



Foster Care

Little City Foster Care & Adoption Program

FOSTERING FUTURES

W I N T E R E D I T I O N

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

AMY BOARD, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY -
BASED CLINICAL SERVICES

Happy 2024, Little City Families & Friends!

2023 was a year of both growth and adjustment for Little City's Foster Care & Adoption program. After many changes in 2022, we spent much of 2023 adjusting and settling in to the "new" Little City Foster Care. We said goodbye to some agency staff who have been at Little City for a number of years, and also welcomed many new, passionate and committed individuals. Intake, Recruitment, Licensing and Permanency all came together under our new Director of Placement & Permanency. Our clinical team absorbed Little City's behavioral services and began exploring group services and parent training options. Management staff have worked collaboratively to implement new procedures and expectations that will allow us to better meet the needs of our youth and families, including ways we can best support kids when placement options are limited. While our increased size has made it difficult for us all to come together face to face in the same ways we did in the past, we were thrilled with the turnout for our end of summer picnic in August. As we look forward into 2024, I hope



that we can continue to provide opportunities for connection and strengthening the bonds between our staff, youth, families and community partners so that this "Little City" grows even stronger!

Thank you for your continued commitment and service!

WHAT'S NEW

As we transition into the new year, Little City is happy to recap the impact we made during the last few months of 2023. The Foster Care & Adoption (FCAD) program had six community engagement events: Not-For-profit Hero Networking Night, Joliet Family Fun Fest, Empowering Business Growth Program, Joliet Office Open House, Staff Holiday Party, and our Family Holiday Skate Party. In addition to monthly virtual information orientations, our program successfully gifted holiday presents

to all 223 youth we serve through our annual holiday gift drive, made possible by a gracious grant from Allstate; donations through a longtime partnership with corporate donor PPM/JNAM; donations by agency and staff family and friends and the community at large – thank you!

Check out the next page for Event Recaps!

EVENT RECAP

JOLIET FAMILY FUN FEST

Little City enjoyed a day out at the ballpark for the Joliet Family Fun Fest. Despite the rainy weather, families filled the Slammer's ballpark ready for a Saturday full of music, light bites, games, and giveaways.



HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE/ HOLIDAY CHEER AROUND THE OFFICE

Every year, the Foster Care & Adoption program sends a call to action to community partners, previous donors, family, and friends, to help our program provide holiday gifts to the youth that we serve. Every year, generosity is shown from our gracious donors by fulfilling our Holiday Amazon Wishlist. This year was no different.

External volunteers and Christmas committee staff members wrapped gifts as they poured into the offices. Staff engaged in holiday cheer by decorating their workspaces and while jamming to holiday music.

The Foster Care & Adoption Program would like to thank our amazing donors for continuing to contribute to making our youths' holidays bright!



THANK YOU DONORS

Allstate Grant	Kathryn S. Shrader (PPM)
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JNAM - FA Bulls	Susan DaMario
JNAM Accounting Team	The Tisdahl Family
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Julie A Bruzek (PPM)	Thomas Murphy (JNAM)
Karen S Kiern	Tori Kramer (PPM)
Kathryn Landuyt (PPM)	Williamson/ Zolkowski Family

FAMILY HOLIDAY SKATE PARTY

Youth, families, and staff celebrated the bringing of a new year with our annual Family Holiday Skate Party. Youth and their families enjoyed an afternoon with pizza, juice, and skating, while listening to great tunes. Staff joined in the fun and provided winter hat and glove set giveaways.



STAFF HOLIDAY PARTY



PROGRAM UPDATES

CLINICAL

Social Skills Bootcamp – The clinical team identified six kids (boys aged 9-12) already in therapy who could stand to improve their social skills. Out of the six, we had four who committed to the group. During a two-day winter break program, youth were tasked with working on social skills and making and maintaining friendships. The boys said the group was “fun” and the skills learned were “important”!

The clinical team has a new intern, Erin McNamara, joining us for the first half of 2024. She will assist us with expediting and expanding our services by developing new program materials and supporting the intake process of new clients.

The Clinical Team is fully staffed with mental health therapists and two BCBA therapists to provide behavioral therapy. The program is staffing up to enhance our ability to provide services to eligible community members who have managed care (MCO) insurance.

CASE MANAGEMENT

At the close of 2023, Little City welcomed 17 youth into the FCAD program. The program has a 90% placement stability rate, meaning most of the youth served in our program remain stable in their homes.

The program has had zero indications of abuse and neglect of youth in care, and youth who have returned home have remained safely home with their family members.

In the last six months we've had 14 adoptions/guardianships, plus three return homes and two emancipations!

FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT

Virtual Information Session – Little City continues to host our monthly Prospective Foster Parent Information Session every third Thursday of the month.

Referral Incentive – Licensed Foster Parents qualify for Little City's Foster Parent \$500 Referral Bonus.

Contact us at foster@littlecitcity.org to learn more!

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:

JAN: FIP/Medication Management

FEB: What is Trauma?

MARCH: Expectations-Traditional vs. Specialized

APRIL: Development Milestones

MAY: Transitions

JUNE: Behavioral Techniques

JULY: No Training

AUGUST: Intro to Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)

SEPTEMBER: No Training

OCTOBER: Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC)

NOVEMBER: Adoption Panel

DECEMBER: Holidays! (No Training)

QUARTERLY TRAININGS:

PRE-SERVICE: Jan / April / July / Oct (RSVP Only) Via Zoom

Next pre-service for prospective foster parents - February 2024

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:

DCarter@littlecitcity.org or BEckman@littlecitcity.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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AND 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