

fostering  
**futures.**

EQUIPPED

Josiah  
**white's**



FALL 2022

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# HE WILL EQUIP THE CALLED

Do you ever wonder why God chose you for certain things in your life? I often find myself thinking, “God, why did you choose me for this, I am not equipped to handle this.” The thing is, God doesn’t call the equipped, he equips the called. This truth encourages me when I feel inadequate to face challenges or when my circumstances are overwhelming to me. He is faithful and never lets us down. He equips us with what we need to do His work.

I have often heard foster parents doubt themselves or say “I just can’t do this.” It is in these situations that I gently remind them to look at all the hard work they have already done, to look at all the progress a child in their care has made, and to look at the difference they have made in a child’s life. These successes weren’t by “chance,” they were God’s doing through them. They

were all possible because they listened when God called them to be a foster parent, and He equipped them for the journey.

Admittedly, fostering is not for the weak, and there will be

- • • *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead*
- • • *our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of*
- • • *the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you*
- • • *may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his*
- • • *sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.*

– Hebrews 13:20–21

many challenges along the way. There will be many times you will doubt yourself and want to quit. But, we need to remind ourselves that God is faithful in His promises, and He will equip us to weather any storm.

Can you relate? If you are feeling unequipped to handle what God has put on your plate, you are not alone. We have all struggled

with this feeling many times in our lives. However, God promises to equip us with everything we need to do His will, and he is always faithful. First, we have to trust in Him and be willing to surrender

ourselves to do His will. We must follow His example, and we must allow Him to work in us and equip us, even when we are feeling doubt. And remember: without Him, we have nothing but with Him, we have everything.



# Equipped for Success

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Nine months out of the year, all of the regional Josiah White's Foster Care offices host in-service trainings for their foster families. Not only does this allow them to get the hours that they need to maintain their foster home license with the state, but it also gives foster parents an opportunity to connect with other Josiah White's families.

Each office's staff provides dinner to their foster families at these trainings and gives them a chance to get to know one another, make connections, and have good conversations with other families that share similar experiences while they enjoy the meal.

"One of our foster mothers was just telling me that she hit it off so well with another foster mother at our last in-service training that they worked it out to be able to provide respite for each other as needed." said Makayla Mullins, Family Specialist in South Bend.

In addition to the community aspect, Josiah White's staff puts thought and effort into choosing training topics that will prove beneficial to the foster families. Some of the topics Josiah White's staff have covered over the last year include the five love languages, foster parent rights, human trafficking awareness and prevention, and trauma-informed care.

Community support is a big part of having a successful journey as a foster family. Josiah White's tries to find as many ways as possible to create opportunities for foster families to get to know one another and make those important connections, as well as provide great training opportunities that equip our families with the tools they need to be prepared for their journey as a foster home.





# equipped through experience







When Jeff and Deanna Albertson were dating, they revealed to each other they both wanted to become foster parents one day. After getting pregnant early in their marriage, Jeff and Deanna began the foster care licensing process shortly after their firstborn son turned one-year-old. They received their first placement before his second birthday and have now been faithfully fostering for over 20 years.

Several months ago, Deanna talked with Dana Gault, Josiah White's Regional Manager for the Wabash office, about stepping down from being a foster parent. Dana asked her if she had prayed about it, and she said, no, because she knew that God was calling her to continue, so she has.

A couple months after that, Jeff and Deanna received a placement of Logan\*, a teen with significant behavioral and emotional needs that was prone to throwing temper tantrums. Shortly into his stay, Logan decided he would like a pet fish. Deanna, in an effort to positively motivate him, created a sticker chart and explained to him that each day that went by without a temper tantrum, Logan was awarded a sticker. Deanna clarified she didn't expect him to be perfect and he was allowed to get angry, but it was what he did with his anger that mattered.

As promised, each day that went by without a temper tantrum, Logan was awarded a sticker. When he earned seven stickers, he got his aquarium. After earning the next seven, he got the rocks for the bottom of the aquarium. Logan is now working towards the next seven stickers to earn aquarium accessories. When he has earned 28 stickers total, Jeff and Deanna will take him to get his fish.

Had Jeff and Deanna stepped down several months ago, they would have missed out on the opportunity to help Logan, and Logan would have missed out on Jeff and Deanna's expertise from their years of experience as foster parents, which equipped them to help Logan learn how to express his emotions in healthier ways.

Deanna recalls a conversation with a missionary friend in which her friend expressed she could never imagine being a foster parent. Deanna reflected back that she couldn't imagine being in a different country away from her family and friends. The two women marveled about how God equips different people for different callings.

Josiah White's is so grateful that God has equipped Jeff and Deanna with creativity while serving the children in their home over the past 20 years of their ministry.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## CROWN POINT REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF



Several recently added staff have been vital to the growth and success at Josiah White's regional office in Crown Point.

Resource Family Developer Heather Rosenwinkel started her journey with Josiah White's almost a year ago. Heather is very energetic and enthusiastic while leading trainings and is eager to help and support others in any way needed. Family Specialist Rebecca Burgett has been with Josiah White's for over 7 months and is a team player that cares deeply for Josiah White's foster parents and the children in their care. Senior Family Specialist Sarah Freese previously worked as a DCS Family Case Manager, has her Masters in Social Work, and also has extensive experience working with families and children to address past trauma and move toward future

resolution. Lastly, Foster Care Advocate and Reverend Tawnya Gregory has been serving in our foster care and recruitment ministry for over 3 months. Tawnya has a passion for reaching out to the public regarding the need for mission-minded, Christian foster parents.

Veteran team members Jen Hamilton, Office Assistant, and Jacenta Tisby, Senior Family Specialist, have also been vital in this office's growth, although battling health ailments. Continued prayers for Jen and Jacenta would be greatly appreciated.

We are so grateful for our entire Crown Point team, and the work they do to create new possibilities for children, teens, and families on a daily basis!

## CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, WESTFIELD

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Westfield, IN, recently provided meaningful support for children in foster care. After hearing about Josiah White's and the work that we do, Rev. Ethan Spira expressed their church's heart for helping their community, and he and Rachel Reames, Foster Care Advocate for the Indianapolis regional office, came up with the idea of creating birthday boxes for foster children to receive on their special day.

Shortly after that initial meeting, Josiah White's was invited to Lord of Life to give a presentation about our ministry, and Ethan introduced the Birthday Box Project to the church. Rachel and the Indianapolis team created an Amazon Wish List full of birthday goodies and fun toys. The church shopped the list, and the items purchased were conveniently shipped directly to the church.



With the support and generosity of Lord of Life Church, including a teen working his first job who felt led to give, the entire list was purchased! On Easter Sunday, the children from Lord of Life filled the 75 birthday boxes with wish list items, wrote personalized cards, and decorated the boxes. Thank you, Lord of Life Lutheran Church for your above and beyond generosity that will help foster children celebrate their birthdays! Josiah White's is incredibly blessed by the encouragement, support, and prayers given by our church partners.





The Lord equips those He uses for His purpose. Christians often think that individuals are equipped through miraculous means, like special gifts of skill naturally bestowed on us at birth or even as one sleeps. However, most often, the Lord provides opportunity for these skills to grow with discipline and practice over time in seemingly mundane ways. Let's take David for example. We know that he was young and that Goliath saw him as a boy. However, we also know that by the time David faced Goliath, he had faced and killed fierce predators. This was not the first time he had faced a deadly foe. We know that as a shepherd, he probably had ample opportunities to practice his skill with a sling-shot. This was most likely not David's first or even hundredth time using this tool. He was equipped to face Goliath through his daily usage of the skills needed of a young shepherd.

As this edition of Fostering Futures focuses on the concept of being equipped, so many expressions of this seem evident in our ministry. Our foster parents seek to equip the kids in their care with skills needed to progress in life. Josiah White's seeks to equip our foster parents with tools to do that well, as their ministry is not an easy one. As a leader and administrator in the foster care ministry, I seek to equip our local leaders and staff with the tools and skills to support those foster families well. As an organization, we have recently adopted the Teaching Family Model as a lens and guide for how we provide foster care. This has been a significant effort at equipping those called to this ministry as they pour into the lives of those entrusted to our care.

This year, as we focused on ensuring we are prepared to serve the needs of kids in care, we made the prayerful decision to move our regional office in Columbus, Indiana further north to Greenwood. Josiah White's has not made this significant of an office move in over a decade. However, this move was driven by two realizations. First, as our Columbus team grew, we found it harder and harder to adequately staff the team with professional staff from the Bartholomew County area. Key positions on the team would be left open for challenging lengths of time while we searched, impacting our ability to support families and children well. Second, we recognized that the majority of children served by that team were actually coming from Johnson and Marion Counties. There were not enough homes in these areas and the children were having to leave their home counties to be served in counties further south.

This move has created some short term instability for sure, but we are already finding that we receive more applicants for our positions and that the local community and local churches are more interested in supporting what they see as a local ministry team. The need is great in this area and so is the opportunity to grow and serve. In this example, our location is actually equipping us to better serve the purpose we discern the Lord providing. Please join me in praying for the success of our Greenwood team as we grow and as we continue supporting those foster families the Lord has entrusted to us.



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#### REGIONAL OFFICES

CROWN POINT  
8915 Broadway  
Merrillville, IN 46410

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

### 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
- Contact your regional office to learn about our foster families' needs in your community
- Like us on Facebook