



Josiah  
**white's**

fostering  
**futures**



**FAITHFUL**

WINTER 2022

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# FAITHFUL IN THE LITTLE THINGS

- *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

— 1 John 3:18



My first job was very part time. All I had to do was show up once a week to a neighbor's home to pull weeds, trim bushes, mow a small yard, and sweep the driveway. It was easy work, but I had to be reliable, faithful, and dependable. My brother was my supervisor. If I ever missed a day, my brother would step in and take over. I would eventually go on to take over my brother's paper route and later his more full time job where I would receive a real paycheck.

- • • *The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, "Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more." The master was full of praise. "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!"*

— Matthew 25:20-21

The story of the faithful servant in Matthew 25:20-21 teaches us what it means to be faithful. It teaches us that our actions speak louder than our words. As we remain faithful in smaller assignments, we will be given greater opportunities. Looking back, my experiences with my first few jobs taught me that if I was faithful with the small stuff, I could later be trusted with bigger assignments.

I am amazed at the impact that the faithful presence of foster parents, and those who support them, can make in the life of a child or teen. It may be one small gift to a foster child or teen that can make an eternal impact. Perhaps it's the extraordinary care shown in respite care or the afternoon spent mentoring a teen that can plant a seed in helping them realize their inherent worth in Christ. Though no one can fully understand the depths of God's love, we are able to show it to others in simple ways that make it tangible.

Being faithful to what God has called you to in little ways eventually prepares your heart for bigger opportunities. What simple actions or investments can you make today that may lead to greater opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others?



Rick Carder  
Director of Church Engagement

# CREATING NEW POSSIBILITIES *for teens in foster care...*

One month this year, Josiah White's received almost 400 referrals for teens in foster care. This equates to almost twice the number of pre-teen children referred. For the vast majority of these youth, the answer provided to that request was, "I am sorry, we do not currently have a home." There is a need for foster homes for children of all ages, to be sure. However, in the state of Indiana, and nationwide, there is a dire need for foster families who are willing to care for teens.

## *What is the opportunity?*

Foster families who welcome teens into their homes create opportunities for those teens' families to gain stability and skills so that the teens can return home. They also create a space of love and compassion that allows that teen to heal from trauma. A foster home serving teens often creates a larger support network for that teen than they had before placement, and many families continue with this support well beyond placement. Motivational speaker and former foster youth, Josh Shipp often shares, "Every teen is just one caring adult away from being a success story."

When necessary, a foster home can also provide permanency, a forever family, by adopting a teen. Many teens still desire adoption. Nationally, 15,000 teens and young adults will age out of the foster care system every year without finding that adoptive home. Though one in five youth awaiting adoption in the United States are teens, they only account for approximately five percent of adoptions annually (National Conference of State Legislatures).

## *What happens when there are not enough homes to care for teens?*

One consequence is that teens move around more. Workers are forced to make temporary placements while looking for that longer term option. A teen may find themselves staying in several homes for a week or two at a time until a family is found that is willing to keep them longer. This instability compounds the trauma of removal. A lack of homes also can force less than ideal placements. For example, a teen is often more likely to be placed outside of their home community, causing a separation from school, friends, and local resources. Nationally, teens are more likely to be placed in a formal group home setting. Again, according the National Conference of State Legislatures, only 58% of teens in foster care live in a family setting, compared to 95% of those twelve and under.

Many families report concerns about fostering teens. These range from having no experience parenting teens to being afraid of any negative influence a teen may have on their younger children. These are rational concerns, of course. However, many stories can be shared of teen foster youth who are loyal and protective of younger foster siblings and many stories abound of foster parents with no experience who make an eternal impact in the life of a teen. Effective training, such as training in the Teaching Family Model, regular respite, and a heavy dose of patience and compassion are the key ingredients to serving a teen well. There are so many in need.



# FAITHFUL IN THE JOURNEY

It's amazing what can change over the course of a year. That couldn't be more true for Jeremy and Emily Jones, a Josiah White's foster family.

A little over a year ago, Jeremy and Emily received their first placement – two brothers, ages four and six. The Joneses began fostering with Josiah White's with the intent to adopt and received several phone calls in their first few months of being licensed, but they didn't feel peace about committing to any of those placements — until these two boys came along.

"We really struggled with how to make that decision to make that commitment. We wanted it to be a good fit for the kids and for us," said Emily. "When we got a call about [the two brothers], God's timing was perfect, and it worked out exactly the way it was supposed to, and we realized that all the other times we agonized over what to do was for a reason."

The two boys had been in foster care about a year when they moved into Jeremy and Emily's home, and their dad had signed over his parental

rights with the understanding that he was not able to take care of them. Their mom, on the other hand, continued to appeal, desiring to remain the caregiver for her children. Sadly, she later became ill and passed away.

"When we started this process, we didn't want to do visits, or court or any of that. We ended up doing all of that! We just had to keep trusting that God's hand was in the situation, we tried to ask a lot of questions and be advocates for them," said Emily.

After the boys' mother passed away, the Joneses continued to face obstacles in the adoption process, yet they remained faithful.

"It has been amazing to watch God work through Jeremy and Emily on their adoption journey. Jeremy and Emily have grown in their faith, marriage, and confidence during this past year. They are both great advocates for the boys to ensure they get the appropriate services they need. There were many challenging times during which they didn't understand the reason behind some decisions, but they kept

their faith and trusted in God. They knew God had put these boys in their lives and knew He had a great plan," said Jennifer Hochstedler, Resource Family Developer.

Like Emily and Jeremy, the two young boys have also grown significantly over the past year, not only physically but also in building healthy familial relationships.

"[The Joneses'] extended family has surrounded them with love as well and got the boys a trampoline this summer to help develop their lagging motor skills. At a recent visit with the family, the boys asked Emily to play with them on the trampoline, and it was heartwarming to watch them play basketball, hold hands, sing, and just have a great time together," said Tracey Riggle, Program Director for Foster Care.

Jeremy and Emily encourage other foster parents to be open to things you may not think you would be and to trust that God's timing is perfect. Josiah White's is so grateful for their ministry and faithfulness in these boys' lives!







## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# ALICIA KIMBLE



Alicia Kimble currently serves as the Regional Manager for Josiah White's Foster Care in South Bend. She has been serving at Josiah White's for about six months and has already proven to be an effective, trusted leader and team member. Alicia received a Master of Business Administration from Bethel University and is currently working on completing a doctorate of Public Administration in Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

Alicia brings fifteen years of social service experience to her current position, including experience as a Casework Supervisor for the Department of Child Services. Alicia caught the bug for serving children and families as a college student working at the Boys and Girls Club of St Joseph County during the summer. She knew she would need to change her major from Graphic Design to social service.

Alicia had the blessing of growing up in church and in a family of faith and shares, "Josiah White's allows me to be my authentic self and not compromise my morals and values. What can be better than working for an organization that allows you to provide hope and transformation through Christ."

Thanks for your service to others, Alicia!

## CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

# PATHWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pathway Community Church is a wonderful example of how the local church can support the ministry of foster families!

Pathway has a specific ministry called Pathway Care Community in which groups of four congregants each join together to support a foster family in various ways. This could include picking up groceries, packing school lunches, chopping wood for the furnace, or whatever else the family might need. Each "care community" assists the family throughout the placement or for a year, whichever is shorter.

Pathway recently invited Josiah White's to be a part of their Stand Sunday services. During the services, Bishop Aaron Blake from Arlighton, Texas gave his testimony on how God led him to foster and adopt teenage males. Afterwards, congregants were invited to a panel discussion to learn more about how they could get involved in various foster care ministries, including Josiah White's. Pathway also hosted Josiah White's Christmas party for our Fort Wayne foster families this year.

Josiah White's is grateful to have such a supportive partner in Pathway Community Church!



# CONSULTATION

Consultation is the third system introduced in the Teaching Family Model and the one that is most likely to be misunderstood at first. The Model is truly feedback driven, but the term feedback often invokes a feeling of being told how one is missing the mark. However, this is not the intent with this Model of Care. Rather, feedback is provided in a supportive and encouraging way to ensure that children are getting extraordinary care.

One of the key ways that foster parents will experience Consultation is in their work with their Family Specialist. In the past, the primary focus of a Family Specialist's time during visits was working with the foster child, but with TFM, a shift will occur to provide more support to the foster parents. The Teaching Family Model recognizes that foster parents are a key change agent in the child's life and as such, staff should be focused on providing support and consultation to them as they work to be the best they can be for the children in their home.

Feedback/consultation will be woven into each home visit. This will happen in the form of recognizing strengths that are observed during

visits. Foster parents and Family Specialists will also discuss goals for the child to work on each month, and a Conceptual Feedback form will be shared with foster parents monthly.

As the Teaching Family Model is rolled out across the state and foster parents are introduced to the idea of receiving verbal and written feedback, our feedback has been positive. It has been amazing to see foster parents' responses to the team intentionally documenting their strengths. In multiple visits, this has been an emotional experience! We are honored to partner with our foster parents in providing the best possible care to their foster children. This ministry could not exist without our amazing foster parents who faithfully open their homes and hearts to children!



Tracey Riggie  
Foster Care Program Director



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Greenwood, IN 46143

##### CROWN POINT

115 S Court Street, Suite A  
Crown Point, IN 46307

##### FORT WAYNE

11809 Lima Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

##### INDIANAPOLIS

9850 Westpoint Drive, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

##### SOUTH BEND

21571 Ireland Road  
South Bend, IN 46614

## Become a foster parent!

- Speak to a White's representative at the office nearest you
- Fill out an inquiry form on our website

## UPCOMING TRAININGS • • •

For the most current details and schedules,  
visit: [www.josiahwhites.org](http://www.josiahwhites.org)

## Josiah White's FOSTER CARE how to **SUPPORT**

- Become an advocate and spread awareness about the need for foster parents
- Learn how to get your church actively involved – contact Rick Carder at [rick.carder@whitesrfs.org](mailto:rick.carder@whitesrfs.org)
- Contact your regional office to learn about our Foster Families' needs in your community
- Like us on Facebook