



# Adoption Resource Center of Eastern Missouri

Made possible by a grant from the Missouri Children's Division and the Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS).

## Support Services

### Resource and Referral

- **Book Fair** - Annual donations from Barnes & Noble.  
*Shelley Thomas-Benke - Director of FosterServe  
shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org*
- **KidStore** - Resale shop for foster and adoptive families.  
*Monyka Jones - KidStore Manager  
314.773.KIDS / kidstoremanager@yahoo.com*
- **Little Wishes** - Experiences for children in foster care.  
*Rossi Summers - Director of Operations  
reshellesummers@foster-adopt.org*

### Parent Support Groups

- Monthly groups for foster/adoptive parents. Childcare provided.  
*Kimberly Like - Director of Family Development  
kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org*

### Youth Support Groups

- "Real Talk" for teenagers dealing with adoption issues.  
*Aaron Layton - Support Group Coordinator  
aaronlayton@foster-adopt.org*

### Case-Based Advocacy

- Help with policy research, community resources, and emerging best practices.  
*Denise Kelley - Director of Family Advocacy  
denisekelley@foster-adopt.org*

### Parent-to-Parent Network

- Temporary relief for adoptive families through a social network.  
*Kimberly Like - Director of Family Development  
kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org*

### Training Extravaganza

- Quarterly workshops for foster and adoptive families (7.5 training hours). Childcare provided.  
*Kimberly Like - Director of Family Development  
kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org*

### Educational Advocacy

- Help with school enrollment, special education services, IEPs, suspensions, tutoring, and school transitions.  
*Leslie Lewis, Director of Educational Advocacy  
leslielewis@foster-adopt.org*





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## Recruitment services

### "A Place to Call Home"

- Weekly segment on KSDK NewsChannel 5 featuring waiting children.  
*Sheila Suderwalla - Director of "A Place to Call Home" and Project Teen Plus*  
[sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org](mailto:sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org)



### Child in Need

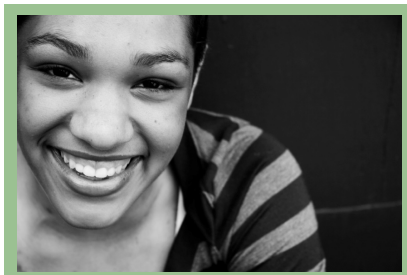
- Child recruitment articles published in eleven Illinois newspapers.  
*Tom Kircher - Co-Director of Illinois Recruitment*  
[tomkircher@foster-adopt.org](mailto:tomkircher@foster-adopt.org)

### Project Teen Plus

- Youth-specific recruitment for teens and pre-teens.  
*Sheila Suderwalla - Director of "A Place to Call Home" and Project Teen Plus*  
[sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org](mailto:sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org)

### Wendy's Wonderful Kids

- Child-specific recruitment through support from Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.  
*Connie Doty - Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter*  
[conniedoty@foster-adopt.org](mailto:conniedoty@foster-adopt.org)  
*Liz Johnson - Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter*  
[lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org](mailto:lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org)



## FosterServe

Connects volunteers with experiences to match their skills and interests. A few examples include:

- **Birthday Buddy** - Provide birthday presents for a child in foster care.
- **KidStore Volunteer** - Work as cashier or clothing sorter.
- **Little Wishes Volunteer** - Help fulfill wishes (*seasonal*).
- **Mentor** - Be a Big Brother or Big Sister to a child in foster care.
- **Provide a Meal** - Drop off a meal to a foster family.
- **Tutor** - Help foster children build reading skills.

*Shelley Thomas-Benke - Director of FosterServe*  
[shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org)

