

# 2020 Impact Report

A young boy with a joyful expression is holding a white sign with black text. The sign reads: "698 DAY'S IN FOSTER CARE BUT TODAY I'M ADOPTED!". The boy is wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. The background features a large, stylized purple circle and a grey swoosh.

**698** DAY'S  
IN FOSTER CARE  
BUT TODAY  
I'M ADOPTED!



I KNEW  
I LOVED

FULFILLING FAMILIES

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- Rachelle Webster, LMSW, LCPAA  
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Post Permanency Services



# A Letter From The President and CEO

Dear Arms Wide Adoption Services family and friends,

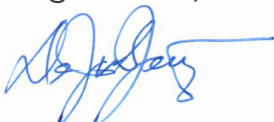
As I begin my second year with Arms Wide Adoption Services, I am immensely grateful to have the opportunity to be part of this wonderful organization and to work closely with such a phenomenal group of committed professionals. When I joined Arms Wide in April 2020, we were just beginning to grasp the reality of the ways in which the pandemic would change life as we knew it. Throughout these challenging times, the staff at Arms Wide remained resilient and committed to providing high quality, person-centered services safely and responsibly. This resilient spirit, coupled with your generous support, has made it possible to continue serving the children and families of Greater Houston and South Texas.

At Arms Wide, we believe that all children deserve a safe, nurturing family, especially in times like these. Although the pandemic altered our daily operations and presented many challenges, we found creative ways to continue serving kids and families who need us. Despite challenges of the transition to virtual platforms, our program teams received A-ratings, successfully complied with all monitoring reviews, and maintained a superior success rate in which 100% of children were in safe care and 93% of the child-family matches led to finalization as forever families. Our Development team celebrated one of the most successful fundraising years in recent history. There is no way that we could have accomplished these things without your generosity.

In a year of economic and social challenges, 2020 was also a year of new heights for us. We were fortunate to grow our Post Adoption programming by acquiring the entire service contract for Greater Houston, making us the sole provider of Post Adoption Services for the region for the first time in the 30-year history of the contract. We also expanded our services in South Texas, where we now offer foster care and foster-to-adopt programs in response to the region's placement capacity crisis. This expansion aims to help meet the demand for foster care placements to address an urgent shortage of local South Texas families so children can be placed in a family in their own community.

As the new President and CEO, I am looking forward to our future together as we expand the capacity of Arms Wide to advance our vision and mission. The pandemic has brought new challenges to children and families in Greater Houston and South Texas, and we know they need our services now more than ever. Your dedication to Arms Wide Adoption Services led 28 children to their forever families last year. Together, we can continue to celebrate families fulfilled in 2021 and beyond.

With gratitude,



DeJuana S. Jernigan, MSW

# Celebrating Families Fulfilled.



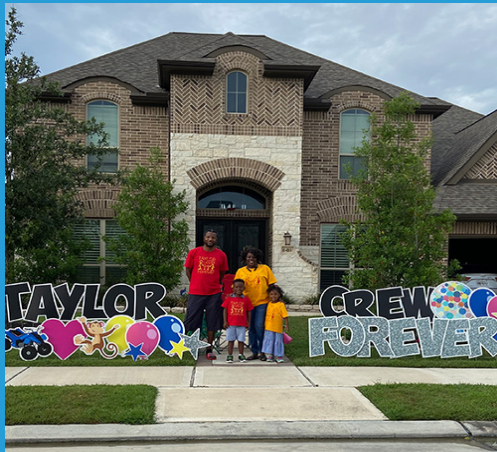
January 2020



February 2020



May 2020



June 2020



June 2020



November 2020

# The Hodes Family

## "Don't Be Afraid"



Heather and Tim Hodes always felt called to adopt. Finally feeling the timing was right, they embarked on the foster care adoption journey. At first, in speaking with other agencies, they thought this may not be the right path for them. But after finding Arms Wide Adoption Services, they felt equipped to move forward.

*"Arms Wide Adoption Services is a great support system. Don't be afraid. They will guide you every step of the way," Heather said.*

The Hodes were initially selected for a sibling group. But eventually, the courts decided the children should live at their grandmother's home. The Hodes were devastated, but they had done the mental and emotional work to prepare themselves for every outcome. "We had to keep praying and reminding ourselves that in the end, it was what was best for the kids - not us," Heather said.

Next, the Hodes were matched with Avery and Elijah. The matching process started smoothly, but Heather and Tim ran into issues with Avery and Elijah's foster moms. Heather recalled every visit was somehow "not a good time" despite Heather and Tim being as flexible as possible. They knew in their gut something was not right. It was in these moments Heather and Tim realized how much Avery and Elijah deserved to be with them.

*"We wonder how many other children are suffering in foster care," Heather said. "We can only hope more families will step up to adopt these kids out of the system."*

Heather and Tim believe adoption is not about your expectations but is really about meeting the kids' needs and providing a loving home for them to grow in. "We knew going into this process that the kids may never love us back, may never attach, may have issues beyond our ability to help," Heather said. "But we felt like we could provide a safe and loving environment in hopes that they will grow up to be the best people possible."

Because of the trauma Avery and Elijah experienced, post adoption support services have been really important in giving their kids a second chance at happiness. Heather and Tim feel overwhelmed at times, but they are grateful, honored, and amazed at how far their kids have come. "We are thankful we were able to get them out of the foster care system," Heather said. "And we are hopeful they can overcome their trauma and learn to trust again."

Avery and Elijah moved in with the Hodes a week before the COVID-19 shutdown began. Although it's been tough - including furloughs and career moves - Heather said she never thought they would have all this time to figure out the ebbs and flows of their new family unit. They have been able to witness all the progress in their kids, like little moments of them healing, gaining trust, and being more open to love and support. All of these moments have made every challenge worth it and reaffirmed to Heather and Tim this was all meant to be.

Heather and Tim describe their family as tight-knit, giving, and supportive. They said they will always put their children first and will always be their strongest advocates.

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



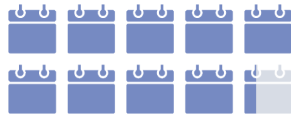
# 2020 Program Outcomes



## Foster Care

9,238

Days of care provided for 56 children



= 100 Days

15

15 children adopted by their foster parents

100%

Maintained superior success rating in which 100% of children were in safe care

## About the Children

3

Largest placement: 3 siblings

1

Age of youngest child: 1 day

14

Age of oldest child: 14 years



## Adoption

28

Finalized adoptions

- 93% special needs adoptions
- 93% placements finalized



= 1 adoption

23

23 children placed with permanent families

95%

Maintained superior success rating in which 95% of placements became legal finalizations

## About the Children

3

Largest placement: 3 siblings

18

Age of youngest child: 18 months

16

Age of oldest child: 16 years



### Post Adoption

829

Services to 829 children, a 52% increase from 2019



= 50 children = 2019



### Post Permanency

1,524

1,524 hours of case management services



= 100 hours

4,531

4,531 hours of case management services

152

152 children served

831

831 hours of therapy

204

204 hours of therapy

702

702 days of respite service

601

601 days of respite service

721

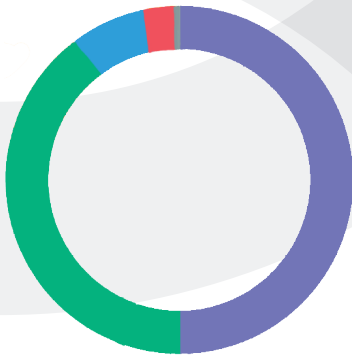
721 days in residential treatment centers

99%

Support for 99% of children to remain with their adoptive parents

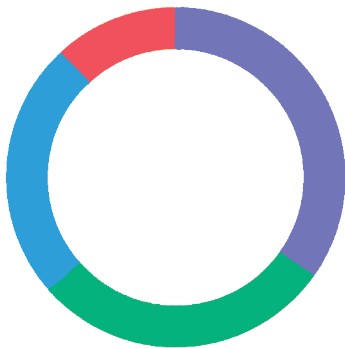
# 2020

## Revenue & Expenses



### Revenue

50%	Government Service Fees	\$1,680,378
42%	Contributions	1,420,203
5%	United Way	165,601
3%	Investment Income	103,233
<1%	Program Service Fees	4,020
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>		<b>\$3,373,435</b>



### Expenses

40%	Post Adoption / Post Permanency	\$1,166,433
27%	Foster Care	795,449
22%	Adoption	655,393
11%	Management and General Costs	313,065
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,930,340</b>



**Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors who made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2020:**

**\$100,000 +**

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 Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption  
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**\$25,000-\$49,999**

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“We started this knowing there was only one aspect of this situation we could control, and that was loving these boys. Arms Wide Adoption Services had prepared us for every situation and possible scenario. We felt well-equipped and prepared, but most of all, supported.”

*-Courtney Dodge, Arms Wide Adoption Services Adoptive Mom  
Finalized January 2020*

