- Thursday, Oct. 21 – Denver Human Services, 5:30-7:30pm
- Friday, Oct. 22 – Grace United Lutheran Church, 10-12pm
- Tuesday, Oct. 26 – NE Family to Family Site, 5:30-7:30pm

### **Project 1.27**

- To register for the training events, please visit [www.project127.com](http://www.project127.com)
- Friday & Saturday, Oct. 8-9 – Adoption Core Training, Location TBD
- Friday & Saturday, Oct. 22-23 – Project 1.27 Core Training, Location TBD

## November 2010

### **Adams County**

- Thursday, Nov. 4 – Foster & Adoption Information Workshop, 12-1:30pm
- Thursday, Nov. 18 – Foster & Adoption Information Workshop, 6:30-8pm

### **Arapahoe and Jefferson County**

- Tuesday, Nov. 9 – Information Night, 6-7:30pm, Littleton

### **Bethany Christian Services**

- Wednesday, Nov. 3 – Information Meeting, 6-7pm, Denver

### **Catholic Charities**

- Wednesday, Nov. 17 – Nativity of our Lord, 7-8pm, Broomfield

### **Colorado Family Services**

- Saturday, Nov. 13 – 5 hour on-going training, 10am-3pm, Lakewood

### **Denver County**

#### **Foster & Adoptive Parent Information Meetings:**

- Tuesday, Nov. 2 – Capitol Hill Family to Family Site, 6-8pm, Spanish Meeting
- Wednesday, Nov. 3 - Capitol Hill Family to Family Site, 6-8pm
- Thursday, Nov. 4 – Denver Indian Family Resource Center, 6-7:30pm
- Wednesday, Nov. 10 – NE Family to Family Site, 6-8pm
- Saturday, Nov. 13 – Denver Human Services, 10am-12pm
- Monday, Nov. 15 – SW Family to Family Site, 6-8pm, Spanish Meeting
- Thursday, Nov. 18 – Denver Human Services, 5:30-7:30pm
- Friday, Nov. 19 – Grace United Lutheran Church, 10-12pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 23 – NE Family to Family Site, 5:30-7:30pm

### **Focus on the Family**

- Sunday, Nov. 7 – Orphan Sunday, All Day, [www.CryoftheOrphan.org](http://www.CryoftheOrphan.org)

## December 2010

### **Adams County**

-Thursday, Dec. 2 – Foster & Adoption Information Workshop, 12-1:30pm

### **Arapahoe and Jefferson County**

-Wednesday, Dec. 8 – Information Night, 6-7:30pm, Wheat Ridge

### **Bethany Christian Services**

-Wednesday, Dec. 1 – Information Meeting, 6-7pm, Denver

### **Denver County**

#### **Foster & Adoptive Parent Information Meetings:**

-Wednesday, Dec. 1 – Capitol Hill Family to Family Site, 6-8pm

-Tuesday, Dec. 7 – Capitol Hill Family to Family Site, 6-8pm, Spanish Meeting

-Wednesday, Dec. 8 – NW Family to Family Site, 6-8pm

-Thursday, Dec. 9 – Denver Indian Family Resource Center, 6-7:30pm

-Saturday, Dec. 11 – Denver Human Services, 10-12pm

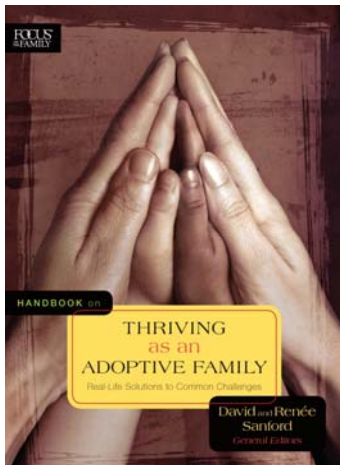
-Thursday, Dec. 16 – Denver Human Services, 5:30-7:30pm

-Friday, Dec. 17 – Grace United Lutheran Church, 10-12pm

-Monday, Dec. 20 – SW Family to Family Site, 6-8pm, Spanish Meeting

-Tuesday, Dec. 28 – NE Family to Family Site, 5:30-7:30pm

## Focus on the Family Support Resources

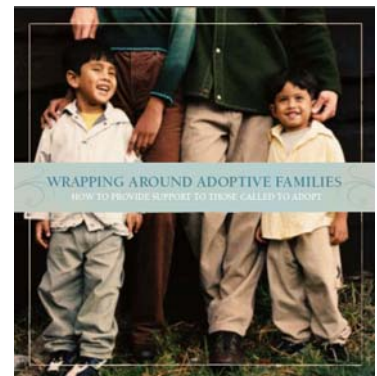


### ***Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family***

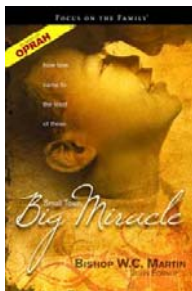
Adoption is a high calling from God, and the Christian home is primary soil for planting seeds of faith. But how will post-adoption challenges affect this growth? Many families do not feel adequately prepared for unexpected challenges like a child who has been adopted fighting with his new siblings, not wanting to be touched, or showing signs of reactive attachment disorder (RAD). Packed with practical advice, ideas and resources, this distinctively Christian book is an important parenting resource that provides comprehensive, topical, Bible-based solutions for the inevitable challenges after adoption.

### **Wrapping Around Adoptive Families**

There are many different ways to minister to God's orphan children and to the adoptive families that have welcomed these children home. This booklet makes it clear that struggling adoptive families need their church families to support them during times of trials. While the suggestions in this booklet may not apply to all situations, they represent a general "cry of the heart" of adoptive families who welcomed home an emotionally wounded or struggling child. The goal is to provide practical guidance for churches seeking effective ways to support adoptive families.



### **Other Resources**



*Small Town, Big Miracle*



*Castaway Kid*



*Finding Home*

### **Counseling for Families in Need**

Families seeking someone to talk with can call 1-800-A-Family (232-6459) and ask to speak with one of our licensed counselors.



**If you know a Colorado family that wasn't able to attend the event today but would like to know more, encourage them to visit [www.WaitNoMoreOnline.org](http://www.WaitNoMoreOnline.org) to hear all the speakers, learn about adoption from foster care and start the process of adoption by filling out a simple online form.**



**Wait No More Interest Form**  
**Your Passport to Initiating the Process of Adopting from Foster Care\***

Date	First Name(s)	Last Name
Physical Address		
Address:		City:
County:		Zip:
Mailing Address (If different)		
Address:		City:
County:		Zip:
Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		Work Phone 2:
Cell Phone:		Cell Phone 2:
Email:		Email 2:
Best way and time of day to reach you:		
Are you interested in a particular child? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, give the child's name: If no, what type of child would be of interest to you?		
Are you open to a sibling group? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Number of children desired: Age range you are interested in: Race/ethnicity: Gender Preferred: <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Either		
Please list the agency you prefer to work with:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Preference		

In order for us to best serve you, please **do one of the following**:

- Drop this form into one of the receptacles before you leave today
- Fax it to 719-548-5947
- Mail it to Focus on the Family Attn: Katie Porter Colorado Springs 80995

\*Initiation of the Process will be followed by several steps including, but not limited to, attending an orientation and submitting an official application. Please see the agency of your choice for additional information and thank you for initiating the process of adoption from foster care.

Please note: Your personal information will not be shared. It will only be used to contact you regarding adoption from foster care.