what is a family?
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Special Thanks To...

In Partnership with the Utah Division of Child & Family Services
LETTER FROM THE CEO

WHAT IS A FAMILY?

Mom, dad, siblings, grandma, grandpa, foster mom, foster dad, foster grandma, foster grandpa, step-grandpa, step-siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins, second cousins, friends …

Families are not always people descended from a common ancestor. Words like family, kin, clan, neighborhood, or community mean belonging, protection, love, support, well-being, pride, encouragement, and safety. Families can also bring heartache, loss, grief, and loneliness.

Sometimes families are separated by drug abuse, poverty, or illness. Sometimes children are left to themselves. Neglected and abused children often end up in the foster care system.

That’s where foster families come in. Foster parents volunteer to enlarge their family and provide protection and safety for those less fortunate.

This year, 702 new families stepped up.

THESE ARE UTAH’S FOSTER PARENTS

Our foster parents are as diverse as the children they serve. They are people who care — deeply. They are people who see the suffering of children and make a decision to take them in, to nurture them, to give them a chance to become whole. A chance to belong, to have their own family someday.

The Utah Foster Care Foundation serves every type of family. Each of our foster families is guided through the initial process of finding out if foster parenting is a good fit for them. They then go through 32 hours of training. Once trained, each family is offered support through foster family community groups and on-going training.

This is our vision: to improve the lives of vulnerable children placed in foster care by providing compassionate, nurturing, and qualified foster and adoptive families.

It’s rewarding, challenging, fun — and, sometimes it’s heartbreaking. It isn’t for everyone. Our Foundation community includes those who have never been foster parents. They contribute, instead, through volunteer efforts and financial support.

You can make a difference in the lives of Utah’s foster families. Become a part of our community … and if you’re already contributing, thank you!

Kelly Peterson, Foundation CEO
A family can start any time

FROM THE BIG CITY...

Nancy Zelenak wasn’t looking for a family. But a family found her.

“I was living a very selfish life (before becoming a foster/adoptive parent),” says Nancy. “It was all about me. My focus now is the girls and sharing my life with them. It’s tough being a single parent, but it’s great!”

“I thought, if you’re considering foster parenting, why not foster children who you can talk to, who can bathe themselves, who can beat you at Scrabble?”

From broken dreams to big plans, Nancy’s choice has made all the difference to Aubrianna. Today, Aubrianna has dreams of her own; she beams as she talks of becoming an obstetrician: “I’d like to bring life into the world.”

...TO SMALL TOWNS

Excerpts courtesy of Price Sun-Advocate

For most couples, there are nine months to prepare for a new son or daughter. Bill and Krikit Butcher started their family when the phone rang.

The Butchers found out that children in their own small community in Emery County needed families to care for them while their biological families worked on issues like drug abuse and parenting. They were able to take
“Like many other families, we were afraid of getting attached to a child, only to have them leave our home,” says foster mom Brenda Horrocks. “We wondered if we could handle it all.” Prospective foster parents learn through their training that reunification of a child in foster care with their biological family is the number one goal—in a sense being a bridge to a better future.

In the words of one foster parent, “We can’t change the things that have happened in their lives, but we can help them move in a better direction and provide them a place they can call home.”

preparatory classes from a Utah Foster Care Foundation trainer in their own area of the state and became licensed foster parents.

“I have bonded with all of the children right off the bat,” says Krikit. “Just being there for them and helping them get back to their families is very important to us.”

They are now adoptive parents to a five-year-old girl and are fostering a toddler with special medical needs. They feel they are a family.

“We would definitely recommend it to couples who can’t have children,” Krikit says.

“It’s been a great experience for us.”

A FAMILY SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE

After going through an initial screening process, hundreds of families begin foster parent training. One in every four children in foster care in Utah is Latino or Hispanic. Special classes are offered for Spanish-speaking families. But no matter what language they speak, families often share at least one concern:
A FAMILY LAUGHS & CRIES TOGETHER

Families make up the backbone of our efforts. At the Utah Foster Care Foundation, we listen to them and value their opinions. Foster families are a precious resource; we work very hard to retain experienced foster/adoptive families by offering them rich, on-going support.

BUILDING MEMORIES & SKILLS

The annual Foster Family Camp at Aspen Grove is held each September. For little or no cost, some 400 foster parents and children retreat from their everyday challenges to share their unique experiences with similar families.

Children and parents work as a team, bonding and creating lasting memories. Lively parenting classes are even sprinkled in. This camp often represents one of the few vacations families can afford to take.

Major donors, including Aspen Grove, make this retreat possible.

NORMALIZING CHILDHOOD

Many children come into foster care not knowing structure or praise. Some don’t even have photos of themselves. Fun events, family-centered activities, and holiday gift donations allow children to form lasting bonds. Some of those activities include a day at Raging Waters or tickets to Real Salt Lake matches.

SUPPORT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Every week, you can find groups of foster parents who meet on a regular basis to encourage each other and for on-going professional training. These support groups are called “Clusters” and are organized through the Foundation, with a volunteer foster parent facilitator. New foster parents find comfort among peers, while long term parents enjoy personalized, professional training.
FOSTER / ADOPTIVE DADS OF THE YEAR

IT TAKES EVERYONE IN A FAMILY

When you think about nurturing, does the image of a mother come to mind? How about a father?

Many children in foster care have never had a nurturing, consistent male role model present in their lives. That’s why, every year at our annual Chalk Art Festival, the Utah Foster Care Foundation honors five outstanding Foster / Adoptive Dads of the Year.

It takes everyone in a family to be part of the foster care experience. These dads and their children, whether they are biological, adopted, or still in foster care, feel that deeply.

Foster dad Jeff Edwards of Moab (pictured above with Foundation CEO Kelly Peterson and KSL-TV’s Brooke Walker) spends lots of time outdoors with his foster son, helping him regain trust in adults.

What makes the other Foster / Adoptive Dads of the Year special? Here’s what their friends and family have to say:

Chris Erickson of Harrisville began teaching a kid’s martial arts class so his children could have formal training, wear their uniform and earn belts.

After Gerardo Reyes of Moroni disciplines his children, he always ends the conversation with, “I love you and I always will, no matter what.”

Mark Broderick of Provo has the ability not to give up on traumatized children, even when their behavior becomes difficult.

In 2010, these dedicated dads included marathon runner Mike Millgate of Riverton. Mike made foster care part of his “platform,” talking about it at each marathon to raise awareness and encourage more families to step up and become foster families. He also developed his own web site to raise donations.
MAJOR DONORS ($1,000+)

Bonneville Charitable Foundation  St. James Catholic Church
Cream o’Weber  St. Mary’s Catholic Church
Crestwood Stake Relief Society  T.D. Williamson, Inc.
Cummins Rocky Mountain  TechSoup
Department of Agriculture  The Byrne Family
Employees Association  The Gateway
Eastern Utah Parrot Head Club  Uintah High School
Endeavor Foundation  United Way of Utah County
EPC Services Company  Utah Arts Festival
Fat Cats  Utah Food Bank
GeekBox  Utah State Employees
Goldman, Sachs, & Co.  Charitable Fund
Grace Lutheran Church  Wal-mart
Hair One, Inc.  Wells Fargo
Hilltop United Methodist Church  Western States Lodging
iFrogz  & Management
Jeff Snow & Associates  Weston Cash
KSL Newsradio  Westroc Trucking Co.
KSL-TV  Maurice’s
Maurice’s  Moab Adventure Center
Maurice’s  Parker Hannifin Corporation
Price Kiwanis Club  R.B.I.
R.B.I.  Reagan Outdoor Advertising
Reagan Outdoor Advertising  S & S Enterprises
Reagan Outdoor Advertising  Seth Duffin
Seth Duffin  Sportsman’s Warehouse

SO MANY WAYS TO HELP

Beyond being a foster parent, there are other ways to make a difference. The Foundation also seeks support from businesses and individuals — such as mentoring, respite care, and donations to help teenagers in foster care or the families working with them.

For additional information, visit utahfostercare.org or call 877 505 kids

UFCF staffer Faith Spencer delivers holiday gifts in the Uintah Basin.
Photo Credit: UFCF

Children donate backpacks to Diane Callister at St. George office.
Photo Credit: UFCF
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION *

Assets

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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Property &amp; Equipment, Net</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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Liabilities

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**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**

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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
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* As of June 30, 2010

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES **

Revenues & Support

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<td>Contributions</td>
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Expenses

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Change in Net Assets

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** For the Year Ending June, 30 2010

FINANCIAL UPDATE, FISCAL YEAR 2010

The Utah Foster Care Foundation spent 88% of its total budget carrying out its core mission: to find, educate, and support families to meet the needs of children in foster care. This core mission continued, despite cutbacks of 3.5% — or just over $100,000 — in the contract with the Utah Division of Child and Family Services.

UFCF secured nearly $380,000 in contributions in FY 2010. The value of its invested funds increased $35,000, a significant change from 2009.

A VERY BUSY CALENDAR

The Foundation pursues its mission with vigor — across the state and throughout the year.

Natalie Tangren, Foundation Accountant
Brightly colored characters stared out of the sidewalks at The Gateway shoppers Friday. Professional artists and amateurs alike chalked out initial sketches ranging from portraits of Albert Einstein to copies of the art of Dr. Seuss and M.C. Escher to help raise money and awareness for the Utah Foster Care Foundation.

... Kayla Farnsworth, 14, was one artist crouched over the once blank pavement, with elbows, knees and hands shaded in blues and greens. She was helping to create a mermaid.

But Farnsworth wasn’t just an artist in the festival. She learned about Utah Foster Care Foundation when she was 6, as a child in foster care. Farnsworth came from a home troubled by alcoholism. She had been beaten. Now happily adopted by her foster family, she will be starting eighth grade next year.

“I remember I got hit a lot and (the parents) were drunk all the time,” Farnsworth recalled, “but now I feel safe, like no one is going to hurt me.”

... Heidi Naylor is one of Utah’s foster parents, having taken in eight children in three years. Of those eight, she has adopted three. She still remembers her first encounters with the complex issues she faced as a foster parent.

“We’ve had children in our home who weren’t fed regularly,” Naylor said.

Whenever a new child came into the family, the family would make pizza from scratch. She remembers when a 2-year-old ate an entire medium-sized pizza by herself.

“They would hoard food in their rooms just because they wanted to make sure they ate regularly,” Naylor said.

It took over a month for the children to realize they were going to get food three times a day every day. And it’s lessons like these that Naylor finds most heartbreaking.

“People don’t realize when they come from pretty typical families what experiences other children in their community are having. ... We don’t realize there are kids, even in our very own community, who aren’t eating regularly or being clothed or getting to school.”

Farnsworth is one person the Utah Foster Care Foundation doesn’t have to recruit to become a foster parent in the future. She “totally” plans on being a foster parent one day.
A COMPLETE COPY OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.