



May is National Foster Care Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the importance of coming together to serve our community, especially those in foster care.

Read below for resources, tools, and information related to Chosen's fight against the effects of child abuse.

A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Collaboration: research has long indicated that when it takes place, solutions are found more quickly and efficiently. And maybe most importantly, collaboration brings different perspectives together, creating a foundation for more effective solutions.

As we spend the month of May reflecting on the current state of the foster care system, it is clear—we can only solve this crisis through collaboration. **We cannot work in silos and overcome the issues facing vulnerable children, particularly with our current capacity crisis in Texas.**

Nationwide, there are more than 400,000 children in foster care. These children have significant needs that can only be addressed through trauma-informed programs tailored to **meet families where they are**—mentally, geographically, and emotionally. Otherwise, the foster placement may disrupt or end in adoption dissolution. In other words, children will be returned to the system.

At Chosen, we relentlessly do *whatever it takes* to prevent this recidivism. The therapeutic supports we

provide via telehealth have never been more in demand for children and youth facing the devastating affects of trauma. Some even lack a home and need deeper therapeutic interventions. We work diligently to identify best-in-class partners along a robust continuum of care for hurting children. Through collaboration, we can keep families together and help children heal.

We are grateful to be surrounded by a network of partners who all play a part in addressing the issues facing vulnerable children. Each partnership—from foundations, businesses and local churches to our generous donors—plays a part in reversing the foster care crisis.

We are called to care for vulnerable children. We each have a unique role to play. ***What is yours? Will you do something today?***

When we all come together, the collective impact of our work is far greater than anything we can achieve alone.

The foster care crisis seems daunting, but our team remains **hopeful** and committed to reversing the crisis and restoring families. With your partnership and help, we can continue our fight to ensure every child is thriving in a family.

Faithfully,



Jenni Lord | Chosen Care
Chief Executive Officer

Fostering is loving.
Fostering is hard.
Fostering can be overwhelming.

National Foster Care Statistics:



430,000
children in the
foster care system
across the United States



UP TO 80%
of foster youth suffer from
mental health issues as compared
to 18%-22% of non-foster youth



5x
Foster children are five times
as likely to have anxiety
compared to children
who aren't in the
child welfare system



7x
Foster children are seven times
as likely to have depression
compared to children
who aren't in the
child welfare system

Resources for Your Family

Experiences in the foster care system often leave children feeling alone and isolated, which can lead to a difficult transition into their new home. It is important that families have the resources necessary to navigate their foster journey.

That's where Chosen comes in. Take a look below at a few resources recommended by our care managers:

- **[Blog: Quick Facts About Mental Health in Foster Youth](#)**
- **[Podcast: The Adopting & Fostering Home](#)** (Featuring Staci & Tera from Chosen)
- **[Video: Check in with Your Kids and Yourself](#)**
- **[Children's Book Series: Who Loves](#)**

Be sure to check out all other Chosen resources at www.chosen.care!

A CHOSEN STORY: Lindsay's Story

LINDSAY'S STORY*

FOSTERING WITH LOVE



Fostering always begins with a big heart and a call to serve. But without resources, it can be difficult to navigate.

Lindsay's story is no different. After being abruptly removed from her mother's care, her subsequent foster placement was also disrupted. This displacement prevented her from gaining a sense of normalcy, and she was left feeling confused and angry.

When Lindsay's new foster parents, Shelly and David, took her into their home, they didn't realize the extent of her needs. They were at a complete loss of how to move forward when they reached out to Chosen for help.

Read Lindsay's full story [here](#) and see how education and support can help change the narrative for vulnerable children and their families.

Chosen continues to grow.

Join us in welcoming our new team members!



Trish Swords

Trish Swords has joined the Chosen team as the Executive Assistant to CEO Jenni Lord. Trish has 30 years of administrative experience and finds it a privilege to use her skills at Chosen.

Read more about Trish [here](#).



Anna Valdez

Anna Valdez is a Clinical Practicum Student serving on Chosen's Program team. She is a Trust Based Relational Intervention® Practitioner and a Trauma Free World affiliate trainer.

Read more about Anna [here](#).

Have you committed to being part of the healing in

2021?

12 MONTHS, 12 WAYS

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



PLEDGE HERE

We are already 5 months into 2021, but there is still time to sign up to make a difference in the lives of the families we serve!

Today, you can join our community of monthly donors, who support Chosen with an automatically recurring gift of ANY amount.

Whether you sign up to give \$10, \$25, or \$100 a month, you are making a difference to families who are on their journey toward healing!

Monthly commitments of **any amount** can be made [here](#).

connect with us



CHOSSEN®

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES | HELPING CHILDREN HEAL | CHOSEN CARE