



Little City Foster Care & Adoption Program

FOSTERING FUTURES

Foster Care

S U M M E R 2 0 2 4 E D I T I O N

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

CARRIE WALLACE-ONIFADE, DIRECTOR OF
FOSTER CARE - MATTESON/JOLIET

Our foster care team has worked hard this year and has made some positive strides with returning children to their home of origin and finalizing guardianships and adoptions. We have a good solid team that understands the importance of family preservation and giving parents the opportunity to get their lives back on track. We had a great time with our agency back-to-school Kids Fest and we are excited about what's to come for the holiday season.

Generally, we have all children in our care create a wish list of their desires with the expectation is that we get all items requested. As a team we're continuing to grow and expand our resources to ensure we are giving every client the support they need to thrive. I appreciate this team of amazing people and our 2024 continues to look promising.



Carrie Wallace-Onifade, Director of Foster Care, Matteson/Joliet (left) and Valencia Randolph, Director of Foster Care, Chicago (right)

WHAT'S NEW

Was it just us, or did summer pass quickly? We were busy with many events this spring and summer, including: our Alternative Spring Break skating party, Aurora Pride Parade, Foster Parent Appreciation month events, Joliet Kids Fest, and our annual Kids Fest. We had a blast celebrating with current foster parents and youth, and working hard to recruit new foster parents to join our incredible team.

We have also welcomed four new caseworkers across all three of our offices, as well as a new licensing representative. Keep an eye out for our new team members as we continue to grow! We are busy with back-to-school activities and – can you believe it? –preparing for the holidays! Check out our Event Recaps on the next page to see what we've been up to.

EVENT RECAP

SPRING BREAK SKATING PARTY

In March we held another skating party at the MLK Skating Center. Staff, caregivers, and youth got together to skate and enjoy some pizza.



AURORA PRIDE PARADE

In June we walked in the Aurora Pride Parade! We love showing our support for the LGBTQIA+ community and heard lots of support for foster care. Stay tuned for our participation in more Pride events!



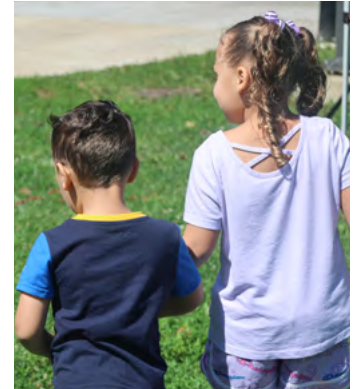
FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION MONTH

June is also Foster Parent Appreciation Month and we had so much fun showing our gratitude for all of our hardworking caregivers. We held an event at Bar Louie, attached to our Matteson office, and a great group of caregivers showed up to mingle, enjoy food, and build vital relationships with each other. We even had a few (adopted) youth show up in their finest outfits! Thank you to all of our caregivers for everything you do every day. We couldn't do this work without you.



JOLIET KIDS FEST

In August we attended the Joliet Kids Fest alongside many other community groups and partners. The weather was hot but we were happy to talk with so many members of the Joliet community! We made slime, gave out candy, and spread the word of foster care.



ANNUAL KIDS FEST

Every summer we hold our annual Kids Fest and this was one of our best yet! We had a DJ, magician, yard games, free school supplies, great food, and more. This is always one of our favorite events of the year and we love seeing all of our youth and families come out to have a great time together. We had over 50 attendees this year, not including staff!

THANK YOU DONORS

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 Tori Kramer (PPM)
 Williamson/ Zolkowski Family

PROGRAM UPDATES

CLINICAL

Our Community-Based Clinical Services Program was recently awarded a grant for more than \$600,000 to expand our clinical service offerings to current and new clients who are Medicaid-eligible. This will allow us to expand our prevention, intervention, and aftercare mental and behavioral (ABA) health services to youth and their families. We are very excited and proud to have received this grant and are already hard at work to put it to use. We are planning to offer a sensory room, play therapy space, and individual therapy rooms in order to provide even higher quality clinical health services. We are also hard at work hiring more clinicians to support these new endeavors and offerings. Stay tuned for more updates!

In September, we will also begin our Foster Parent Support Group. This virtual support group will provide a place for foster parents and caregivers to come together and discuss topics that impact their care of youth. Please reach out to your licensing representative or caseworker for more information.

CASE MANAGEMENT

This summer, we have continued to maintain supportive placements for our youth, which means fewer moves and placement changes, and a higher likelihood of success for our youth. 100% of our youth have remained free from abuse and neglect while in our care. We continue to work hard to license our relative caregivers, as well as recruit and license non-relative foster parents in order to continue to provide homes for all of our youth.

FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT

Virtual Information Sessions – Little City continues to host monthly Prospective Foster Parent Information Sessions as well as one-on-one sessions as needed.

Referral Incentive – Licensed foster parents qualify for our \$500 Foster Parent Referral Bonus.

We are always looking for partnerships and donors. Remember, there are many ways to support youth in foster care – become a volunteer, a donor, a mentor, a respite provider, or a foster parent!

Contact us at Foster@LittleCity.org to learn more!



PERMANENCY

Since July 1, 2024, we have had 8 children exit foster care through adoption or guardianship. We have also had 2 youth return home and 1 youth exit foster care through emancipation. We currently have 4 youth who are set to close their cases through adoption in the next 30 days, and the permanency team is currently processing 26 subsidies.

LICENSING

2024 TRAINING TUESDAYS:

Trainings are offered the 2nd Tuesday of every month (TRAINING CREDITS PROVIDED)
11am - 1pm via ZOOM | 6pm - 8pm via ZOOM

LCF MONTHLY TRAINING FOSTER PARENT 2024:

SEPTEMBER: No Training
OCTOBER: Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC)
NOVEMBER: Adoption Panel
DECEMBER: Holidays! (No Training)

QUARTERLY TRAININGS:

PRE-SERVICE: To be Announced! Ask your licensing representative for more information.

SPECIALTY TRAINING - TBA:

CPR/FIRST AID | IN-PERSON: 2nd Saturday of every month by appointment
CPI | ONLINE/ZOOM: 4th Saturday of every month

RSVP FOR TRAININGS:

BEckman@littlecity.org or CColin@littlecity.org



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VIEW OUR
2024 FOSTER PARENT LAW
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The FCAD Program has licensed eight new foster parents. Of those, seven families were relative homes and one home was licensed to accept related or unrelated children.

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OR VISIT OUR FCAD PAGE ON LITTLE CITY.ORG

CHICAGO OFFICE

700 N. Sacramento Blvd, Suite 201
Chicago, IL 60612
P: 773.265.1539

SOUTH SUBURBAN OFFICE

600 W. Holiday Plaza Drive, Suite 350
Matteson, IL 60443
P: 331.276.5080

JOLIET OFFICE

116 N Chicago Street, Suite 301
Joliet, IL 60432
P: 331.276.5078