— 2016 — ANNUAL REPORT







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Letter From The President and CEO



After four decades, Spaulding for Children has many stories to tell – stories of love, joy, journeys and families fulfilled. In 2002, we celebrated 25 years and 1,000 adoptions. In 2003, we expanded our services to Corpus Christi to widen our impact and reach more children and families. Year after year, we have continued to add stories, and it's because of tremendous supporters like you. Because of you, Spaulding for Children has become one of the best in providing children in need of loving home with the joy of having one through adoption.

Our stories have to continue, as the need in Texas is large. More than 6,400 children are in the Texas foster care system waiting to be adopted. In 2016, 1,250 young adults celebrated their 18th birthday without a family, in conjunction with losing any support they had through the foster care system.

As we take on 2017 and our 40th anniversary, we are excited to add another important story: This will be our last Annual Report as Spaulding for Children.

Our new name is Arms Wide Adoption Services, but our mission remains the same. Arms Wide Adoption Services will continue the Spaulding for Children story in addressing the overwhelming large need here in the state of Texas. However, we'll do this with a name we feel more clearly and accurately illustrates our mission: To transform the lives of children in need of safe and nurturing adoptive families. The families and communities we serve can expect our process, people and purpose to remain the same, as we continue our stories together.

We believe the name Arms Wide Adoption Services positions us to grow by making it easier for families to find us and understand what we do: understanding the needs of each child, finding the right family, and supporting all through the placement process and beyond. This means we can place more children in permanent homes and leave more families fulfilled. We look forward to a bright future – a future where children can thrive with the love and support from their forever family.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and dedication to Spaulding for Children and to the children in our community who need help. We may have a new look, but with your help, we can continue to leave families feeling the same: fulfilled.

Sincerely,

President and CEO



Foster Care

The Foster Care program provided through Spaulding for Children's Houston office supports the agency's mission by providing a safe haven home for abused or neglected children who have been removed from their birth homes and placed in the custody of the State of Texas. In 2016, Spaulding for Children's Foster Care program:

- Provided 11,331 days of care for 66 children in the Greater Houston area
- Facilitated the adoption of 20 children who were adopted by their foster parents

Largest Placement was 4 children Oldest Child was 15 years old Youngest Child was 10 days old

Special Needs Adoption

Adoption services are provided through Spaulding for Children's Houston and South Texas offices which serve 32 counties in Texas. The Special Needs Adoption Program consists of several components: recruitment, training, placement, and finalization. These services are offered free of charge to families, eliminating significant financial barriers for prospective adoptive parents, and helping more children in need achieve permanency through adoption. In 2016, the Special Needs Adoption Program:

- Placed 45 children in permanent families
- Finalized 35 adoptions where children officially became part of their forever families

Largest Placement was 4 children Oldest Child was 17 years old Youngest Child was 21 days old

Post Adoption

Post Adoption services are also provided through Spaulding for Children's Houston and South Texas offices. Spaulding for Children's Post Adoption Program began in 1989 to provide on-going support to children who were adopted from the Texas foster care system and their adoptive parents. The program is designed to protect, strengthen and preserve the new adoptive families so they can be healthy and successful. In 2016, the Post Adoption Program:

- Provided post adoption support services to 460 children
- Provided 3,130 hours of case management services
- Provided therapy and respite services enabling 99% of the 460 children served by the Post Adoption program to remain with their adopted families

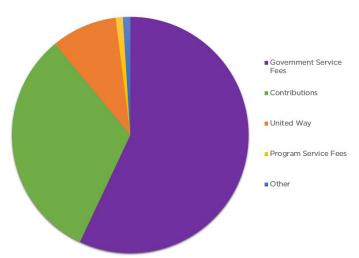
2016 Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

Government Service Fees	\$1,342,657	57%
Contributions	\$765,432	32%
United Way	\$204,711	9%
Program Service Fees	\$32,546	1%
Investment Income	\$19,535	1%

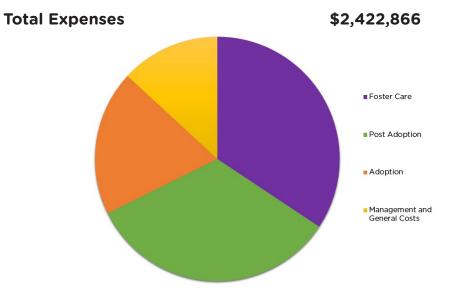
Total Support and Revenue

\$2,364,881



Expenses

Foster Care	\$826,433	34%
Post Adoption	\$809,191	33%
Adoption	\$466,879	20%
Management and General Costs	\$320,363	13%



The Garcia Family Story

"I Finally Have A Family Who Loves Me"

About five years ago, through no fault of his own, Jacob entered the Texas foster care system with his six siblings. Moved from home to home, Jacob recalls how no one quite understood him or his story.

Michelle Garcia was ready to start her family. She contacted Spaulding for Children in 2015 to help.

"From the moment I walked in their doors, I really felt they were there to help me and make the process smoother,"<u>Michelle said.</u>



Michelle first met Jacob when she hosted him and his sister for respite care. Respite care provides foster parents with temporary rest, while foster children are able to continue to receive support in a safe and nurturing environment. During their first visit, Michelle felt connected to Jacob, but knew he would go back to be with his foster family.

In April 2016, Spaulding for Children contacted Michelle about caring for Jacob during an emergency respite situation. Knowing Jacob was a good kid, Michelle immediately agreed. During their two weeks together, Michelle and Jacob made many memories, documenting them with pictures. They spent plenty of time together, including an hour drive every morning and afternoon, so Jacob wouldn't have to change schools.



When the two weeks allowed by the state for respite care were up, Michelle received no answers about where Jacob would go next. With so much uncertainty ahead, Jacob cried. He didn't want to leave Michelle.

Michelle contacted Spaulding for Children about what her options were. She said the Spaulding for Children staff was there for her. They told her she could adopt Jacob, but really walked her through the process and asked her to sleep on it. When Michelle woke up the next morning, she knew all of this was happening for a reason – she wanted to make Jacob her son.

"I couldn't let him go," Michelle said. "I wanted to adopt him."

When Michelle met with Jacob after school, she told him the good news.

"I was happy," Jacob said. "I finally have a family who loves me."

Jacob gave Michelle a big hug, and they celebrated by going out for ice cream. While they were out, Jacob folded a heart from an index card in Michelle's back seat and left it for her in the car window. His journey to find a loving family was finally over.

During the placement period, the months Jacob and Michelle spent together before the adoption could be final, Spaulding for Children continued to be there for them. Arianne Riebel, Spaulding for Children's Manager of Foster Care and Adoption Programs, spent five hours with Jacob and Michelle, helping them bond and work through any of the challenges they were having as a new family.

"That wasn't something Arianne had to do," Michelle said. "We had a case worker, but Arianne took her own personal time and caring to do that for us."

In December 2016, Jacob joined the Garcia family forever, and the entire Spaulding for Children team who followed their story from the beginning was there to celebrate. Now, their favorite pastimes include just being together. Joined by Jeff, Michelle's boyfriend, this family of three enjoys taking walks with the dog, playing board games like *Monopoly* and *Exploding Kittens* and continuing to bond every day.



Spaulding for Children gratefully recognizes the foundations, corporations, religious organizations and individuals who believe in our mission and allow us to provide adoptive homes for children in foster care who have endured abuse, neglect or abandonment through their generous contributions. We know that our work would not be possible without your support!

Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors who made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2016:

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We appreciate your tremendous support.

We could not place the children we work with in forever families without you.

Thanks again!

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Check out our online calendar for Information Meeting opportunities. Hosted the first and third Wednesdays of every month, you can learn more about taking the first steps in foster care and adoption.



To learn more about our services, visit our website:

www.spauldingforchildren.org