

# 2018 Annual Report



**Jamie Perrello**  
Adoptee and Scholarship Recipient

*"I could not have done this without the continued support I received from everyone at Arms Wide Adoption Services. Thank you so very much! I am so appreciative!"*



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# A Letter From The President and CEO

Arms Wide Adoption Services has been transforming the lives of children in need of safe and nurturing adoptive families for 41 years. 2018 came with some challenges, but Arms Wide Adoption Services remains thankful for its supporters who enable us to connect kids with their forever families.

A shift from last year's focus on rebranding and awareness building, 2018 was dedicated to ensuring more children experience the joy of having a loving family to call their own.

As the Greater Houston and South Texas communities healed from the heartbreak of Hurricane Harvey, Arms Wide Adoption Services was faced with challenges: Families rebuilding their flooded homes, an uncertain economic climate, and local court systems playing catchup. No matter the challenges, Arms Wide Adoption Services continued to press on, because we believe every one of the 7,000+ foster children in Texas waiting to be adopted should not wait a moment longer to find their forever family.

To meet the staggering number of waiting kids, we ramped up our family recruitment and training efforts. We offered more Information Meetings outside of our usual spots, and we continued to make investments in marketing so families could more easily find us when they were ready to start their adoption journey.

Arms Wide Adoption Services also celebrated extremely successful outcomes for children serviced by our programs in 2018. We maintained a superior success rates in which 100% of children were safe in care, 100% of placements became finalized adoptions, and 99% of children served by our Post Adoption program remained

with their adoptive families. We strongly believe this is because we're one of the only agencies offering a holistic end-to-end approach.

In 2018, Arms Wide Adoption Services celebrated record-breaking fundraising efforts. As government funding continues to decline, we turned to our supporters for help, and you showed up big. From two record-breaking special events to increases in Coastal Bend Day of Giving and annual giving, we feel incredibly lucky you chose to support the work we do to transform kids' lives. There is no way Arms Wide Adoption Services could achieve its mission without you - our generous and steadfast supporters.

So thank you for your continued support and dedication to Arms Wide Adoption Services and, most importantly, to the children in our community who need your help. Together, we can continue to celebrate families fulfilled. I look forward to overcoming more challenges and celebrating even greater successes with you in 2019.

.....  
Sincerely,



Vikki Finley

# Celebrating Families Fulfilled.



*The Fiumara Family - August 2018*



*The Garza Family - March 2018*



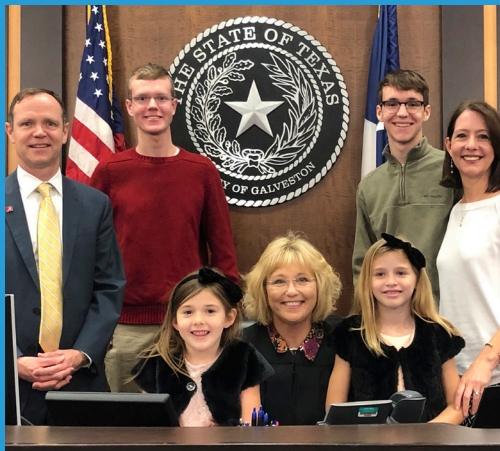
*The Rogers Family - May 2018*



*The Golden Family - May 2018*



*The Garza Family - May 2018*



*The Caffrey Family - December 2018*

# The Martin Family

## The Positives Far Outweigh The Negatives



When Rod, a caseworker at Arms Wide Adoption Services, agreed to drive a six-year-old named Steven to an Astros game, he didn't realize he was about to meet his son. However, as soon as Steven hopped in the backseat, Rod knew this kid was special.

*"He immediately started to hum to the music on the radio," Rod recalls. "I was impressed that he had that kind of rhythm at his young age."*

Rod has worked for Arms Wide Adoption Services since January 1995, so he felt prepared to adopt. He found his career at Arms Wide Adoption Services due to his passion for foster care and adoption. Although he's been at his position for 23 years, he still treasures the moment when a family is perfectly matched.

Before pursuing adoption to grow his own family, Rod gained plenty of experience as a caseworker. He witnessed parents inspired by a spiritual urge to give kids homes, while others were daunted by the difficulties children in foster care have experienced. He considered himself ready to go through the adoption process, but says when you're adopting into your own family, "All your own advice goes out the door." He had to learn to take up any and every resource that was available, and realized, despite his years of experience, he still needed plenty of help throughout his adoption journey.

During their pre-placement visits, the Martins took Steven to fun, family activities to bond with him. However, after the adoption, Steven had to adapt to a regular routine and an emphasis on his schoolwork. He was in first grade and faced educational challenges, since his foster parents hadn't worked with him closely on his academics. Steven took time to realize that everyday wouldn't be full of fun activities and that he couldn't receive every toy or game he wanted. Rod remembers: "Once he realized he wasn't going to get everything that he asked for, life leveled out somewhat." As soon as Steven joined his forever home, he expressed his love for his new parents. Rod says:

*"Adoption is a choice that isn't a very easy choice to make," Rod admits. "You give up part of yourself, your life, and your current family when you make the leap to adopt."*

But Rod believes it was all worthwhile, saying "the positives far outweigh the negatives." The giving of your time and heart to a child in need? Rod says that's "the most special part." And that little boy humming in the back seat? It's been eight years since they met, and Steven's only grown more talented and assertive, and Rod's eyes still twinkle when he talks about him.

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

# 2018 Program Outcomes

4

Largest placement was 4 siblings

18

Oldest child was 18 years old

1

Youngest child was 1 day 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 2018, Arms Wide's Foster Care Program:

- Provided **10,997 days of care for 63 children** in the Greater Houston area
- Facilitated the adoption of **13 children** who were adopted by their foster parents
- Maintained a superior success rate in which **100%** of children were safe in care

4

Largest placement was 4 siblings

16

Oldest child was 16 years old

1

Youngest child was 1 year old



## 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 2018, the Special Needs Adoption Program:

- Placed **24 children** in permanent families
- Finalized **22 adoptions** where children officially became part of their forever families
- Maintained a superior success rate in which **100%** of placements became finalized adoptions



## 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 families. The program is designed to protect, strengthen and preserve the new adoptive families so that they may remain together.

In 2018, the Post Adoption Program provided:

- 1,016 hours of therapy
- 834 days of respite services
- A therapeutic weekend of camp to 19 families

# 99%

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

# 461

Provided post adoption services to 461 children

# 3,290

Provided 3,290 hours of case management services



## Post Permanency

Post Permanency services are provided through our Houston and South Texas offices. Our Post Permanency program began in 2017 to provide on-going support to children who were placed in a Permanent Managing Conservatorship, where a judge appoints a person to be legally responsible for a child without adopting the child. The program is designed to protect, strengthen and preserve the new families so that they may remain together.

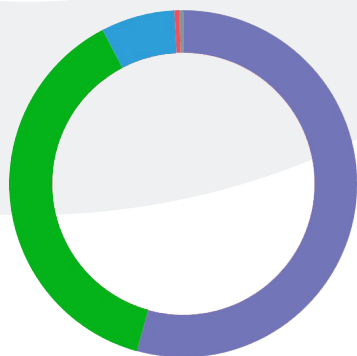
In 2018, the Post Permanency Program provided:

- Services to 1,341 children
- 1,072 hours of case management services
- 516 days of respite services



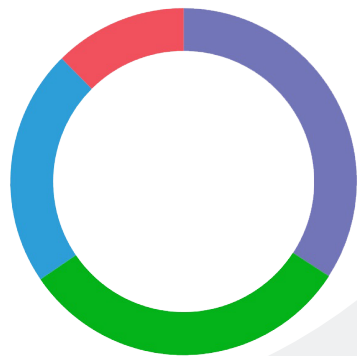
# 2018

## Revenue & Expenses



### Revenue

55%	Government Service Fees	\$1,494,565
38%	Contributions	1,046,806
7%	United Way	189,023
<1%	Investment Income	(12,874)
<1%	Program Service Fees	9,240
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>		<b>\$2,726,760</b>



### Expenses

34%	Post Adoption / Post Permanency	\$930,694
31%	Foster Care	852,336
22%	Adoption	601,448
13%	Management and General Costs	338,565
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,723,043</b>



## Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors who made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2018:

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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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*“Overall, I’d say the adoption journey was a roller coaster of emotions. It has been one of the greatest challenges, yet one of the greatest sources of satisfaction in our entire lives.”*

*- Leo Caffrey, Arms Wide Adoption Services Adoptive Dad  
Finalized December 2018*

