

## Celebrating Adoptions in Foster Care



November is **National Adoption Month**, a time of year to recognize the need for foster and adoptive homes, AND to raise awareness of the continued need for loving homes throughout the Arizona and the United States.

The state of Arizona has nearly 20,000 children in its foster care system. Roughly half of these children will be able to reunify with their biological families but thousands of these kids face a more uncertain future. It is through foster families, that many of these children are given a second chance and a forever home.

With so many children in foster care, there is a critical need for foster and adoptive homes for children of all ages (0-17). The need for foster homes for older children and teenagers (10 and up) is even greater. Without a permanent connection, a foster child who turns 18 will “age out” of the foster care system without any support or guidance. Statistically, the outlook is grim for these youth who age out of the system with only 54 percent graduating from high school.<sup>1,2</sup> In addition, children who have spent years in the child welfare system in multiple foster homes, are more likely than their peers to experience unemployment, incarceration, homelessness, drug addictions and early pregnancy.<sup>1,2</sup>

Foster homes for sibling groups are also a significant need. Oftentimes children are separated from their brothers and sisters if there are not enough spaces available in one home. Regardless of a foster child’s age or background, one thing is certain; family connections are an essential part of a child’s health and well-being and a critical component for a successful future.

Throughout the month of November in honor of National Adoption Month, hundreds of foster families and foster children across Arizona, Devereux foster families included, will celebrate the importance of family as they finalize adoptions at special Adoption Day celebration events. Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health Arizona would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who have fostered and adopted and continue to advocate for children. You are truly making a difference and creating an opportunity for a brighter future for so many young lives.

**[Learn more](#)** about how to become a licensed foster parent or other ways to help and support our vulnerable youth.

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### References:

<sup>1</sup> Courtney, M.E., and Piliavin, I. (1998). Foster youths’ transitions to adulthood: Outcomes 12 to 18 months after leaving out-of-home care. Madison: WI, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1998, cited in Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care. (2004). *Fostering the Future: Safety, Permanence, and Well-Being for Children in Foster Care*. <http://pewfostercare.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Reilly, T. (2003). Transition from care: Status and outcomes of youth who age out of foster care. *Child Welfare*, 82(6), 727-746.