

fostering  
**futures.**

EMBRACED

Josiah  
**white's**



FALL 2023

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# Embracing WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

Throughout scripture, God reveals the following truths about who we are to Him:

*“I am grateful for you.”*

*“You are rare and beautiful.”*

*“I forgive you.”*

*“I love you.”*

*“I have high standards for you.”*

*“I have a special calling for your life.”*

*“I believe in you.”*

According to pastor, author, and speaker Louie Giglio these are statements that followers of Christ need to embrace. As we grow in our relationships with Christ, we come to believe more and more in the truth that our Father in Heaven knows us fully and loves us completely. One of the most quoted scriptures is John 3:16 which 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 following verse, John 3:17, drives the clarity of this love even further: “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” As faulty as we are, as prone to sin as we are, and as much as we

struggle to put Him first in all we do, He embraces us in love by sacrificing for us, redeeming us, and calling us.

For us to fully live out the calling He has for us, we have to embrace the truths laid out in scripture and what they mean for our lives. We are called to love the Father and love one another, but we cannot fully live out this calling without it being driven by the firm belief in and acceptance of His love. Without it, our actions will be driven by wrong intent and cause harm. So as we act out our faith through loving others, let us pray for wisdom and understanding and embrace that we are loved, rare, beautiful, forgiven, called, and believed in.



# *embracing empathy* NOT EXCUSES

Dave and Cindy Vanlandingham had plenty of reasons not to become foster parents. As a blended family, the Vanlandinghams have raised a total of six children. Most weekdays, Dave is on the road as a truck driver, while Cindy runs a business from home. Despite these obstacles, Dave and Cindy became licensed foster parents through Josiah White's in August 2015 and have had over thirty foster children come through their home in the past eight years while also providing respite to other children in care.

The Vanlandinghams have gone above and beyond by embracing foster children with a variety of needs including intellectual and developmental disabilities, juvenile delinquency involvement, and mental health struggles, to name a few. The Vanlandinghams serve as advocates for every child that enters their home and do not shy away from risk or complication, whether involving academics, behavior, or physical and mental health.

Service providers are witness to Dave and Cindy's unwavering bond and commitment to one another. It is clear that they share the same hope, values, and overall mission and are in constant communication so they are on the same page for all decisions being made.

The Vanlandinghams recently adopted a teen girl that has been in their care since September of 2022. Though this teen was very guarded when she entered the home, the Vanlandinghams embraced her with open arms and provided her with a faithful presence and persevering hope. She began to open up, trust Dave and Cindy, and look forward to the future.

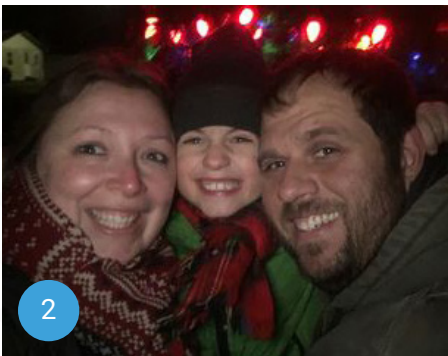
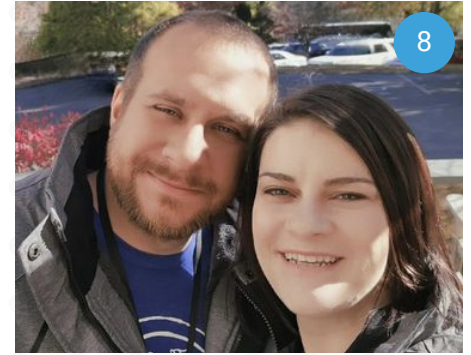
Josiah White's is honored and proud to walk alongside the Vanlandinghams in their foster care journey and to witness their continual testament of faith.

Stock photo used for the privacy of the family.



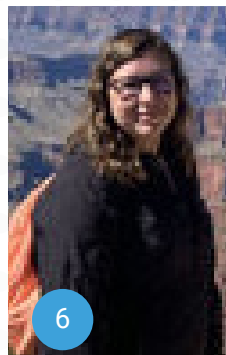


# TEACHING FAMILY MODEL



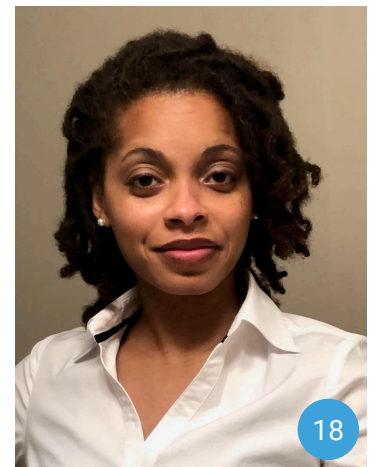
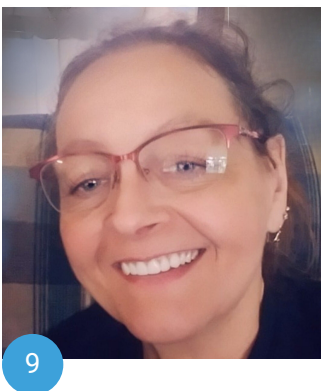
## INDIANAPOLIS

1. Karl and Jean Barske
2. Josh and Alicia Keesling
3. Logan and Nicole Grider
4. Nicole Smith
5. Joshua and Susan Malancuk



## SOUTH BEND

6. Elise Lambdin
7. Christopher and Kathryn Dean
8. Bradley and Donna Clear
9. Judith Gibson\*
10. Andrew and Heather Oake\*
11. David and Alisha Reese
12. Ryan and Olivia Fish





# CERTIFIED FAMILIES



11



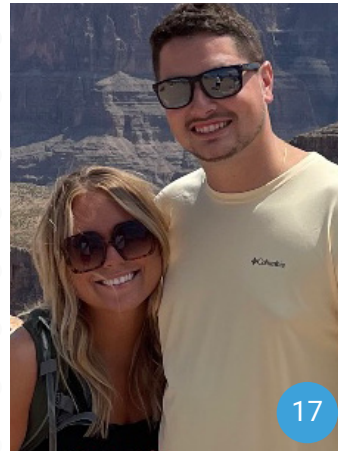
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13



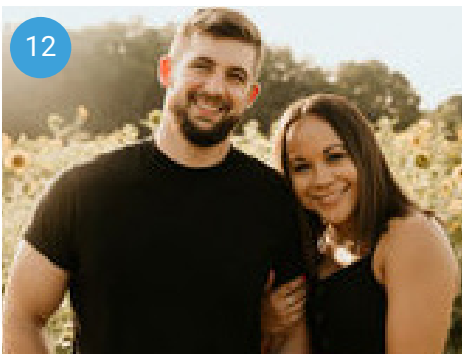
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22

## FORT WAYNE

13. Nick and Julie Niman\*



12



19

## WABASH

- 14. Brooklyn Gard\*
- 15. Rob and Sherlyn Rensberger\*
- 16. Chip and Leslie Hentgen
- 17. Gunner and Heidi Ream



14



15



20

## MERRILLVILLE

- 18. Yaminah Jackson
- 19. Michael and Jeanine Conrad
- 20. Ella Lewis

## GREENWOOD

- 21. Sharon and Greg Andis
- 22. Shawnee and Ethan Ault

\*recertified



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## AMY AVERKAMP



Amy Averkamp currently serves as the Licensing Manager for Josiah White's. She has served in various roles at Josiah White's throughout the last 10 years. The scope of Amy's current work touches each and every foster home across the state, as she works to ensure that all state requirements are met for all foster parent licenses throughout each family's tenure as foster parents. Amy is passionate about quality training for our families as well as excellence in the foster parent experience.

"She can easily navigate difficult situations with grace and gives clear directions to myself and my team. I appreciate her willingness to pick up the phone and walk me through difficult situations," said Ashley Fisher, Fort Wayne Regional Manager.

Recently, Amy and her family were presented with an unexpected opportunity to fulfill their dream of moving to North Carolina. However, Amy did not want to leave her role at Josiah White's, so she presented the idea of continuing in her role as the Licensing Manager remotely. We are pleased that Amy will remain a strong support to each of our local teams and will also be assuming a bigger role in running pre-service training. This change will allow foster families in the licensure process more options for training to accommodate various schedules.

Thank you, Amy, for your continued service to Josiah White's foster parents and staff! We are grateful to have you on our team!

## CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

## SOUTH BEND AREA CHURCHES

Several churches in the South Bend area recently came together to support Josiah White's in celebrating the inherent worth of each foster child we serve. Danika Brolin, Foster Care Advocate for the South Bend office, was invited to come speak at the Prairie Camp for Missionary Churches. While there, Danika shared about Josiah White's, the need for foster parents, and how to support current foster families. One specific opportunity she mentioned was donating toward the purchase of gift cards for Josiah White's to give foster children on their birthdays.

Because of the generous hearts of the ladies at Prairie Camp and the members of the Missionary Churches, we are now able to provide 31 children with a fun gift inside a handmade card on their special day. We are so grateful to the many donors that join our mission to support children and families in our local communities!



# creating connections THROUGH CAREPORTAL

Since 2020, Josiah White's has been serving as the bridge between local congregations and families in need through our partnership with CarePortal. CarePortal is an organized platform that allows case workers to communicate the needs of families in crisis to local churches and community members that want to help. Josiah White's is now working toward expanding this partnership.

“By placing this platform into the church’s laps, we are serving out our mission as a Christ-centered organization while also strengthening our relationship with our churches,” said Megan Lehner, Josiah White’s CarePortal Manager. “There might be those within a church body who feel called to foster or even adopt, but they’re just not sure how to get there. Fulfilling a tangible need on behalf of families within our own community is a much easier on-ramp.”

When a request is submitted, the caseworker includes the overall purpose of the request, such as keeping a child from entering the foster care system, supporting a potential adoption, or providing essentials for a teen aging out of foster care.

“I remember the very first time I was able to actually connect and take a need to a family. Some foster children who had been with the same foster family for a couple years were reuniting with their mom and needed a few items to go home with. It was such a blessing to talk to this foster mom and see how, even though there would be heartbreak over the kids leaving, she was also extremely proud and supportive of the mom who had worked hard to get her kids back. Even though we never actually connected with the foster children’s mom, just to talk to this foster mom and encourage her in a difficult moment, was wonderful,” said Amy Holmes, a congregant at New Life Baptist Church in Wabash County.

During this process of meeting tangible needs, CarePortal seeks to create opportunities for lasting relationships to grow, and, in turn, provide a new support system to struggling families. The hope is that these relationships will open doors that allow volunteers to share the love of Christ with the families they are serving.

If you are interested in getting your church involved with CarePortal through Josiah White’s, please scan the QR code or contact Megan Lehner at [megan.lehner@whitesrfs.org](mailto:megan.lehner@whitesrfs.org).

## How CarePortal Works



### Step 1: Uncovering Needs

A child or family in need requires help from a caseworker.



### Step 2: Submitting Needs

A CarePortal-approved caseworker vets the need and enters it into CarePortal.



### Step 3: Sharing Needs

CarePortal alerts nearby churches and community members to needs.



### Step 4: Meeting Needs

Churches and community members partner to ensure that the child and family's need is met.





# Josiah white's

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## REGIONAL OFFICES

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Fort Wayne, IN 46818

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

INDIANAPOLIS  
9850 Westpoint Drive, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

MERRILLVILLE  
8915 Broadway  
Merrillville, IN 46410

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

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