



# FAMILIES FORWARD

ISSUE 3 MAY 2021



## Medically Fragile Foster Children

A child is defined as "medically fragile" when they are dependent on life sustaining medications, treatments or equipment and require 24/7 assistance due to accident, illness, congenital disorder or abuse and neglect. Foster families who take placement of medically fragile children are not required to have medical backgrounds, however, they are required to complete specialized training specific to the foster child's needs. Children who are considered medically fragile may have one or more of the following: trach tube, feeding tube, supplemental oxygen, medications, or use a wheelchair. Foster parents of medically fragile children are generally reimbursed at a higher daily rate and all of the child's medical costs are covered by MDHHS. Talk to your licensing worker if you are willing to consider a medically fragile placement!

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## OUR GROWING FAMILY



Case Aid Madison and her boyfriend Alex would like to introduce their new addition! Beau Oliver joined their family on January 15th, 2021. Beau is fun loving, friendly, energetic and an all around bundle of joy. He loves being with people, and especially loves playing with his big sister, Gia. Both Gia and Beau are playful and active dogs who are happy to be a part of the Forever Families crew.



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Gloria Mitchell

Gloria has been working for private adoption/foster care agencies for many years. We have been fortunate enough to have her at Forever Families since 2017. Gloria is a true steward to her community, giving back in many ways, through her time and talents. Not only is Gloria a well organized and ambitious worker, she also sees opportunities to go up and above and her extra efforts make other's work easier. We can always count on Gloria to volunteer for projects or after hour events. Forever Families is truly lucky to have Gloria as part of our team!



# One Family's Foster Journey: **Andrea & Elizabeth**

## Fostering Since 2017



**Why foster care?** We chose to foster because we wanted the opportunity to experience being parents and having a family, whether it was short term or potentially adopting a child from foster care. We wanted to open our home and hearts to children and provide them with love and stability.

**Tell us about your current placement!** Our current placement is a beautiful bundle of joy. We were called during the COVID pandemic about a medically fragile infant. We of course had a room prepared and were ready to welcome another child into our home, but we were a little hesitant upon our first visit with our now foster daughter. We went to meet her at the hospital and were provided training on how to feed her and meet all of her medical needs. It has been six months now and we can not imagine our lives without her. We have overcome many obstacles in the past six months and it has made us even stronger as a family. We have had two other placements. One child went home to his birth mother and one has become a permanent member of our family!

**Any advice for other prospective foster parents?** Our advice to families considering fostering is to choose an agency that can navigate through the foster care system with knowledge and provide support to both the biological family and foster families. Forever Families is that agency. We also recommend training on trauma. It really opened our minds and eyes to what so many children in care are up against. What we have ultimately learned the most with fostering is that each child brings a new experience and a new opportunity to learn about yourself.

# What else are we up to?

- We currently have 84 foster children in care.
- So far in 2021, we have:
  - Reunified 20 children with their birth parents.
  - Finalized 10 State Ward adoptions.
  - Licensed 3 foster homes.
  - Completed 1 Guardianship.

## Don't forget about your training hours!

- Foster Parent Support Group (Worth 2 training hours)
  - Wednesday, May 26th from 6 - 8pm
- Let's Talk Hair! A How-To for Natural Black Hair Care
  - Tuesday, June 1st from 6/8pm

**Email [SNEDWID@Forever-Families.org](mailto:SNEDWID@Forever-Families.org) to Register.**