



FAMILIES FORWARD

ISSUE 1 MARCH 2021



We Need Your Help!

While the pandemic may have eliminated the need for many things, Foster Parents were not one of them! Across the state of Michigan, we are experiencing a shortage of foster homes, specifically for teen and pre-teens. If you know someone that has considered fostering before, refer them to an orientation. Foster parents receive \$25 when a referred family/individual attends orientation and another \$75 when the home becomes licensed!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

New "Family" Member

Employee of the Month

Finalized Adoptions

Upcoming Trainings

OUR GROWING FAMILY

Forever Families would like to congratulate licensing specialist Sam and her husband Matt on the birth of their first child, **Watson Joseph**.

Watson made his debut on 02/18/21 at 8lbs 3oz and 20.75in. Mom and baby are healthy and doing great!

Congrats Sam, Matt and Watson!



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Nicole Larabell

Nicole has been in child welfare for 9.5 years, all of which have been spent at Forever Families. Nicole got her start with us as an intern and is now the Supervisor of the State-Ward Adoption program. Nicole reports that adoption quickly became a passion of hers as the job offers many happy and challenging moments. Nicole has helped numerous children find their forever family! Outside of work Nicole enjoys spending time with her family and friends, working out, volunteering as a Big Sister, shopping and snuggling with her dog Zola. Thank you Nicole for all of your hard work! We look forward to seeing your continued growth!

THE NEWEST "FOREVER FAMILY"

Meet Tristin! His adoptive parents Pat and Becky are beyond thrilled to finally complete their family through domestic infant adoption.



Pat and Becky have a semi-open adoption with Tristin's birth mother. Tristin's adoption will be finalized this month!

What else are we up to?

- We currently have 80 foster children in care.
- So far in 2021, we have:
 - Reunified 10 children with their birth parents.
 - Finalized 5 State Ward adoptions.
 - Licensed 2 foster homes.

Upcoming Trainings:

- Communication Barriers with African American Children and Youth
 - March 23 2021, 6pm-8pm
- Identifying, Acknowledging and Validation of Childhood Trauma
 - April 13 and 27, 6pm-8pm

Foster Parent Support Group:

- March 24 2021, 6-8 Court Process and Frustrations

Email SNEDWID@Forever-Families.org to Register.