

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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LOVE DOES HARD THINGS.

And I see there is a lot of real love between the child and their family. I know that kinship care is hard. Supporting kinship caregivers-EASY.

Kinship families step up every day to do the hard work of caring for children who can't live with their parents. But so often, kinship families face barriers when trying to keep their families together.

I started Foster Kinship because of \$800. just \$800 would make the difference between four siblings staying together with their family forever. The lack of - four siblings being separated into different foster homes.

Raising that first \$800 led to Foster Kinship's first happy ending. In the decade since we have identified so many of those small barriers that we can help solve.

These solutions often come \$800 at a time. But \$800 at a time has the power to create the future for children we all want to see- a home with their siblings, where they are with the family who knows and love them and have the opportunity to thrive despite hard things.

Thank you for your partnership, which ensures that no child should end up without their family over something as simple as \$800.

ALI CALIENDO, PHD
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"Change requires community problem-solving. Abused and neglected children requiring kinship foster care belong to and in their communities. A community cannot be a place where children are harmed and then cast aside to a different community to be healed. A real community takes care of it's own."

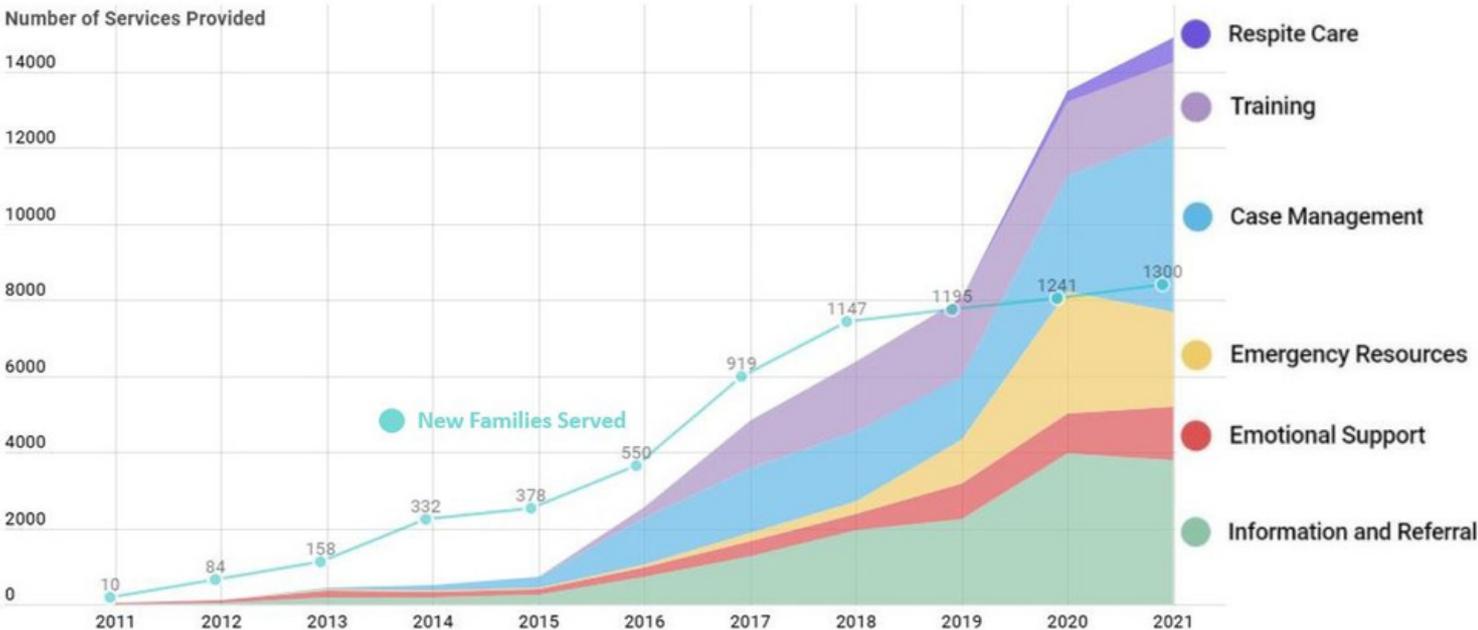


FOSTER KINSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021, over 3,000 children and their families were provided with nearly 15,000 services designed to help children thrive.



Foster Kinship Together: A Decade of Keeping Home in the Family Unique Families Served and Number of Services Provided





A MODEL PROVEN TO WORK

Foster Kinship's Family Stabilization Model has been rigorously tested and is now proven to help families stay together.

Foster Kinship's Navigator model has been rigorously evaluated (Preston, 2021a; Preston, 2021b) and found to significantly improve the following outcomes: access to services (child-only TANF, kinship licensing) and preventing disruption into traditional foster care (with strangers/non-kin).

Foster Kinship's practice model is grounded in research that points to the overall benefits of kinship care compared to stranger care for children who can't live with their parents. We believe that when biological parents cannot raise a child, this child should live with their family in a kinship home, and supporting kinship families is necessary for the child's well-being. The family provides safety, familiarity, and love to a child who has experienced the trauma of parental separation. Family also helps children identify who they are on the deepest, most essential levels.

The foundation of Foster Kinship's work is the recognition of the kinship bond. Coupled with that is the understanding that kinship caregivers are often more vulnerable- more likely to be older, single female caregivers such as grandmothers- who live on a fixed income and have limited access to the support traditional foster families receive. Without help, kinship families are often pushed into poverty. They may not have the tools to help children overcome trauma. Critically, kinship families do not know how other systems define them, what resources are available, or how to access them.

Drawing from social support theory and transaction cost theory, Foster Kinship's Kinship Navigator Program provides targeted information, referral, support, basic needs, and case management activities. Foster Kinship focuses on reducing uncertainty for new caregivers by connecting caregivers to accurate information at the right time and providing tangible and technical support to achieve goals. Each service is designed to connect kinship families to networks of social support, provide tangible resources, and increase baseline resources by ensuring understanding of and access to available resources. The Navigator program reduces both search and acquisition costs on the caregiver.

Program services are focused on four short-term outcome domains: legal capacity, financial sustainability, parenting and child community connection, and caregiver support. By increasing stability in those four areas, Foster Kinship increases the safety, stability, and nurturing capacity of the kinship home and reduces disruption into stranger foster care. Children in safe, stable, and nurturing homes are more likely to overcome the challenges of early childhood trauma to experience typical adulthood.



THE NEXT DECADE

In the first decade, we designed and implemented a family support model that is proven to stabilize families, so what is next for Foster Kinship?

We are welcoming our next decade with the development of the Kinship Training Institute, the opening of our donation center Marcie's Heart, and the launch of in-home kinship navigator services.

Our vision for the next decade is to continuously improve our practice, provide resources for other professionals, improve laws and policy, amplify partnerships by continuing to listen to the caregiver voices. We have a vision of using our intervention point to break the cycle of generational trauma and improve not just the lives of children we serve, but of generations to come.

Fundamentally, we believe that children who must be separated either temporarily or permanently from their birth parents should stay with their siblings and stay with their family. It is our honor to provide the kinship family with the tools to raise healthy children who can break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

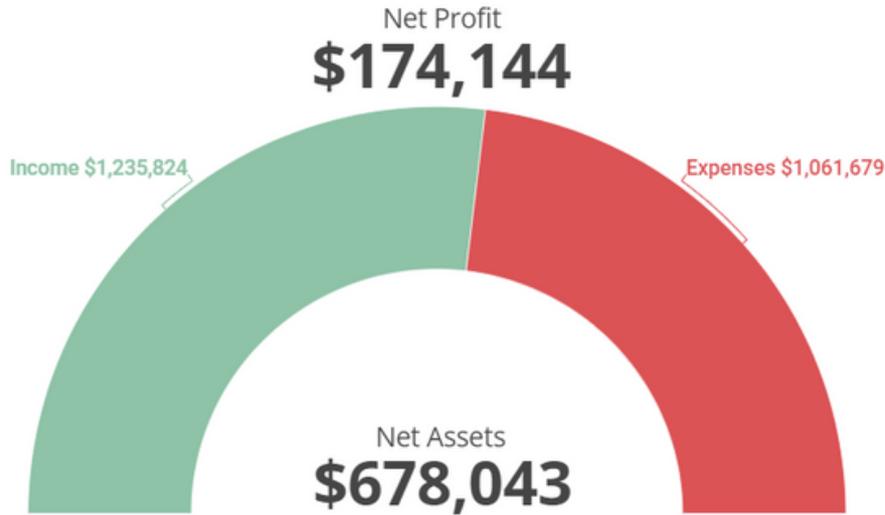
We hope you join us now- whether it be through volunteering at Marcie's Heart, dropping off your gently used children's toys and clothing, or providing the financial support for that next \$800 solution- the upcoming decade of Foster Kinship is going to be a period of exciting growth and opportunity to make change for kids! **We can do this- together.**



FINANCIAL HEALTH

Looking for an investment with generational impact?

We achieve our evidence-based model outcomes of **safe, stable, and nurturing** homes- for just under \$350 per child.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for working hand in hand with us to bring kinship care out from the shadows and into the full support of a community that cares.

By working together with you, Foster Kinship has been able to help over 13,000 children in the past decade. It is an honor to walk alongside these incredible families each day.

Together, we can work on behalf of the best interest of children who can't live with their parents.

