



2017 Annual Report





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- Vikki Finley



A Letter From The President and CEO

In 2017, Arms Wide Adoption Services, formerly Spaulding for Children, celebrated 40 years of transforming the lives of children in need of safe and nurturing adoptive families, but there's more work to be done.

As an agency, Arms Wide Adoption Services celebrated many milestones in 2017: We celebrated our 40th anniversary; we celebrated our strong reputation as Spaulding for Children; we celebrated starting a new chapter as Arms Wide Adoption Services; we celebrated placing our 2,100th child with their forever family; and we celebrated devoted staff and eager new team members. However, achieving these milestones only brought brief smiles, because in the back of our minds are the 7,200 children across Texas who are still waiting for their forever family.

We have a lot of work to do. With our new name came investments in our mission of transforming the lives of children in need of safe and nurturing adoptive families. Now, our staff members spend a lot more time talking about who we are, rather than who we aren't. Compared to 2016, our mission is touching a lot more people. Since launching our new website under the Arms Wide Adoption Services name, our website traffic has increased nearly ten fold. Our new name makes it easier for families to find us and quickly understand what we do and the services we provide. This gives me a lot of hope.

In the child welfare space, it's easy to lose hope. Hope is even easier to lose when faced with natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey. Although the impact on our current staff and families was minimal, our community came to halt. As

beautiful as it was to see everyone stop to help their neighbors, we can't help but think of the additional uncertainty foster children faced due to the setbacks Hurricane Harvey caused in our state.

As Texas continues to heal, my hope strengthens. As I look ahead to 2018, I am excited about what we will celebrate this year. With a new brand and the awareness built around our mission, I am certain more prospective families will come through our doors. 2017 was dedicated to raising more awareness about who we are. 2018 is dedicated to ensuring more children experience the joys of having a loving family to call their own.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Arms Wide Adoption Services and to the children in our community that need your help. Together, we can continue to celebrate families fulfilled.

.....
Sincerely,



Vikki Finley
President and CEO

Celebrating Families Fulfilled.



04



Meant To Be Mya

Mildred and Mya Define Adoption



In 2017, Arms Wide Adoption Services celebrated its 40th anniversary. Since its inception, Arms Wide has placed more than 2,100 foster care children, like Mya, with their forever families. This is thanks to the love and support of people like you!



Adoption (a dop' tion) n.

1. Building a family through the process of concentrated, dedicated, enduring love, rather than biology.

Mildred made the decision to adopt because she wanted to provide a child in need with a loving and caring home. Her journey to adopt officially began when she accepted her first and last emergency foster care placement of a 2-month-old, multi-racial girl named Mya. Mildred admits times throughout the journey were not easy, but she believes the family she has now is truly meant to be. Today, Mya is two years old and thriving in her forever home:

“During the course of this journey we have had plenty of sleepless nights,” Mildred said. “We have learned to crawl, walk, and talk; we have celebrated birthdays and countless holidays, and traveled many places together. More importantly, we have experienced this journey as a family. Since day one Mya has been a part of every aspect of our lives.”

Mildred said she is relieved that the adoption is finalized. Her favorite part of the journey was Mya’s adoption day, the moment Mya legally became Mildred’s daughter and was no longer her foster child. When asked to describe the moment she knew everything was meant to be, Mildred said:

“When I was finally able to sign Mya’s last name the same as mine.”

Now that Mya is a toddler, they spend a lot of time coloring, playing together, and visiting places that consume Mya’s abundance of energy. Mya has become an expert talker. They continue to go everywhere together – from attending picnics, going to church, attending baby showers, or participating in cultural fundraising walks while Mya is in the stroller.

As the final note to her adoption journey, Mildred wanted to leave potential adoptive families with a little bit of advice:

“Adoption means choosing to love another individual without biases and despite imperfections.” Mildred said. “Be flexible, have a sense of humor, don’t sweat the small stuff and keep smiling.”

.....
If you are interested in learning how you can become a foster or adoptive parent, please call 713-681-6991 for more information.

2017 Program Outcomes

04

Largest placement was 4 siblings

14

Oldest child was 14 years old

01

Youngest child was 1 day old

04

Largest placement was 4 siblings

16

Oldest child was 16 years old

09

Youngest child was 9 months old

Foster Care

The Foster Care program provided through our Houston office supports our mission by providing a safe haven home for abused or neglected children who have been removed from their birth homes and placed in the protective custody of the State of Texas.

In 2017, Arms Wide's Foster Care Program:

- Provided **9,836 days of care for 61 children** in the Greater Houston area
- Facilitated the adoption of **18 children** who were adopted by their foster parents
- Maintained a superior success rate in which 100% of children were safe in care

Special Needs Adoption

Adoption services are provided through our 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 parents.

In 2017, the Special Needs Adoption Program:

- Placed **37 children** in permanent families
- Finalized **39 adoptions** where children officially became part of their forever families
- Maintained a superior success rate in which **95%** of adoptive placements became finalized adoptions

99%

Enabled 99% of the children served by the Post Adoption program to remain with their adoptive families

477

Provided post adoption services to 477 children

3,166

Provided 3,166 hours of case management services

07

Post Adoption

Post Adoption services are provided through our Houston and South Texas offices. Our Post Adoption program began in 1988 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 that they may remain together.

In 2017, the Post Adoption Program provided:

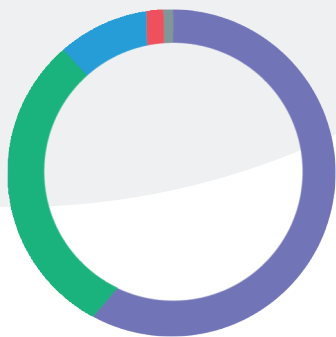
- 1,030 hours of therapy
- 778 days of respite services
- 54 days of care in a Residential Treatment Center



2017

Revenue & Expenses

08



Revenue

56%	Government Service Fees	\$1,372,013
33%	Contributions	821,834
08%	United Way	197,044
02%	Investment Income	58,903
01%	Program Service Fees	8,460
Total Support and Revenue		\$2,458,254



Expenses

34%	Post Adoption / Post Permanency	\$865,132
32%	Foster Care	823,298
20%	Adoption	479,225
14%	Management and General Costs	366,652
Total Expenses		\$2,534,307

Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors who made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2017:

\$100,000 +

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 United Way of Greater Houston

\$50,000-\$99,999

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 Touchdown Houston

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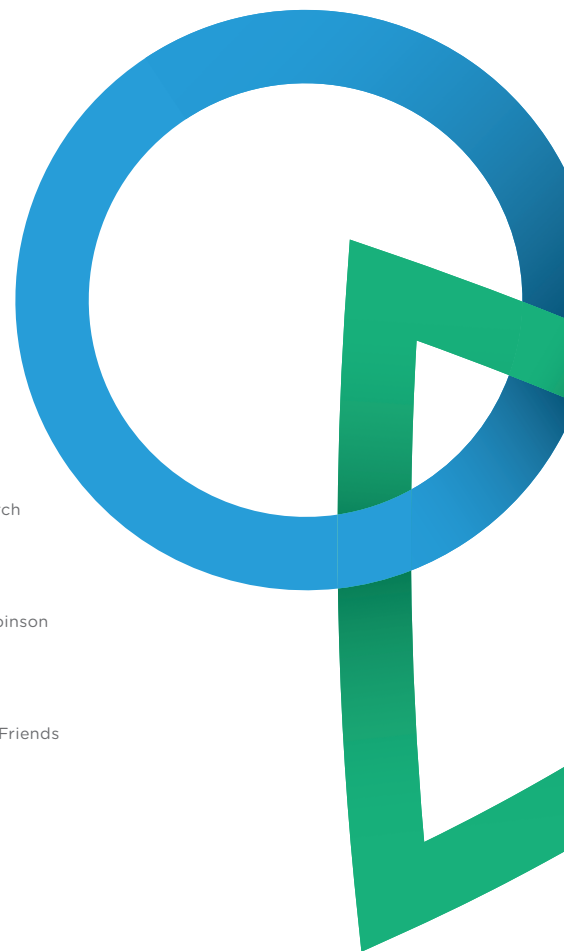
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We appreciate your tremendous support. We could not place the children we work with in forever families without you

Thanks again!



*denotes monthly givers



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