

Josiah white's

SPRING 2022

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Licensed Families



fostering
futures.

WORTHY



OUR WORTH COMES FROM GOD



So many families we serve struggle with a positive self worth. It drains their confidence and makes it hard to imagine a better life. Oxford dictionary defines worth as “the level at which someone or something deserves to be valued or rated.” Depending on what is being assessed, many factors can determine worth. When assessing the worth of a home, age, condition, location, size, property size, adjacent property, school district, other comparable listings, and much more are all considered. So many factors can be involved that most advise getting an expert to evaluate a home’s worth.

What about our worth? The world attempts to define our sense of worth through age, condition, salary, intelligence, creativity, appearance, race, occupation, sex, philosophy, accomplishments and more. We can be pressed into a never-ending comparison. What a difficult task it is to “measure up” against so many determinants, especially when they change from day to day! When we seek our worth from the world’s standards, we always fall short.

Thankfully, Scripture makes clear that our worth is not determined by the world. Instead, our worth is determined by the measure of God’s love. 1 John 3:1 states, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” The Creator of the universe loves us so much that He willingly came to earth to serve, to suffer, and to sacrifice. His love displayed through His choice to live and die here on earth shows us that He views us as priceless. The closer we focus on that love the easier it must be to realize our real worth—immeasurable and unchanging.



Kurt Gard
Vice President & Executive
Director of Family Services

WORTHY *of Quality Care*

Kids are worthy of quality care. One way that Josiah White's ensures this mindset has been through adopting and implementing the Teaching Family Model (TFM). TFM is an evidence-based & trauma-informed best practice treatment and management approach. It prioritizes therapeutic relationships with caregivers as the primary means of effective treatment in supportive family-style settings. This model is highly adaptable and is designed to fit the unique needs of all types of children and families.

Josiah White's foster parents, Nicholas and Julie Niman, implement this model into their everyday life. They and their adoptive children welcomed a 16-year-old young man into their home nearly a year and a half ago. This teen came in with many challenges. He has posed several learning curves for the Niman family. However, patience, perseverance, and love has outweighed these difficulties.

"When he first came here, he was under the impression that if he made a mistake, we were going to write him off," said Julie. "He was afraid that if he went behind our back or let us down that he would be kicked out, but our response to him took him by surprise. We proved to him over and over that we would not be quitting or giving up on him. He is learning to trust in us just as we are in him. It is beyond worth it to watch as he recognizes the value in himself and see that pride growing over time."

TFM helped equip the Nimans to better care for this teen and help him recognize his inherent worth. This now 17-year-old boy has gone from over 7 school tardies and the loss of a part-time job to now keeping up with his school work, maintaining a job, and pursuing a newfound interest in culinary arts.

"What is really great about the Teaching Family Model is the grace," said Julie. "Oftentimes, children make mistakes, and they are afraid that they have lost their worth. What we have been able to demonstrate is that his worth is not wrapped up in anything in particular. He is already worthy. It is not something that needs to be earned."

TFM was part of provoking this change, but not without the faith and commitment of the Niman's. All it takes is one person, one family. It is Josiah White's hope to partner with the One and whom He calls to serve, protect, and provide for His mission.



Mason Mills
Family Specialist

WORTHY AT ANY AGE



At 10 years old, Brooklyn Gard felt a tug on her heart from God to be involved with Foster Care.

Brooklyn's aunt and uncle were both foster parents, and she recalls visiting their house as a child and seeing the impact the foster care system had on the children placed with them. One night while Brooklyn was visiting her aunt and uncle, they got a phone call in the middle of the night to take in a foster placement. The child came with nothing, but Brooklyn's aunt took her in and gave her clothes to wear to bed and toiletries to take a shower. At that moment, Brooklyn told herself "I want to give children a place to feel safe and loved like that, even if it is just for a moment."

When Brooklyn was 19 years old, her own parents became foster parents. Their first placement was a newborn baby boy who was in the NICU in Fort Wayne. Every day, Brooklyn and her mom would drive to Fort Wayne to sit with, sing to, and read to this precious baby boy. He came home with them shortly after but needed a lot of medical care. Brooklyn's parents received several other placements over the months to come, including a sibling set of a 2 month old boy and a 2 year old boy. Shortly after the boys came to live with them, Brooklyn's parents realized taking care of a medically fragile baby along with their other

placements was just more than they could handle.

During this time, Brooklyn was just shy of her 21st Birthday and was a single woman living in an apartment with her best friend. However, she knew she wanted to be a foster parent, and she strongly believed that family should always stay together. So, Brooklyn listened to that tug on her heart from God and pursued getting her foster care license and got all the paperwork completed right before she turned 21. She moved into an apartment big enough for herself and the two boys and shortly after, they came to live with her.

The boys lived with Brooklyn for 2 years until they reunified with their biological family. At 22 years old, Brooklyn bought a house to make a stable home for children to grow and learn in. At 25 years old, God gave her Payge.

Payge moved into Brooklyn's home at the end of January 2021. Each day leading up to Valentine's Day, Brooklyn affirmed Payge's inherent worth by placing a heart on Payge's bedroom door, telling her why she loved her. Brooklyn thought Payge would think this was "silly." She feared she would take the hearts down. In actuality, Payge loved the idea and would wake up every morning with anticipation, wondering what the

next heart would say. Payge even showed her friends when they would come over. The hearts stayed on Payge's door year-round, and new ones have been added.

"I think children, especially teenagers, are struggling to find their self-worth, so putting up little reminders around the house for them to see on days when they are feeling down and struggling, really benefits their confidence," said Brooklyn.

Payge spent more than seven years in the foster care system — 2,260 days, to be exact! She moved to five different foster homes. She watched her sisters age out of the system. She moved over an hour away from where she grew up and had two failed adoptions.

At 26 years old, Brooklyn officially adopted Payge, giving Brooklyn a daughter and Payge a mother with a forever home and a village full of love.

"I had a lot of feelings going on during this time because it was a very real moment that was about to change my life," said Payge." I was nervous, but also excited for the long journey ahead. I sort of felt like I was betraying my family by having another one, but soon realized I was just gaining another one. I was also very worried something would happen or go wrong, and I was going to have

another failed adoption, but that didn't happen, and I am very relieved about that."

Brooklyn said some people ask why she would go from fostering toddlers to adopting a teenager. She shared, "So many teenagers are aging out of the system daily, and it is heartbreaking to know these children will be less likely to have a family. Just because they are older, does not mean they are less valuable."

When Brooklyn became a young, single foster mother, she had many hesitations and fears. She questioned whether she would be able to give children in her care all they needed to be at their fullest potential and worried if she would be able to give them enough attention while working a full-time job. Brooklyn soon overcame these fears by realizing the things she was fearing and worried about were typical of all parents. Brooklyn knew she could promise that every child who came in and out of her home would be loved, safe, and cared for. Brooklyn also learned to lean on her support system, including her parents and church family. Josiah White's is so grateful for Brooklyn's example in not letting her fears stop her from pursuing God's calling on her life to become a foster parent, even at a young age.



Jessica Keller
Resource
Family Developer

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

RACHEL REAMS



Rachel Reams currently serves as a Foster Care Advocate out of the Indianapolis office. She has been serving in this role since September of 2021. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Educational Ministries from Taylor University and has over 25 years of experience working with children and families in a variety of roles including as a Director of Children's Ministry and Family Support Specialist.

Rachel and her husband, Casey, have two sons, Roen (7) and Raylan (3) and a beagle named Piper. After being a stay at home mom for five years, Rachel felt called to Josiah White's, and God opened up the perfect position for her.

"When I saw the Foster Care Advocate position, I knew God was lining up His perfect timing and call on my life to serve children and families in this unique role," said Rachel. "I'm passionate about connecting the

Church to children in foster care. I love making connections with ministry leaders in my community and building bridges of support, prayer, and compassionate care to our foster care ministry. Josiah White's combines my passion for serving others and Jesus at the same time!"

Josiah White's is so grateful to have Rachel as a part of the team!

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

MOMENTUM

CROWN POINT, INDIANA

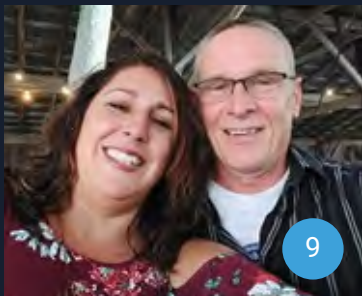
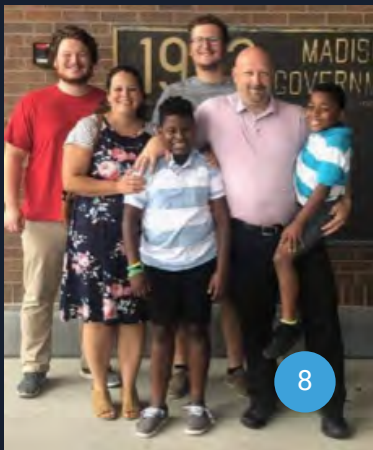
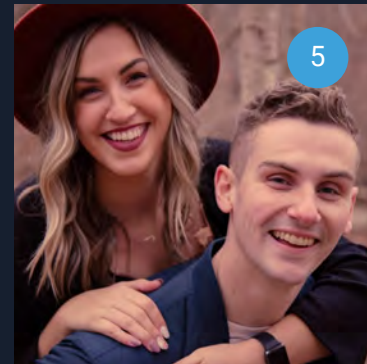
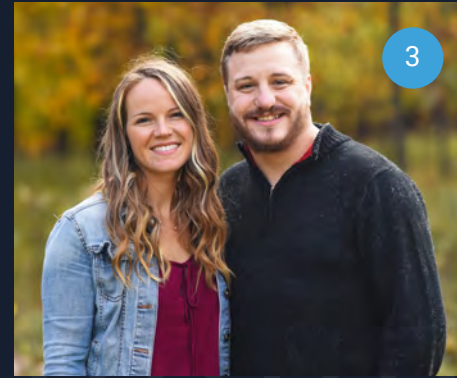
Momentum Church, located in Crown Point, Indiana, has been led by Pastor Charlie Arms since being planted in Indiana in November of 2014. Pastor Charlie frequently emphasizes imparting the love of God to everyone and making a difference in the lives of others, and there are several foster families in the church, which is where his support of Josiah White's foster care ministry comes into play.

Momentum's congregation gathered several gift cards at Christmas time that have been used to help out Josiah White's foster families in the Lake/Porter/LaPorte County areas. They have hosted Josiah White's monthly foster parent in-service trainings and Josiah White's recently reinstated foster parent support group (which is open to ALL foster parents in the area). The church also has service-minded volunteers that assist with childcare for these events.

The Crown Point office would like to thank Pastor Charlie and Momentum Church for their support of Josiah White's foster care ministry, partnership in making a difference in the lives of children in the local community, and for all they do in showing the love of God through their community involvement.

TEACHING FAMILY MODEL

LICENSED FAMILIES



1. Marty & Sarah Wilkins
Fort Wayne
2. Brooklyn Gard
Wabash
3. Aaron & Stephanie Bendel
Crown Point
4. Jeremy and Emily Jones
Wabash
5. Andrew and Alyssa Julian
Wabash
6. Cory & Nicole Federspiel
Fort Wayne
7. Rob & Sherlyn Rensberger
Wabash
8. Nick & Julie Niman
Fort Wayne
9. Rich & Michelle McNeil
Fort Wayne



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www.compassroseacademy.org

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REGIONAL OFFICES

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


FORT WAYNE
11809 Lima Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

GREENWOOD
39 South Park Boulevard, Building 1
Greenwood, IN 46143

INDIANAPOLIS
9850 Westpoint Drive, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46256

SOUTH BEND
21571 Ireland Road
South Bend, IN 46614

Become a foster parent!

- Call the office nearest you to speak to a Josiah White's representative
 - Fill out an inquiry form on our website
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UPCOMING TRAININGS • • •

For the most current details and schedules, visit: www.josiahwhites.org

Josiah White's FOSTER CARE



how to SUPPORT

- Become an advocate and spread awareness about the need for foster parents
- Contact your regional office to learn about our foster families' needs in your community
- Like us on Facebook