A Village for Alan...

At age 16, Alan found himself living with a foster family one week before Christmas. As the family began their holiday traditions, Alan sat in the corner of the room and did not engage in conversation. Then, a present was pulled from under the tree and his name was called. Alan was in shock.

"Me?" he asked.

After a lifetime of poverty and neglect, Alan received his first Christmas gift ever—a bike, made possible through generous donations to Utah Foster Care. In that moment, his foster parents watched a young man melt into a child.

The bike was the first of many “firsts.” His first family vacation. Backyard barbecues. Family camping trips.

Utah Foster Care’s donor-funded programs also made it possible for Alan to graduate high school, supplying him with tutoring and a laptop.

“Me?” he asked.

After a lifetime of poverty and neglect, Alan received his first Christmas gift ever—a bike, made possible through generous donations to Utah Foster Care. In that moment, his foster parents watched a young man melt into a child.

The bike was the first of many “firsts.” His first family vacation. Backyard barbecues. Family camping trips.

Utah Foster Care’s donor-funded programs also made it possible for Alan to graduate high school, supplying him with tutoring and a laptop.

“The community helped build bridges for me to have a good life and a future,” says Alan. “I like to think I’m one of the luckiest people alive.”
Utah Foster Care (UFC) continues to have many successes with children and foster families. Because of UFC’s commitment to being the best, they continue to develop new training modules and methods, establish new programs, and organize their agency in a way that allows for greater effectiveness and efficiency. There are more foster homes and foster parent retention rates are up — directly improving the lives of abused and neglected children in foster care.

— Erik Ence, BOARD CHAIR, UTAH FOSTER CARE