



# FAMILIES FORWARD

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## Racial Discrimination in Foster Care

The representation of African American, Native American, and Aboriginal descent in the child welfare system have been disproportionately represented for decades. According to the NACAC (North American Council on Adoptable Children) the disproportionality is very clear, but the causes for them are unclear. The philosophy of the NACAC is that they believe it is the "responsibility of the social workers and professionals in the child welfare system to work to more clearly understand how they can contribute to the disproportionately."

<https://nacac.org/advocate/nacacs-positions/ethnic-background/>

There are trainings that are required for workers to help them become more knowledgeable on diverse cultures. The overall emphasis of being able to see and make a change in this disproportionality is through "getting services, funding, and having parent advocates as well as peer mentors, who can assist birth parents whose children are at risk of a removal or are in the child welfare system" (NACAC). Children of African American, Native American, and Aboriginal descent are not only disproportionately represented in the foster care system, but usually enter into the foster care system at an earlier age than most and remain in the system longer than others.

It is crucial for foster parents to be aware of the disproportionality within the child welfare system, and for them to be knowledgeable on the facts surrounding it all. For any foster parents who are fostering a child of a different race or ethnic background here are some perspectives/tips that may be helpful to you: acknowledge and discuss differences, prepare yourself for prejudice and racism, prepare your child for prejudice and racism, celebrate your child's race and cultural differences, and consider the surrounding of the child in your care. For example, where you live and where they will be going to school. It is incredibly important to think about the child's environment and ensure their safety and preparedness for anything they may encounter and experience.

For more information and helpful resources for all foster parents and the diverse children they may be fostering here are some helpful resources to check out: <https://fosteringperspectives.org/fpv20n1/Deese.htm>, <https://www.fosterloveproject.org/black-hair-care-resources.html>.

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# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



## Olivia

Olivia was nominated as employee of the month for the outstanding interpersonal skills she has.

She is able to provide a welcoming atmosphere to all of her clients and always has their best interest in mind. She goes above and beyond to get her work done with her ever changing busy schedule.



## Manessa

Manessa has been nominated for employee of the month for her continued hard work and dedication to assisting clients and families. Manessa often goes above and beyond to assist her families in anything additional or necessary to ensure that the adoption case continues to move forward. Last month, Manessa assisted a family by putting together bunk beds for the children in their home. We are thankful to have such a caring, helpful and dedicated worker.



## Forever Families Fundraising Committee Can Drive

Forever Families would like to thank everyone who participated and donated their time and cans to our can drive to help support our agency, as well as the children and families we serve!

# One Family's Foster Journey:

## Tim and Aimee- Fostering Since 2020

### Why did you choose foster care?

We chose to become foster parents because we wanted to have a second child. We had been on the list for private adoption for 2 years without any result. We talked about how there are so many kids in foster care who could use a loving family and decided to try that route.

### Tell us about your current placement!

Our first and current placement is a little girl. She came to us when she was 6 1/2 months old and is still with us 17 months later! She is such a great addition to our family and we are hoping it can be permanent!! She has developed quite the funny little personality and really brings laughter into our home. Our son, who was 5 when she came, just adores her; and likewise she adores him.

### Any advice for prospective foster parents?

I think the biggest thing to know going into foster care is the need for patience, especially if you are hoping to adopt. The process is long, sometimes stressful and emotion provoking. However, in between the parent visits and court dates, having this little girl in our home and lives is worth every minute!



# What else are we up to?

- We currently have 92 foster children in care.
- So far in 2022 we have:
  - Reunified 1 child with their birth parents.
  - Finalized 6 State Ward adoptions.
  - Licensed 3 foster homes.
  - Had 2 Domestic adoption placements and a safe surrender placement.

## 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.

Check out our upcoming support group dates & topics for 2022:

2/26/2022: Court

3/26/2022: Resources

4/23/2022: Cultural Comp

5/28/2022: Self-Care

6/25/2022: LGBTQ/SOGIE

Here is the zoom link to our monthly support group:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84986619737>

Meeting ID: 849 8661 9737

Hope to see you there!

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