

fostering
futures.

JOY

Josiah
white's



WINTER 2022

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JOY ETERNAL.

JOY. What comes to mind when you hear that word? Is it things that make us happy or excited? Is it perhaps the face of someone smiling or laughing? Yet, joy is much more than that. Joy is a deep, rich sense of security in the One who died for us and in knowing who we are in Him, no matter what is happening around us. It is not fleeting or contingent on our circumstances or moods – unless we let it be. Joy stays with us at all times when we shield our hearts from the negativity of this world and the enemy's schemes.

Joy is a choice, a choice we make every minute of every day to trust and to accept that God will take care of all things far better than we can, even when we don't like what is happening. He has THE plan for every life.

"...Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is our strength." (Neh. 8:10)

Finding strength in God is how we prevail through hard times. Joy is linked with peace.

"...Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace..." (Gal. 5:22).

Just as fruit is cultivated and grown, so is our relationship with Jesus Christ. There is a difference between having Christ as just our Savior and allowing Him to also be Lord of our lives. That difference impacts our level of trust in

Him which in turn impacts our peace and our joy. To have Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives is to have a fully surrendered heart, asking God to lead our EVERY step in life and trusting He will do so.

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11)

When we fully trust God with our lives and the lives of those we love, we can walk in His joy. When we walk in His joy, we rid ourselves of worry, frustration, fear, anxiety, and the like.

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18)

God IS love.

The more we ask God to pour His love over our hearts and minds and to fill us with His joy, the more we walk in the victory He designed for us to walk in during this vapor of time we live in.

May we all keep our eyes upon eternal things, remembering our rewards are in Heaven, as we celebrate Christ's birth, death, and resurrection this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

joy

IN TRADITION

As we enter the holiday season, Josiah White's Family Services seeks to incorporate the traditions of every family we serve. Whether this be modeled through our foster parents' doing their best to preserve some sense of familiarity for our foster kiddos or through our Family Preservation team lending support to families in crisis while trying to bring the holiday season to life.

There are many ways that this can be put into practice. It could be as simple as preparing hot dogs and mac & cheese for a holiday meal because those foods are nostalgic and comforting to the kids in care. It could also look like a foster family going out of their way to drive to another town at the foster child's great grandparent's request to see Christmas lights or even transporting a child to attend a church service that coincides with their own culture and practices. This is important not only for the holiday season but also in the day-to-day routines of our foster families. This is one way we seek to honor the inherent worth of the families we serve, understanding that foster care should serve the whole family, not just the children in care.

We understand that families come in all shapes and sizes, and each family has their own traditions and routines. It is our hope to partner with children and families so that they may feel heard and seen. We hope to cultivate connection and a sense of belonging. We pray that we will bring honor and glory to the Lord through our work, and in turn, bear good things, whatever that may look like.



Josiah White's Achieves TFA Accreditation

Josiah White's is thrilled to announce that we recently became an accredited Teaching Family Association (TFA) agency.

Teaching Family Association is the accrediting agency of Teaching Family Model (TFM), a relational, evidenced-based, trauma-informed model of care focused on increasing life skill development in children and teens. Adopting this model ensures that we are able to provide the most effective training for our ministry staff and foster parents, and the best possible outcomes for the children, teens, and families we serve.

"One of our core definitions of how we will succeed as an organization is to provide a superior model of care," said Ron Evans, President and CEO. "This accreditation emphasizes our commitment to have the best people using the best practices for the best result. As a distinctively Christian mission organization, it is imperative that we do all things with excellence as a reflection of Christ's love for all people."

The accreditation process has taken almost two and a half years. Josiah White's is grateful to Methodist Home for Children (MHC) in North Carolina, who mentored us through the process of training and implementing the model. MHC staff visited our Wabash campus monthly and also helped our regional offices provide training to our foster parents.

"Becoming an accredited agency has probably been the most challenging project we have invested in during my nearly 30 years at Josiah White's, and it has been the

most transformational as well!" said Tracey Riggle, Program Director for Foster Care.

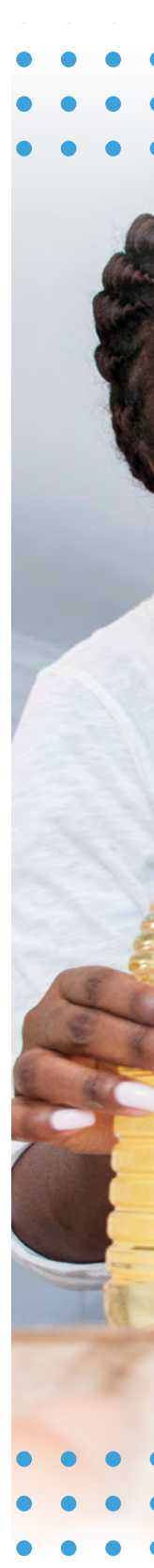
"It is truly rewarding to see staff and foster parents who want to have tangible goals and skills to work on with their children ultimately see the positive behavior changes. When people truly invest in the Teaching Family Model, it works!"

When using the TFM, caregivers engage in daily teaching interactions to help children and teens learn social and relationship skills. TFM equips foster parents with parenting skills and strategies aimed at quality care for children and teens. The skills children and youth learn through the model will then translate to better parent-child interaction, improved school behavior following placement, and increased work readiness.

Josiah White's Foster Care teams came together recently to provide a two-day CORE training in the Teaching Family Model. The enthusiasm of this group was contagious as they practiced role plays and made applications to children on their caseloads.

"It was exciting to see staff passionate about helping equip their teammates and our foster parents to help the foster children in our care have the skills they need to be successful in their futures," said Heather DeArmond, Resource Family Developer in Fort Wayne.

Josiah White's is honored to be an accredited TFA agency and is excited for what this accreditation will mean for our future as an organization.





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

ASHLEY FISHER



Ashley Fisher currently serves as the Regional Manager in Josiah White's Fort Wayne office. She was first hired as a Family Specialist in March 2019. Ashley holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services and will graduate with her master's in social work in July 2023. Ashley has always felt called to work with vulnerable children and their families and prior to Josiah White's, Ashley worked in crisis case management for families.

"Ashley leads our ministry team in Fort Wayne from the heart and with a strong commitment to excellence. She knows the families we support deserve nothing less," said Kurt Gard, Vice President and Executive Director of Family Services.

Ashley lives with her 16 year old beagle, Koopa.

Josiah White's is so grateful to have Ashley leading the team in Fort Wayne!

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

ITOWN FISHERS



Dave and Kate Sumrall pastor ITOWN Church in Fishers, IN. ITOWN exists to help people move from where they are to where God wants them to be. They are proud to come alongside Hoosier families and children to help serve the growing population of children in foster care.

Dave and Kate have seen firsthand how great the need is during their own fostering journey with their son. ITOWN Church is dedicated to being part of the solution by creating resources in the critical first few hours of receiving a placement. Their Foster Care Closet is equipped with a team of volunteers ready to bring essential items to foster and kinship families. ITOWN also offers a weekly foster parent support group.

Throughout Foster Care Awareness Month in May, ITOWN highlighted testimonies of foster families in their church followed by a Foster Care Interest meeting which led to a room full of people wanting to get involved by fostering or volunteering to help support foster families. ITOWN's leadership recently toured Josiah White's Wabash Campus to learn more about our residential campus and recovery services. ITOWN continues to look for new ways to serve families and be part of the solution to the foster care crisis in our state. They have been a committed and supportive partner to our mission to enrich the lives of children and families through emotional healing, personal development, and spiritual growth. We thank God for our church partners who help us spread awareness and join us in supporting children and families!

THE GREATEST *joy* LIVED OUT



*“Christ did not come to explain
human suffering or to eliminate it.
Rather, He came to fill human
suffering with His presence.”*

— Father George Calciu

Dustin and Sarah Weber spent time talking about what their family would look like as they prayed and prepared for their future together. Early on in her teaching career, Sarah had encountered several foster children, and as they became more aware of the needs of foster children and their families, it became apparent to her and Dustin that fostering might be an option.

On a typical day, you will find Dustin and Sarah at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church and School where Dustin is the Groups Ministry Coordinator and Sarah is a teacher in the classroom. They have shown themselves to be committed to Christian education and to their church family. The Webers began the foster care licensing process in 2019, and since early 2020, the couple has had several foster children in their care. Their goal in ministry obviously extends beyond the children in their home. With grace and a faithful presence, Dustin and Sarah have been instrumental in sharing the truth of the gospel message with the biological parents of their foster children. The Webers have invited their foster children’s parents to church services and to the baptisms of their precious children. St. Peter’s has also assisted the children’s parents in finding employment and housing.

Currently, the Weber family has a child in their care whose two siblings were once in their home but have now been reunified with their father. The father of all three children has grown to trust and rely on the Webers for input and assistance with childcare needs, allowing the three of the siblings to be together. With an outpouring of love and faithfulness, Dustin and Sarah regularly exemplify what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ as they continue to make an impact in our world!



5233 South 50 East
Wabash, Indiana 46992
260-563-1158
www.josiahwhites.org
www.compassroseacademy.org

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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

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