



# FAMILIES FORWARD

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## Mental Health in Children & ADHD

Based on the data provided by The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), about 80% percent of children in foster care have significant mental health problems, in comparison to the general population which is about 18-22%. Some of the factors that contribute to both the behavioral and the mental health of youth in foster care includes "a history of trauma, broken family relationships, inadequate access to mental health services and being over prescribed of psychotropic medications."

According to SAFY, Specialized Youth Alternatives for Health and Families, there is an array of mental health issues that are apparent among children in foster care. Some examples of these issues are post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), panic and anxiety disorders, major depression, drug/alcohol abuse, and more. Attention deficit disorder (ADHD) is another very common mental health issue that many children, especially those in foster care may struggle with. Some of the symptoms of ADHD include not being able to stay focused, hyperactivity, and impulsivity.

The information provided by CHADD, Children and Adults with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, discusses how both trauma and ADHD co-exist in children in foster care. CHADD explains ways to help treat foster children to meet their needs, by being able to help them be reunified with their family or be adopted into a new family. Both situations can be difficult for children as there will be a lot of change in their lives, especially when they have symptoms of ADHD. Being able to provide the support these children need when faced with a mental illness is critical for their growth and development. For more information on children with mental illness in foster care, please visit the websites mentioned and check out our monthly blog on our website that will be posted on September find date.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Employee of the Month

---

Back to School Picnic

---

One Family's Journey

---

Upcoming Trainings

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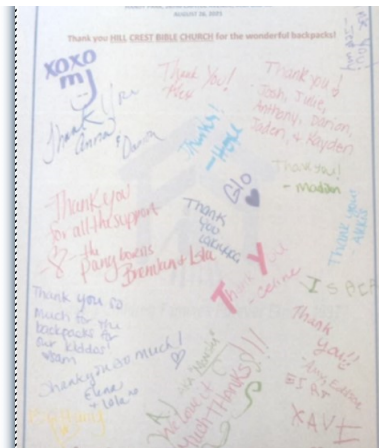
# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

## Madison Kyriakoza

Madison was chosen for employee of the month for her positive attitude and efforts to strengthen the agency. She has taken on new tasks and responsibilities with an eager spirit. She recently coordinated a staff outing to build relationships within the agency and took over creating our monthly newsletters. Madison's hard work and dedication to her job and peers is greatly appreciated!



# BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC



A special thank you is extended to Hill Crest Bible Church, Wayne MI, for their gracious donation of 48 backpacks, filled with school supplies, for our children ranging from preschool to college. We are honored to have partnered with them. We had a beautiful turn out and fun filled day for all of our children.

# One Family's Foster Journey:

## Ana & Jeremy- Fostering Since 2020

### Why did you choose foster care?

We chose foster care to essentially get our "feet wet" with having children long term in our household. Diving right into adoption seemed like a big step for us. Getting accustomed to having children everyday in our household is quite the adjustment and we wanted to make sure adoption was right for us in the long run.

### Tell us about your current placement!

We have a 9 month old that was placed in our care at 5 days old. The placement is a bundle of joy, and we were so excited to see the growth throughout these last 9 months. Seeing the personality, curious nature, and wonderment that little ones have is just a joy to be around!

### Any advice for prospective foster parents?

Be prepared to have your life turned completely upside down, but in a good way. Lean on family members, neighbors, and substitute caregivers when you can because you will need a break! Take advantage of the foster closets located in every county, they have everything you could possibly need. Most of all remember that giving these children a loving and stable home will leave a positive and lasting impression that will be with them for a lifetime.

# Best of Luck to our Licensing Specialist Sam S.



Since becoming part of Forever Families in 2019, Samantha Stockert quickly became a significant part of the Licensing team. Sam helped with creating trainings, facilitating orientations, as well as supporting our parents and team members alike. She has accepted every challenge and met each expectation. It has been a pleasure to see Sam grow and flourish not only in her professional life but in her personal life by becoming a wife, mother, and completing her Master's Degree. Sadly it is time for Sam leave us to peruse other avenues. While she will be missed, we are excited for her and what the future will bring. We want to wish her the best of luck, success, and happiness.

# What else are we up to?

- We currently have 90 foster children in care.
- In 2021, we have:
  - Reunified 22 children with their birth parents.
  - Finalized 17 State Ward adoptions.
  - Licensed 6 foster homes.
  - Completed 1 Guardianship.
  - Domestic Adoption placed 2 babies with adoptive families in August
  - Congratulations to our Domestic Adoption Supervisor Tasha, who got married on July 31st!!

## Don't forget about your training hours!

The monthly support group for foster parents is the 4th Saturday of the month from 9-11 am.

Remember you earn 2 training hours every time you attend a support group, and have an opportunity to receive a prize by attending support groups.

Our upcoming trainings, support group dates & topics:

09/25/21- Educational Supports and IEPs

10/23/21- Resources

11/20/21- Mental Health

Don't forget to check out our monthly blog post on our website!

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