



Dear <First Name>,

*Every child loved* and nurtured in a Christ-centered family. That is the vision of Christian Family Care (CFC).

Through these letters, you have learned about the wide range of services CFC provides that support our four pillars of Prevention, Preparedness, Restoration, and Preservation. We hope you now see that we serve in more areas than simply foster care and adoption. These four pillars guide the services CFC provides to empower transformation in our communities and fulfill our mission of *strengthening families and serving at-risk children in the name of Jesus Christ*.

Today, we want to share with you the pillar of Restoration.

**Restoration.**

Children thrive best with their natural parents. However, everyday a child is removed from their home for neglect, abuse, or abandonment. The stories of these children are heartbreaking. As we know, God is gracious to all of us, and people and families can change over time. When a child or youth must be removed from their families to ensure their safety, the first goal is to restore them back to their families as soon as possible. The trauma inflicted on a child when all family connections are removed, and they are taken into the home of strangers in a new community is overwhelming.



The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) shares a report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that in 2019, 56% of children who left foster care were restored with their families or reunited with a relative; 26% were adopted. Of the children adopted, 52% were adopted by their foster parents and 36% by a relative, 26% were age nine years or older. Of the families who adopted children – 68% were married couples, 26% were single females, 3% were single males, and 3% unmarried couples. On average, these children spent 17 months in foster care. 93% of the parents rely on adoption subsidies, or vital post-adoption services to meet the children’s varied and often costly needs.

Also, in 2019, 20,455 (8%) aged out of the U.S. foster care system, and a majority are left without the emotional and financial support necessary to succeed in life that other children can receive within a family. <sup>i</sup>

Our mission is to provide a safe, secure, stable, and consistent environment where every child, whether an infant, a child in foster care, or a young adult aging out of foster care, can flourish. To accomplish this, here is what we are doing:

## **What are we doing?**

### **• Foster Care:**

- o Of the 13,000+ kids in foster care in Arizona (as of March 2022), 30%, or approximately 4,000+ kids, are cared for by foster parents, 14% (1,900+ in congregate care/group homes), and 45% (6,000+) by kinship families. On any month there are 1,100+ kids 18-21 years old that reside in extended foster care. CFC recruits, trains, coaches, and provides monitoring and clinical support to foster families that open their hearts and home to serve kids in their homes.

### **• Youth in Transition:**

- o Every child should have a permanent family. Currently, 2,782 foster kids are officially orphaned (parental rights have been severed). At CFC, we help restore kids as we recruit and prepare families to adopt these older youth; matching youth with families, utilizing evidence-based, trauma-informed practices to attain legal permanency.

### **• Family Care Learning:**

- o Restoration requires forgiveness, grace, and change. Parents, children, foster and adoptive parents, educators, and caregivers need support, education, and resources to overcome years of adverse experiences that led to disruption and destabilization. CFC provides a growing library of courses, counseling, and coaching needed to help restore healthy connections and permanency.

• **Arizona Family Counseling & Family Empowerment Services:**

o Keeping children safely together with their families is a top priority. We work with families through early intervention and family support services. As specialists in trauma and attachment therapy, our counselors offer different therapy methods to best help children heal from adverse childhood trauma. Counselors help with assessment, behavior management, emotional healing, and parenting strategies.

**What we hope to accomplish?**

Our aim is for every child to flourish in their natural-born family. Unfortunately, sin leads to disruption in families, kids are separated from all known relationships and enter foster care, and now restoration needs to happen for children to flourish.

We achieve our goals of restoration by: increasing the percentage of kids in our communities raised in healthy two-parent families; increasing the percentage of foster children reunited with their biological parents; decreasing the percentage of children aging out of foster care without a permanent family; and connecting families to healthy relationships and evidence-based services in the community, and providing parent education where parents can learn to create safe, secure, and stable environments.

**How you can help engage with us:**

- Become a foster parent, or provide emotional and spiritual support to a foster parent
- Mentor or join a team mentoring group for a parent or youth aging out of foster care
- Adopt or recruit an adoptive parent for an adoptable youth in foster care
- Partner with a kinship family to provide emotional, spiritual, and material support



Christian Family Care is doing so much more!

Our goal is to help every parent and child thrive, which requires a commitment to do more to help prepare everyone – parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, schoolteacher, church leader, and caregivers navigate the effects of trauma children experience so permanency can be achieved, and an environment created where all can flourish into adulthood.

You now know about our pillars of Prevention, Preparedness, and Restoration. Next month we plan to share with you the pillar of **Preservation**.

Our prayer is as you learn how the stewardship of your resources is being invested in these four pillars, you will be encouraged that your gifts are being stewarded wisely and making a difference. And we also pray that God is moving in your heart to grow your commitment to engage with us as a *champion* for families and children, leading transformation to a thriving Arizona.

Best regards,



Mark Upton  
President/CEO

Visit [CFCare.com/Champions](https://www.CFCare.com/Champions)  
or scan QR with your phone here.



<sup>i</sup> <https://www.ccaainstitute.org/resources/fact-sheets#:~:text=More%20than%2069%2C000%20youth%20in,relative%3B%2026%25%20were%20adopted.>