



BUS ONLY
BUS ONLY

DO or DYE!
Party at Dyeing Time
2023-2024
Make It's
Welcome!
JAS 27th 15th
10 months & 1 year

Thank you to our
Sponsors & Donors
Thanks to Sponsors & Donors for Their Support!

Logos: Wagners, B+D, Staples, etc.

FOSTER CARE

BY LAURI MCKNIGHT

As a children's advocacy and placement agency for nearly 50 years, Children Awaiting Parents (CAP) has always been on the front line to advance the critical need for parents, adults, mentors, guardians, and families to support the large number of children in foster care locally and nationally. We publish the numbers, we share the data, we emphasize the severity of these children's trauma on a regular basis. But the need continues to exist.

To assist in reducing these numbers, providing less traumatic experiences, and build forever families, CAP has the opportunity to provide adoption services as an avenue for children to leave the foster care system, having found their forever family.

But agencies like CAP—although making a difference one child at a time—cannot have a vast enough impact to change the trajectory of the 440,000 children waiting in foster care for a permanent family of their own. Of that population, the majority are under 18; many will be raised in foster care and leave the system without a family. So how does a small, local Western New York organization do more, reach more children, reduce the time in foster care while seeking permanency through a myriad of options? As we processed this in 2019, we reached a conclusion as to what was most needed in Rochester, NY and the surrounding regions.

Our research uncovered the hard facts as to who was remaining in care the longest: older youth, youth of non-White cultures/races, and sibling sets—many of whom have challenging "behaviors" or disabilities. This we knew, but what



could CAP do to make a difference to the foster care system in reducing length of stay and promote permanency through return to family—or adoption, when that was not possible?

One solution meant we had to go back to the beginning. We weren't prepared to develop a preven-tive program as it did not really fit CAP's mission. But Foster Care is where it starts for our adopted kids. And with a new Family First Prevention Services Act ready to commence as of October 1, 2021, we, as a team sought a deeper solution to address this national epidemic.

Our response was to develop our own CAP Foster Care program, governed by New York State, to offer family services to Monroe and the surrounding counties. There is a desperate statewide need to provide a quality program targeting the harder-to-place, more challenging, and older youth. With a therapeutic foster care (TFC) program, CAP could assist many local counties by offering more foster homes, beds, and most importantly, more caring families, therapeutically trained to care for those challenging youth.

And thus, the work began. CAP is dedicated to finding permanency (a child welfare term for permanent stability) for all children at any level that best fits the youth and their situation.

Permanency comes in many forms, including:

- remaining with a family member
- temporary foster care to return to a family member
- foster care to adoption (through foster home or family member or other)

“We weren’t prepared to develop a preventive program as it did not really fit CAP’s mission. But Foster Care is where it starts for our adopted kids.”

- guardianship by a caring family or acquaintance
- another planned living arrangement (APLA) once ready to discharge from foster care at 18 years for independent living

Whatever the outcome, the goal is, and will always be, to provide youth with a family environment and support system.

Throughout the pandemic, the CAP team worked diligently to prepare, write, and develop a program that would benefit youth, counties, and the state to provide quality foster care services. While developing the program, we were already recruiting foster families, locating space, and working closely with our local region of OCFS (Office of Family and Children Services). The year 2020 came and went, and we continued to work in earnest, never giving up hope for the program.

Our staff member Stacie Dailey, LMSW—with a heart and passion for foster care, and who has been waiting patiently for the program since 2019—continued to develop a plethora of forms and narrative compositions, all while recruiting foster parents. I hired Stacie early in the foster care application process with a bare bones outline. Stacie took the helm and ran with her passion. Stacie is a trauma trained licensed therapist and social worker, with what I always call an alphabet after her name. Her credentials as a CCTP (Child Centered Trauma Professional) has enabled CAP to provide trauma therapy and training for our youth and families. She has a long history

of working with youth in foster care, and her drive to open a foster care program was consistent with her passion for youth and families.

In January 2021, CAP relocated to a larger space on Anderson Avenue to accommodate families. In June 2021, the program was finally completed and submitted to the state. Our anticipation grew, but believing that we would be approved and open soon, we continued to recruit, train, and inspect families and homes, and prepare our new space for family visitation.

On August 10, 2021 our local OCFS called to tell us that CAP is now an official NYS-approved Therapeutic Foster Care. Therapeutic means that CAP is trained and approved to serve those youth with a higher need for supervision due to their behaviors, diagnoses, family situation, physical, or emotional needs. CAP staff is trained with a trauma-informed background and therapeutic crisis interventions. Stacie Dailey has been named Foster Care Program Manager, and as such, is trained in trauma evidence-based therapy skills and can provide both training and counseling for foster families, birth families, and youth.

In addition, we hired two amazing internal staff for the open positions to build this quality team. Toni Marrocco-Helwig—previously the Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Recruiter—will be our new Home Finder/Recruiter. Toni brings a wealth of experience with her personal and professional history in foster care. As a MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) trainer, with

experience in Permanency Round Tables, Family Meetings, adoption, and as a foster parent herself, Toni will bring incredible training support to our foster families. Our last hire to date is Case Manager Lizbeth Carrasquillo. Lizbeth comes to this position as a recent MSW, having completed an internship with CAP, bringing experience working with children, and a passion for youth, refugees, and family service. This dynamite team is well-prepared for a program of excellence to make a big impact on foster care!

The story of CAP’s Therapeutic Foster Care program wouldn’t be complete without including our commitment to continue striving toward the ultimate goal of reducing lengthy stays in care and ensuring that youth have a family to support them in the end. This is certainly an exciting and pertinent part of this story.

As we open our TFC program, we also continue to recruit families to care for, mentor, or adopt youth. Becoming a foster parent is a challenging but rewarding experience, one that will change your life forever.

To learn more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please reach out to us at (585) 232-5110, email info@capbook.org, check our website at childrenawaitingparents.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn, and sign up to receive our eNews at <https://bit.ly/3z9vZmT>.



STAPLES
AMERICAN AGENCY
Their Support!
Caring Children Campaign
Staples
Thank you for Supporting Children Awaiting Foster Care
Foster Families for Children in Foster Care


{ CHILDREN AWAITING PARENTS }

“As a children’s advocacy and placement agency for nearly 50 years, Children Awaiting Parents (CAP) has always been on the front line to advance the critical need for parents, adults, mentors, guardians, and families to support the large number of children in foster care locally and nationally.”





CHILDREN
AWAITING PARENTS 

 DONALD J. CORBETT ADOPTION AGENCY

Help Us Find Forever Families for Children Waiting the Longest in Foster Care.

At Children Awaiting Parents we provide:

- ♥ Pre- and post-adoption services
- ♥ Support services for youth aging out of foster care
- ♥ MAPP training for prospective adoptive parents
- ♥ Support groups

childrenawaitingparents.org | 585-232-5110 or 888-835-8802

f @ in 