Christian Family Care

Newsletter

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Helping Children Find Forever Homes

Can you imagine how heartbreaking it would be to know you might never have a permanent home simply because of your age?

The sad truth is that the longer a child remains in foster care, the harder it is for them to find a forever family. **After the age of 7, a child's chances of adoption drop by 50%.** As of May 2026, there are 7,048 children in out-of-home foster care statewide in Arizona. Even more heartbreaking, about 1,100 young adults (ages 18–20) are participating in voluntary extended foster care—having already aged out of the system without finding a forever family.

Those who stay in the foster care system throughout childhood have a much harder time building healthy, fruitful adult lives:

- **Less than 12% percent** of youth who age out of foster care earn a college degree.
- **Over 70 percent** of girls who age out of foster care become pregnant by the age of 21.
- **One in three** youth who age out of foster care will experience homelessness by age 26.
- **Only half of youth** who age out of foster care have a job by 24 years old.

Christian Family Care is working to change these heartbreaking statistics through a variety of permanency programs.

First, when it is safe and possible, we work to reunite children in foster care with their biological parents. This is always the preferred first goal, supported through counseling, parenting education, and wraparound services that strengthen families and protect children.

When reunification isn't an option, there are other paths to permanency, each of which offers children a safe, stable place to belong.

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Helping Children Find Forever Homes . . . *(continued from page 1)*

Adoption is the most permanent way to provide the security of a nurturing, Christ-centered home environment, granting adoptive parents full legal rights and responsibilities once finalized in court. Yet nearly 1,500 children in Arizona are still waiting for a forever family.

But adoption is more than a legal process. Welcoming an older child or teen through adoption is a powerful, life-changing way to reflect God's love, goodness, and faithfulness. As one adoptive dad who's worked with CFC put it:

"Adopting a teen has been the best, most challenging, and definitely profoundly positive life-changing experience for our entire family ... This experience has expanded our view of love, sacrifice, and family, and we would do it all over again!"

When adoption isn't possible, CFC facilitates other permanency options, including:

Permanent Guardianship: This option allows a caring adult to step into the daily role of parenting while preserving biological family connections and leaving room for reunification if it becomes safe. Unlike adoption, guardianship does not grant full legal rights and can only be changed by a judge, with the child's best interest at heart.

Kinship Care: Placing children with relatives or close family friends helps maintain important family, cultural, and community connections. Kinship placements may support reunification, or they may become a permanent solution through guardianship or adoption.

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA): For some older youth, permanency looks like long-term, supportive care paired with strong mentoring relationships and preparation for adulthood. While less ideal than family-based permanency, we work to ensure no young person walks alone.

Your support of CFC makes all these options possible. You are providing healing to those who have been through unimaginable difficulties. Thank you for all you do to provide children with safe, Christ-centered homes during a season of vulnerability!

Share Christmas Joy with a Vulnerable Child

December 25 may feel far away, but Christmas will be here before you know it.

CFC has over 300 children in loving Christian foster homes across Arizona, each with a Christmas wish list. You can make these children's Christmas dreams come true by:

- Purchasing 1 clothing item + 1 toy/game (up to $30 each) from a child's list.
- Wrapping gifts, attaching the provided tag, and returning them to CFC by November 16th.

CFC caseworkers will deliver the gifts during holiday visits in November and December.

We're also collecting $25 gift cards (Amazon, Visa, Walmart, Target, etc.) for foster families. Gift cards can be dropped off, mailed, or donated online.

Together, we can make this an extra-special Christmas for vulnerable children. Thank you for your kindness!

If you'd like to receive a family wish list, please reach out to Sheryl Howard, our Social Services Executive Assistant, by October 9 and let her know how many children you'd like to sponsor. You can contact her at showard@cfcare.org or (602) 396-2524.

Will You Make the Ultimate Gift?

Did you know that 60% of Americans do not have a will?

Your will is more than just a legal document. It's a way for you to declare what matters most to you and ensure that you leave a legacy that aligns with your values and faith. By leaving Christian Family Care in your will or estate plans, you can give substantially more than would ever be possible during your lifetime.

But a legacy gift isn't your only option. You may be able to increase your potential impact—and experience significant tax savings—by giving through an IRA distribution or donating appreciated stock or real estate to Christian Family Care.

Making the ultimate gift to Christian Family Care has never been easier! Christian Family Care works with partner services that can help you explore your options and create a plan that's right for you. Simply contact our team at **giving@cfcare.org or 602-234-1935**, and we will be happy to share more information—or visit our website to learn more about the various ways you can give.

Mark Upton
President and CEO

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Deep down, each of us has a desire in our hearts for home: a place where we are known, loved, and safe. This is a desire that God himself has placed in our hearts.

Unfortunately, in our world broken by sin, many older youth don't have a permanent home to belong to. They live in the foster care system, shuttled from home to home throughout their childhood. Such a lack of permanency can leave serious wounds on the mind and heart.

Fortunately, thanks to donors like you, CFC is providing permanent homes for vulnerable children through a variety of paths. We read in Scripture that "God sets the lonely in families" (Psalm 68:6). Together with you, CFC is carrying out this work—setting the lonely child in a family where they are known and loved.

In this newsletter, you'll read about the many ways you make it possible for children to find stable, Christ-centered homes—from supporting their biological families so that they can reunite, to adoption, to kinship care.

Because of your support, there is a path forward for these children. Thank you for partnering with us to provide vulnerable youth with the safe, compassionate, and loving homes they need.

For the Children,

Mark Upton
President and CEO

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Scan to make a donation