



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.
*Cindy Ysaguirre - 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.
*Kimberly Like - Support Group Coordinator
kimberlylike@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



Child in Need

- Child recruitment articles published in eleven Illinois newspapers.
Jan Joeckel - Co-Director of Illinois Recruitment
janjoeckel@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

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
Liz Johnson - Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter
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



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