



fosteradopt
connect

ANNUAL REPORT
2017



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends,

For us, 2017 was a year of learning and growth in a changing political climate. In light of the challenges and opportunities these changes presented, it became more important than ever for FosterAdopt Connect to step forward locally, regionally, and nationally as a leading advocate for abused and neglected children and the families who provide a nurturing home for them. Our efforts directly help keep child welfare system stakeholders abreast of the critical issues facing foster and adoptive children and families. FosterAdopt Connect works to ensure that the decision makers charged with crafting policies are empowered to positively impact the most vulnerable children through effective legislation, innovative program solutions, and a basic core understanding of the importance of families to children.

This year our reach broadened to five locations with the opening of two additional resource centers in Chillicothe and Poplar Bluff. Families in rural northwest and southeast Missouri can now experience the unique supports and services that FosterAdopt Connect provides, and children in those families will directly benefit from the support provided to their caregivers.

An additional priority in 2017 was an agency-wide cultural competency initiative in partnership with a coalition of community funders. This yearlong process of evaluation and training equipped our team to better serve foster and adoptive families. As another significant step toward long-term sustainability, internal quality support was added with a communications manager and a chief development officer to support the growth of individual and corporate donors to FosterAdopt Connect.

Every day, FosterAdopt Connect unites kids with families, equips families and service providers with the support they need, and safely launches kids toward a lifetime of success. We couldn't do this extremely important work without the generous support of our board, donors, community volunteers and partners. For all of us who work at FosterAdopt Connect, it is an honor to work with you to change lives for the better, one child and one family at a time.



LORI ROSS
President and CEO

TYJUAN'S STORY

Like many children in foster care, Tyjuan experienced challenges that caused him to bounce between many foster homes and residential facilities. He often acted out and had negative behaviors that challenged even the most skilled foster families – resulting in constant disruption and educational delays. Tyjuan had little support and without serious intervention was likely to age-out of care without a permanent family or high school diploma.

Recognizing the gravity of Tyjuan's situation, his case manager sought the assistance of FosterAdopt Connect's Extreme Recruitment™ program, which specializes in finding forever families for children with significant challenges. The team identified Tyjuan's grandmother, Nadine, who had been written-off as a potential placement option due to unstable housing arrangements.

Nadine desperately wanted to support Tyjuan and was willing to work on whatever was needed.

Although Nadine's housing presented a challenge, the team determined that she was the best, and possibly last chance for permanency for Tyjuan. With some assistance, Nadine attained stable, safe housing and was equipped with training to help manage Tyjuan's behaviors. Seven months after being placed in Nadine's home, Tyjuan is thriving – his behaviors have improved, he found a job, and he is set to graduate from high school on schedule.



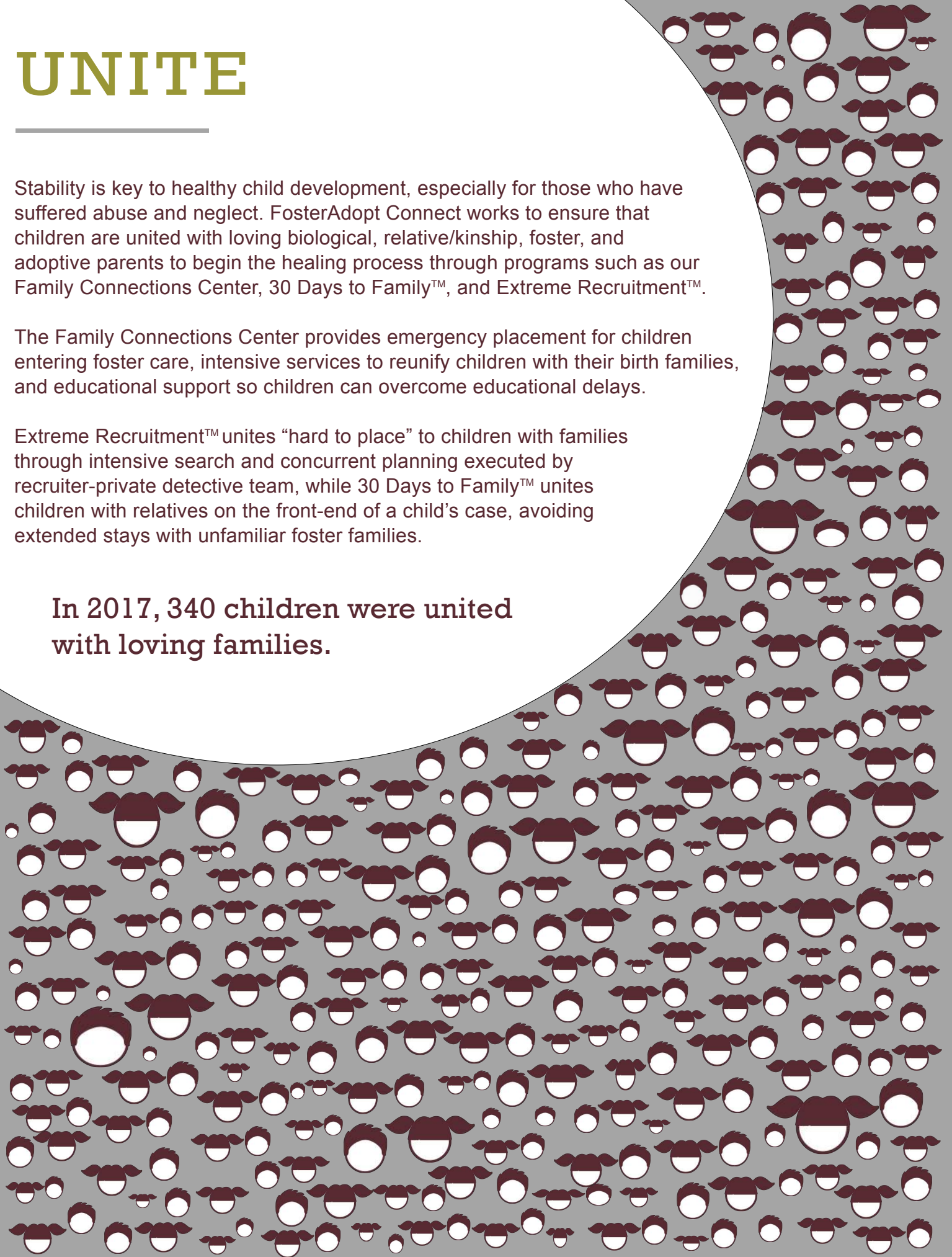
UNITE

Stability is key to healthy child development, especially for those who have suffered abuse and neglect. FosterAdopt Connect works to ensure that children are united with loving biological, relative/kinship, foster, and adoptive parents to begin the healing process through programs such as our Family Connections Center, 30 Days to Family™, and Extreme Recruitment™.

The Family Connections Center provides emergency placement for children entering foster care, intensive services to reunify children with their birth families, and educational support so children can overcome educational delays.

Extreme Recruitment™ unites “hard to place” to children with families through intensive search and concurrent planning executed by recruiter-private detective team, while 30 Days to Family™ unites children with relatives on the front-end of a child’s case, avoiding extended stays with unfamiliar foster families.

**In 2017, 340 children were united
with loving families.**



EQUIP

FosterAdopt Connect equips families to provide loving, committed homes for foster and adopted children through programs like Sammy's Window Clothing Closet and Food Pantry, Licensing, Training, Advocacy, and Behavioral Interventionist because children thrive best in the context of loving families.



150 children received in-home behavioral support thus preventing their placement in residential treatment facilities.



737 foster parents received advocacy support with navigating a complex child welfare system.



99% of licensed foster parents were retained in their first 12 months increasing the number of qualified caregivers for foster children.



12,229 hours of training equipped parents to offer the best quality of care for children.



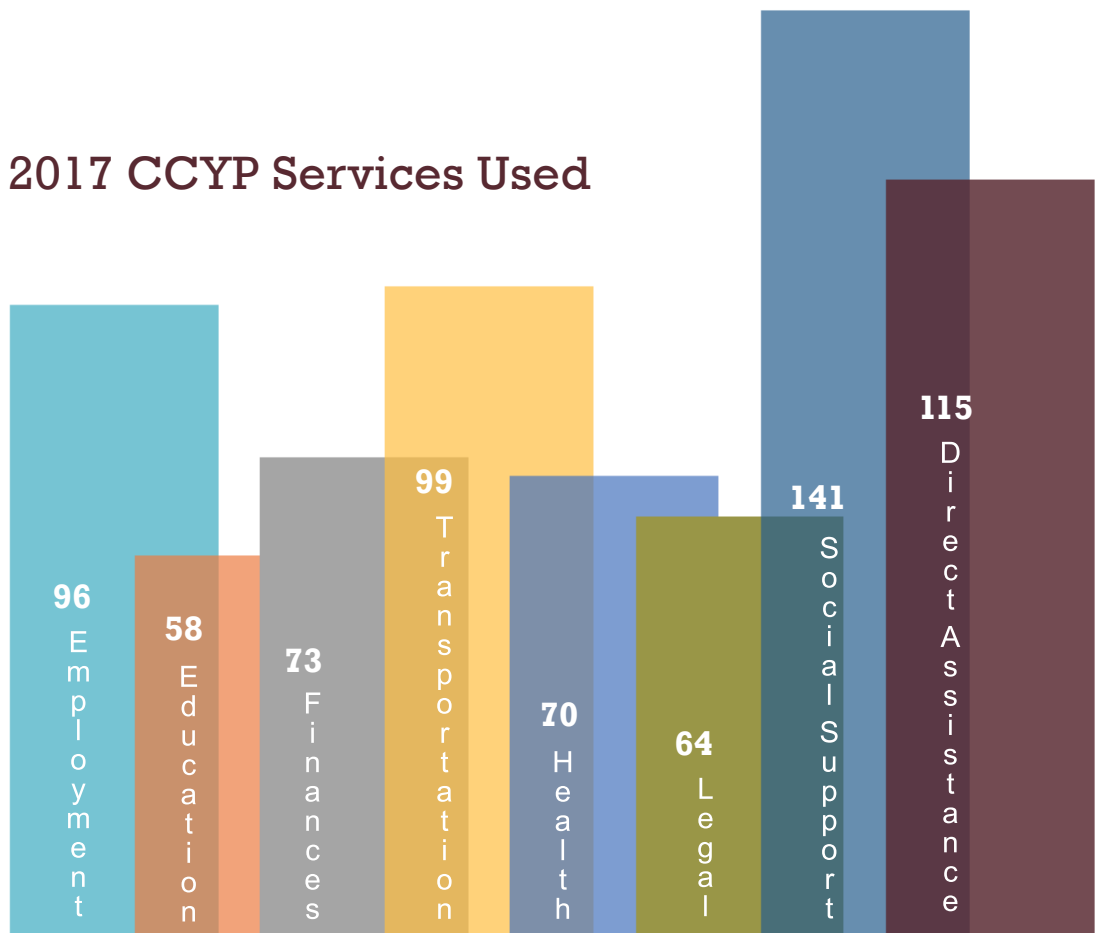
642 families received clothing and food assistance to lessen the significant burden of foster care.

LAUNCH

Children need a solid foundation to launch into adulthood with confidence and security. Community Connections Youth Project (CCYP) works directly with young adults impacted by foster care to obtain the resources necessary to successfully thrive in society, such as housing, jobs, health coverage, crisis intervention services, educational assistance, identification and driver's licenses, birth certificates, and more.

The Legal Advocacy teams assists young adults by connecting them to lawyers and legal education services that help them address minor legal challenges and take responsibility for their lives.

2017 CCYP Services Used



FINANCIALS

Thanks to the generosity of donors and community supporters in 2017*, for every dollar spent:

81¢

went to
programs

13¢

went to
administration

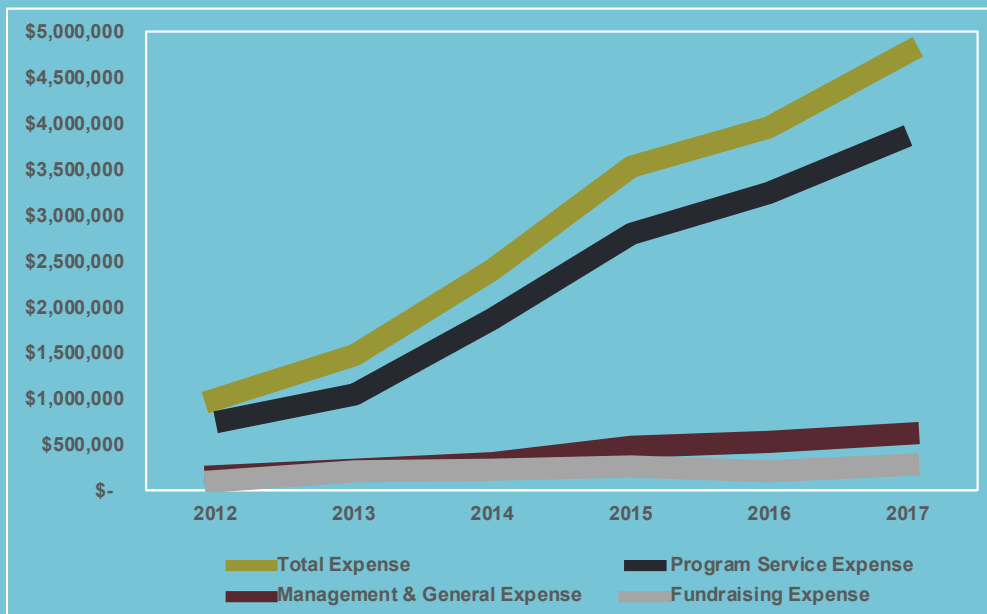
6¢

went to
raising the next
dollar

Fundraising activities serve a dual purpose for FosterAdopt Connect's financial stability. Hosting Ribs for Kids, Forever Families Gala, and the Run for Adoption 5K brings community awareness and funding to sustain the programs and services we provide. Additional financial resources are generously provided through community, family, and corporate grants.



Expense since 2012



*2017 unaudited numbers



fosteradopt.org

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18600 E 37th Terr S
Independence, MO 64057
816-350-0215

EASTERN KANSAS
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SOUTHWEST MISSOURI
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Springfield, MO 65802
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