

Fostering Hope

Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition



Little Wishes Holiday Program Surpasses Goal!

\$215,000 Donated for 7,800 Holiday Wishes



Winter 2007

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KSDK's Mike Bush and his son Ryan greet Holiday shoppers.



KSDK's Rene Knott and JLSL volunteers enjoy playing Santa.

What a marathon! From the "launch date" on November 16th 'til past midnight on December 21st, wishes were granted almost non-stop — 347 bicycles, 281 DVD's, 750 electronics, 333 dolls, 442 perfume sets, plus books, trains, trucks, bedding sets, sweatshirts and fleeces, riding toys, and even class rings for our high school seniors!

Partnering with **KSDK NewsChannel 5** to fulfill holiday wishes of children in foster care is a dream come true for FACC! When the #1 television station in St. Louis supports your work with dedicated on-air talent, producers, writers, and more — words just cannot express our gratitude. Thank you to everyone at KSDK NewsChannel 5 who made wishes come true this holiday season for children in foster care.

Thanks also to our many volunteers! More than 100 members of the **Junior League of St. Louis** organized and staffed the Shopping Day at **Wal-Mart** where 823 wishes were granted by generous St. Louisans. Our long-standing partnership with the Junior League is truly a gift. And thanks to the Wal-Mart Foundation for donating the shipping!

Many other **volunteers** came to our offices to process hundreds of orders each day, purchase wishes online, and help answer the phone. We also thank those who delivered holiday goodies to keep us all running at full steam—we appreciated it so much!

We have all heard the adage: "It's better to give than to receive." It's very clear that St. Louisans live it!

Sincere thanks to everyone who made the holidays special
for our children in foster care.



Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

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314-367-8373 or 1-800-FOSTER-3

www.foster-adopt.org



BIG Wishes Come True!



With happy tears on every face in the courtroom, 16-year-old Becky and 15-year-old Sara officially became members of the Crangle family in February 2007. "We now have a mom and dad to love us," the previously shy Sara explained.

FACC's award winning television segment, "A Place to Call Home" is proud to have played a role in such a wonderful outcome. Just a year earlier, the girls lived in two separate foster homes and their hopes for finding a forever family were dwindling. Several viewers inquired about the girls. One of them turned out to be Becky & Sara's paternal aunt who thought she had lost the girls forever. The girls' father had passed away and his family lost contact. After seeing the broadcast, a tearful Aunt Debbie phoned FACC to find out how she could reconnect. After some hard work with Becky & Sara's child welfare team, it was decided that Debbie and her husband Roy would adopt the pair.

The girls have settled into a new life and have changed so much in the past year—they smile and are so outgoing they light up a room! They are also typical teens who enjoy school activities, lip gloss, and boys rather than worrying about where they'll live next. Two lives were changed for the better...thanks to "A Place to Call Home" on KSDK NewsChannel 5!



Letter from the FACC President

Dear Friends of FACC,

This edition of "Fostering Hope" is full of great news! The Little Wishes Holiday Program surpassed all expectations. FACC is the newly-designated Eastern Missouri agency for Wendy's Wonderful Kids. To kick off the holiday season, FACC hosted 500 foster children and their families at a live theatre performance of "Charlotte's Web." Our Junior Board hosted their first very successful social event. In 2006, FACC recruited more new foster families than ever before—309! Our FosterServe program connected more than 200 volunteers with opportunities to help foster children and their families. In April, we're hosting a brand new fundraiser, the Old Bags™ Party.



What do all of these have in common? Our kids! At FACC, our mission is to create permanency in the lives of foster children by recruiting and supporting foster/adoptive homes. We believe that every child deserves a family and that there is a family for every child. All of these efforts help us find the special families who open their hearts and their homes to our kids in foster care.

It's what we do at FACC — we find homes for children and help families grow!

Sincerely,

Jeff Haller
Board President

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

Thank you to the staff and customers of Barnes & Noble/Des Peres!

When Barnes & Noble in Des Peres chose FACC as the beneficiary of its holiday book drive, Mark Hill, a store manager, predicted that about 150 books would be donated by holiday shoppers. The staff was terrific, encouraging their customers to add a book for a child in foster care to their holiday purchases. The response? Incredible! Customers generously donated more than 700 books for our kids!

After sorting the books into age-appropriate groups, Barnes & Noble staff will join FACC at our March Training Extravaganza. These terrific volunteers will see first-hand the excitement and joy on our children's faces when they receive their new books.

We predict lots of happy readers!

THANK YOU to the students in Mrs. Bredbenner's 3rd Grade Class at **Chesterfield Elementary School!**

For a "Pay it Forward" project, the students earned money doing chores like the dishes and cleaning their rooms. They sent \$155.00 to FACC to purchase Little Wishes for kids in foster care. Austin helped carry firewood and wrote, "It was really tough but it was worth it. We might make your wishes come true."

"I hope you get wonderful parents. I know you're wonderful. I hope you get a home soon!" (Sam)

"I hope you get good parents that treat you right. I hope you have fun." (Justin)



A Signature Program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
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FACC Chosen as Wendy's Wonderful Kids Agency in Eastern Missouri

Each day without a family feels like forever to a child in foster care. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is committed to ending the wait through its signature program, *Wendy's Wonderful Kids*.

WWK provides child welfare agencies with funding to hire a recruiter focused solely and aggressively on placing foster care children with adoptive families.

In Missouri, grants were awarded in December 2006 to Cornerstones of Care in Kansas City and the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition in St. Louis, helping WWK reach an important milestone: the program is now in all 50 states across the nation.

Each Missouri agency has hired a recruiter who will collaborate with the Children's Division and its private agency partners to find homes for our most difficult-to-place children, older youth and sibling groups. Each WWK recruiter will dedicate 100% of her workday to conducting a child-specific recruitment program for each of the 15-25 children on her caseload.

In only two years, WWK recruiters in other states have helped more than 1,000 children in foster care be matched with or adopted by their permanent families.

WWK is made possible by the extraordinary efforts of the Wendy's restaurants. Additionally, Wendy's customers support the "Change a Child's Life" campaign by dropping spare change into the canisters placed on the restaurant counters. Funds raised are dedicated to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's signature program, WWK.

As an adopted child and an American success story, Wendy's founder Dave Thomas believed it was unacceptable for any child not to have a safe, loving, and permanent home. That is why he created the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - to focus on the thousands of waiting children in foster care who deserve to be adopted.

If you are interested in learning more about *Wendy's Wonderful Kids* or the children in our program, contact Liz Johnson at 1-800-FOSTER-3.



2006 HIGHLIGHTS

- * Recruited 309 foster families
- * Helped place 42 children in adoptive homes
- * Provided 2,580 hours of training
- * Provided advocacy help to 330 individuals
- * Fulfilled 7,800+ Little Wishes
- * Created a Post-Adoption Resource model for MO
- * Named the Wendy's Wonderful Kids agency for Eastern MO

Kids loved their Little Wishes!



A Christmas Story

By age 16, David* had been in foster care for 10 years. Through our teen adopt program, Project Teen Plus, David and his brother were placed with an adoptive family. David was so happy to finally spend a Christmas with a family of his own. He told his new mother that he wanted to give her a special Christmas gift to show his love for her while "helping make someone else's dream come true." On the Little Wishes website David the little wish of 8-year-old Dylan, After weeks of saving his allowance, David donated \$36 to grant Dylan's wish for a racetrack.

David modestly said, "It's no big deal. I just wanted to let a boy in foster care know someone out there cares about him."

We hope that Dylan's wish for a forever family comes true too!

* Name changed for confidentiality.

Junior Board News

A crowd of 100+ gathered at The Pepper Lounge to “party with a purpose” at the first social event sponsored by the Junior Board. Thanks to all the Junior Board members, with special thanks to **Jadea Abolahari, Dala Freesmeier, Megan Green, Whitney Haas, Preston Humphrey, Priyal Patel and Jenny Reade** of the Special Events committee, and **Eliza Drown, Heidi Glaus, Julia Walker, and Nakeyia Williams** of the Marketing/PR committee! This party raised \$1,755 to support FACC’s work to find families for kids in foster care.

Thanks to **The Pepper Lounge** for hosting and to all who attended for helping our kids!

Our new phone number is 314-FOSTER-3.

How can YOU help children in foster care?

- Become a foster parent, a mentor, or a tutor.
- Use your eScrip Community Card whenever you shop at Schnuck’s. Our # is 500004839.
- Donate children’s clothing, shoes, and baby furniture to the KidStore.
- Purchase the Show Me St. Louis Cook Book, “Dining In” at Borders.
- Attend the Old Bags™ Party on April 26th and bring your friends too!
- Grant a Little Wish at www.littlewishes.net.



DON'T MISS The Old Bags™ Party!

When: Thursday, April 26th

Time: 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Where: The Living World at the Zoo

Cost: \$75 per person

Come bid on beautiful new and gently-used designer handbags including Prada, Gucci, YSL, Kate Spade, Coach, and much more! There is also a special raffle of a Louis Vuitton bag (pictured on our website) which retails for \$5,100! Raffle tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Winner need not be present to win.

Grab your girlfriends, get a gorgeous handbag *and* help FACC find families for children in foster care. Call today for tickets, to donate a bag (tax-deductible), or for sponsorship opportunities.

314-367-8373 or email debbiegenung@foster-adopt.org.

www.foster-adopt.org



Better Business Bureau **WISE GIVING SEAL**

is awarded to

Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

The BBB Charity Information Service evaluates more than 600 regional charities for compliance with its 20 standards for accountability. These standards include financial accountability, governance and oversight, effectiveness measures, and fundraising and informational materials. These are among the most comprehensive measurements applied to non-profit organizations. Charities that receive the Wise Giving Seal demonstrate responsibility to their contributors and to the recipients of their services.

GIVE . . . BUT GIVE WISELY



Here’s a photo of Helen taken right after filming “A Place to Call Home.” SEARS CPI Portrait Studios donates a professional photo shoot to each one of our kids—they really enjoy the experience and it’s such a boost to their self-esteem.

Thanks Sears-CPI!

For more information about adopting Helen, please call 314-FOSTER-3.

TOUCHED BY A FAIRY GODMOTHER

Kayla, one of our children featured on “A Place to Call Home,” touched the heart of a special viewer who has two granddaughters that look just like her. “Maybe that is why you touched my heart when I saw you on TV,” she wrote. She could not stop thinking about Kayla so she decided to send a note and gift - a beautiful silver bracelet handmade especially for Kayla. Included was a note that said, “I want you to be reminded whenever you wear your bracelet that a “Fairy Godmother (me)” thinks about you and is praying for you to be happy and successful in life.”

FACC happily sent this on to Kayla. We know she’ll be just as touched as we are. Kayla is waiting for a forever family. For more information, call 314-FOSTER-3.

