



FOREVER FAMILIES INSIDER

Committed to Connection. Focused on Family.

HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL!

Thank you for coming to read the second edition of the Forever Families Insider! Read on to learn about our upcoming events, past events, agency updates, ways to support the agency, a highlighted adoptive family, our staffs of the month, media suggestions, adoption facts, and tips to navigating busy schedules.

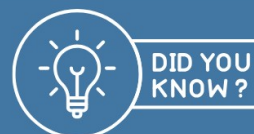
This newsletter is still new to our agency. If you have any suggestions for topics to cover or any feedback please reach out to Melissa Butkovich-Carraway at MButkovich-Carraway@Forever-Families.org

THINGS TO DO

- Forever Families 4th Annual Vendor Show
 - **When:** Saturday 11/22/2025 from 10am-3pm
 - **Where:** Mt Hope Congregational Church, 30624 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150
 - **What to expect:** Listen to holiday music while you shop unique gifts and homemade goods from local artists and small businesses. Perfect for holiday shopping! There will also be a festive bake sale and concessions to support our agency programs. Get your picture taken with Santa! Also support young creators by visiting their youth entrepreneur booths.
 - **Cost:** Admission and parking are free!
 - **For vendor inquires please email:** ffpopup1@gmail.com
- Start a Thanksgiving scrapbook! Have everyone write down what they are thankful for, interview young children and write their responses down. See how the little one's answers change and become more meaningful over the years!

THANKS FOR COMING TO OUR EVENTS!

- On 09/14/2025 adoptive families got together at a local cider mill to get to know one another and talk about all things post adoption! The children enjoyed donuts, climbing on tractors, and playing with one another!
- On 10/25/2025 our agency was sponsored by a local bowling alley to raise money for holiday initiatives. Together we raised around \$1,000. Your participation brought holiday spirit and joy to children in need.



November is National Adoption Month and November 22nd is National Adoption Day. Adoption dates back to biblical times and Ancient Rome. In Ancient Rome, if families didn't give birth to a son, they would adopt a male for inheritance purposes.

ADOPTIVE FAMILY OF THE MONTH!

Candace and Chad Tarkowski have 5 children in their home; two adopted and three currently in foster care – one of whom they are in the process of adopting. Candace and Chad continuously show their dedication to these children and advocate for their special needs and services. Their home is filled with love and fun. Their adoption worker, Amanda, reports that “the Tarkowskis are wonderful people who have big hearts and so much love to give to the children in their home. They have an incredible support system within their family who has become the children’s extended family. The children know that they are loved and that they have so many adoptive relatives in their corner throughout their lives.” Way to go Candace and Chad!

WE WERE BUSY IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER!

Licensed Foster Homes Opened: 1

Reunifications: 4

TIPS FOR NAVIGATING BUSY SCHEDULES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Between parenting times, sibling visits, home visits, therapy appointments, court dates, school, the holidays and more it can feel overwhelming instead of “the most wonderful time of the year”. Consider:

- Using a calendar to stay organized
- Keep people informed and, if possible and needed, reschedule appointments. Communicate with your caseworkers.
- Ask your support system for help. Perhaps carpooling or for respite care.
- Plan a fun and engaging activity to do for sibling visits.
- Establish routines while being flexible .
- Make time for self-care so you can show up as the best version of yourself for your family!
- Meal prep: use a slow cooker or keep a rotating chart of meals such as Taco Tuesday or Pizza Fridays to make meal preparation easier. Encourage kids to help when it is safe - it lightens your load and teaches them life skills.
- Family Check-ins: Set aside time where everyone can voice their feelings, needs, and concerns.
- Use calming strategies such as sensory breaks or quiet corners to help kids navigate their feelings. Take a deep breath or step away for a moment if you need to regulate your own emotions, too.
- Utilize grocery delivery services to save time. Have accounts on auto-pay.
- Give yourself grace. Perfection is not a realistic goal. Embrace the little moments and provide love.

FEELING GENEROUS?

Shop our Amazon Wish List or use QR Code:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlists/ls/REPLACE-LINK>

Venmo: @Forever-FamiliesInc

CashApp: #FFamilies

PayPal: paypal.me/ForeverFamiliesMI



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH!

Brittani Evans

&

Gloria Mitchell

Thank you for your outstanding contributions, hard work and dedication. We are grateful to have you on our team and look forward to your continued success!

GET CONNECTED

Give us a Like on Facebook and follow us on Instagram at @foreverfamiliesmi to stay connected on the most up to date information and learn fun facts!

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Media of the Month:

www.MARE.org

Check out their newly updated website!
Learn about the process of adoption, frequently asked questions, resources, events, trainings, and view Michigan children who are waiting to be matched with their forever families.



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