



ARMS WIDE

PRESERVING & FULFILLING FAMILIES

2025 Impact Report



*Noah and Levi,
adopted by Sarah
and Scott Benson*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Whitney Cox, Chair
Jennifer Allison
Michael Leslie Amilcar
Sarah Westhusin Barrett
Julie Longoria Chen
Kris Dillon
Stephanie C. Gaston
Samuel Hendricks
Richard Holt
Andy Lively
Renee Rhoten Morris
Kecia Patton
Peter Retterer
Benjamin R. Roberts
Stephanie Sanders
Lynne Spiwak
David Thaxton
Lorraine Vargas-Townsend
Amanda Venta, Ph.D.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kathy Schenck, Chair
Mary Banks
Mark Dobbins
L. Paul Gerson, M.D.
Pat Kiley
Elizabeth Labanowski
Lance Loken
Samuel Luna
Tricia Miner
Melva M. Meronek
Ramona Ortiz
Corine Prieto
Brian Romere
Lee Vela

PRESIDENT AND CEO

DeJuana S. Jernigan, MSW

STAFF LEADERSHIP

Lynn "Pen" Anderson, MBA
Accounting Supervisor
Benny Benbow, MPA
Operations Manager
Erin Spoor
Director of Development
Patricia Gorham
Director of Permanency Support Services
Lauren Prince, LCSW-S
Foster Care Adoption Treatment Director

A Letter From The President and CEO

Dear Arms Wide family and friends,

I'm happy to use this opportunity to share key milestones that Arms Wide has achieved since our last Impact Report.

Last year, I introduced you to the Texas Child-Centered Care model — T3C — a transformative, child-first framework reshaping foster care delivery across our state. I am proud to announce that Arms Wide has achieved **full credentialing status** under T3C. This is a reflection of our staff's dedication, our leadership's vision, and our commitment to continuous improvement.

Texas has also shifted to **Community-Based Care**, in which the state is handing off responsibility for services to local networks of private providers who understand the communities they serve. Community-Based Care in the Houston area officially launched on May 1, 2026. And Arms Wide was right there — contract-ready and committed on day one.

We know the research: when children in foster care can live with relatives and kin, they fare better. They maintain connections to their identity, their culture, and their family narrative.

In November 2025, Texas established formal standards for kinship foster care. Arms Wide did not wait — we built. I am proud to announce that we now have a **fully operational Kinship Foster Care Program**, supporting kinship families with the resources, training, and community they need to thrive.

Finally, we have also launched our **Family Mentoring Initiative** — pairing families with trained mentors who provide relational support, practical guidance, and the kind of consistent presence that changes outcomes. This is community care in its most personal form.

I am pleased to share that in the process of reaching these accomplishments, we also moved into **a new home for our growing mission**. A fully updated office suite where our team can do their best work, every day. New walls. New space. The same steady commitment.

These milestones were made possible by you — our supporters. Your support is an act of solidarity with children who cannot speak for themselves. Thank you for caring. Thank you for investing. Thank you for believing that every child deserves a family.

With gratitude,



DeJuan S. Jernigan, MSW

Celebrating Families Fulfilled



May 2025



July 2025



July 2025



November 2025



November 2025



December 2025

A New Kind of Parent – The Kreier Family Spotlight

Jeri and CJ have been parents for decades. They have three adult daughters and recently adopted a young boy while living in Florida. They recently became grandparents when their eldest daughter had an adorable baby boy. Then, in the summer of 2024, they unexpectedly found themselves taking on a new kind of parenting role. Jeri received a call from Child Protective Services telling them her niece and nephew, Kaylee and Levi, needed a home.

When a child experiences abuse or neglect and must be separated from their birth parents, an immediate priority for the Arms Wide team and CPS is locating a relative or significant adult in the child's family, known as kinship care. This arrangement may be temporary or permanent, depending on the circumstances facing the child's parents and, most importantly, what ensures the child's safety and well-being. Kinship care helps maintain important family connections and provides children with a sense of familiarity during what is often an incredibly traumatic transition.

The need to provide a home for Kaylee and Levi was not unexpected for Jeri and CJ. When they would visit Texas for the holidays, they observed the warning signs of neglect and abuse with these children.

"We didn't approve of what was happening and I'm not one to be stepped on," Jeri said. "I hold my ground, and I won't let children be treated that way." It got to a point where the children's parents wouldn't let them see the rest of the family. The kids were able to live with their grandmother for a bit, but she was disabled and eventually had to move into a nursing home.

Moving in with their aunt and uncle was a huge lifestyle shift for Kaylee and Levi, aged 9 and 13 at the time. They were used to living in a home with no structure or rules. They could watch rated-R movies, had no bedtime, and were even discouraged from doing homework.

Jeri and CJ had to address immediate needs that had gone long unaddressed. The kids arrived with a bag of clothes that didn't fit, so one of the first things they did was buy new clothes. They also realized Levi, who is autistic, still couldn't do simple things like take a shower or tie his shoes, so they quickly had him tested and got him into occupational and physical therapy. Kaylee was behind on development too, entering her teens at a 3rd grade reading level, so they connected her with tutoring and worked with her as much as they could to catch her up with her peers.

Even though Jeri and CJ had been parents for three decades and had adopted a child recently, the process to become licensed kinship foster caregivers still provided its challenges due to the unique circumstance and advanced needs of the children.

In Florida, their adoption was more straightforward with less regulatory red tape. In Texas, they had to regularly communicate and work with two CPS offices (one where they live and one from where the kids used to live), as well as fulfill Arms Wide's requirements and training to become licensed. But our staff walked with them every step of the way.

"Arms Wide's training facilitator was phenomenal in making sure we both got all the trainings completed despite our busy schedules," Jeri said. With so many years since they had last parented young children, Jeri and CJ said they had to retrain themselves on parenting approaches — and found Arms Wide's resources helpful, even given the unique circumstances of their situation.

"When our case manager Yajaira took over our case, she also went above and beyond what she had to do for us." Even in a city as big as Houston, the Kreiers struggled to find consistent therapeutic counselors that specialized in working with children dealing with developmental trauma and worked with their insurance plan, but Yajaira found them a counselor who lived six blocks away from them and came into the home, which Jeri called "a Godsend."

Six months into their kinship care journey, Kaylee and Levi's parents had made no progress toward reunification. With the children's long-term stability in mind, Jeri and CJ made the decision to move forward with adoption, fully committing to providing them with a permanent, loving home.

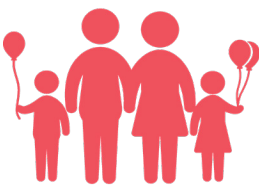
They received their adoption date two days prior but fortunately were already hosting family for an early Thanksgiving celebration that day. The judge finalized the adoption in the comfort of their own home via a Zoom video call. It was a happy day for the parents, but understandably conflicting day for the kids, as they saw it as an ending just as much as a beginning. But Jeri and CJ have assured the kids that they can resume communication with their biological parents once all parties feel they are ready.

Life after adoption has proven to be busy for the Kreiers as they continue to help their kids learn life skills and adjust to this new life. Levi can ride a bike now, Kaylee continues to improve in her education, and most importantly, both are accustomed to safety and stability thanks to the relentless dedication of Jeri and CJ, their new parents.

2025 Program Outcomes



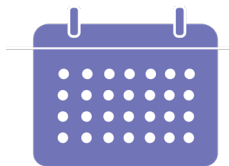
Foster Care



Foster Care Adoption

8,345

Days of foster
care provided



15

Finalized adoptions



53

Children supported in
foster care



15

15 children matched
with permanent
families

"The journey to adoption wasn't without its bumps, but Arms Wide was patient, compassionate, and understanding every step of the way. We're so grateful for everything they've done for our family."

– Salvino Gonzalez

3

Largest sibling group:
3 siblings



Permanency Support

752

Services provided to
752 children



6,685

6,685 hours of case
management services



1,488

1,488 hours of therapy
provided for children

1,956

1,956 days of respite
provided for parents

741

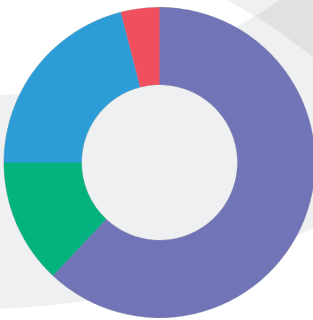
741 days of residential
treatment care provided

264

264 hours of parent
training provided

2025

Revenue & Expenses



Revenue

62%	Government Service Fees	\$2,522,894
13%	Contributions	546,142
21%	Foundation Grants	860,706
4%	Investment Income	166,283
Total Support and Revenue		\$4,096,025



Expenses

46%	Permanency Support	\$1,838,224
32%	Foster Care	1,278,606
12%	Foster Care Adoption	466,603
10%	Management and General Costs	424,730
Total Expenses		\$4,008,163

Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors who made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2025:

\$100,000 +

The George Foundation
Heart Gallery of Greater Houston
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

\$50,000-\$99,999

ACH Child and Family Services

\$25,000-\$49,999

Sarah and Scott Barrett
The Clayton Fund, Inc.
Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
Ruth and Anthony J. Nocella
Kelly and Bill Von Gonten

\$10,000-\$24,999

Bank of Texas
Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation
Mark and Laura Dobbins
George and Mary J. Hamman Foundation
Houston Methodist Hospital
The John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation
Kiwanis Foundation of Houston
Kim and Scott Martin
John P. McGovern Foundation
John T. Shea Foundation
Sterling-Turner Foundation
The Vaughn Foundation
W&T Offshore
Woodforest National Bank

\$5,000-\$9,999

Charity Guild of Catholic Women
Julie Longoria Chen
Chord Energy
City Bank
ConocoPhillips
CrossFit Lobo
Catharine and Grant Faulconer
Grit Oil & Gas Management
Susan Holley
Richard Holt

Meredith Marshall
Mindi Mattheus, Colleen Difonzo, Whitney Laird
Origin Bank
Tara and Liam O'Sullivan
Petersen Family Foundation
Ron Romere
Jordan Seff and Meredith Marshall
Aaron and Lynne Spiwak
Strake Foundation
Randa and K.C. Weiner

\$1,000-\$4,999

ABHR
Jennifer and Scott Allison
Andrews Foundation
Antler Energy
Carina Antweil
Denise and David Baggett
Bank OZK
Margaret and John Bannon
Be Equitable
Behmann Brothers Foundation
Karl Brensike
Brighton Jones
Morgan and Clint Brown
Alton Buehring
Louise Carter
Shilpi Chavda
Allison Chavez
Janet Clark
Trey and Julie Comiskey
Robert Curry
Rachel and Tim Dash
Claire Day
Cooper Dickerson
Kris and Chris Dillon
Rachel Elliott
Emerson DeltaV SaaS SCADA
Stephanie Fleck
Becca Fontana
Courtney Freels
Margaret Funderberg and Jeffrey McMahon
Melinda and Jeffery Hildebrand
Jason Hubbard
IndemCo
DeJuana S. Jernigan and Sharri McGlaughting
Chea and Liam Kelly
Steve Kennedy

Caitlin Kennedy
Luke Kinney
Matthew Kirby
Justine and Will Klinke
Jessica Leeke
Andy Lively
Blair and Bryan Loocke
Tara MacLaren
Amina Malik
Michele Marandi
Zach Maxwell
Will Maxwell
Glenn Mealey
Natalie and Varqa Mohtashami
Montenegro Family
Graham and Terri Moore
Madeline Moreno
Uncle Funky's Daughter
Julia's Auto Repair
Jamie and David Oliver
Julie Peak
PlainsCapital Bank
Corine Prieto
Cynthia and Peter Retterer
Annie and Will Richardson
Suzann Richardson
Stephanie and Scott Sanders
Melanie Savitz
Kelley Scofield
Mary Senkel
Susan Spoor
Alicia Summers
Elise Swann
Bob and Craig Taylor
Texla Energy Management, Inc.
Lorraine Vargas-Townsend
Jillian Rae Waldo
Tami Wall
Richard Walton
Lori and Patrick C. Willey
Edith B. Williams
Laine and Trace Williams
Jack Williams

\$250-\$999

Mollie Bracewell Acevedo
Santiago Acuna
Sofia Farah Ahmed
Angela Androphy
Amanda Bandini
Nancy Bihlmaier
Yasmin Bilger
Amanda Boffone
Kristin Bottorff
Margaret Bravo
Caroline Brown
Kristen Browning
Camille Bryan
Kimberly Byrd
Andrea Caicedo
Anne Carl
Allison Casey
Alicia and David Castro
Kate Cavanaugh
Chapelwood United Methodist Church
Kendall Chuchla
Candi A. Clement
Luke Cone
Alexis Contopulos
Lindsey Cook
Carol Cooley
Whitney Cox
Chris Coxon
Emilie Dahan
Lauren DeFrehn
Early Denison
Elizabeth DeStephens
Valerie Dieterich
Connor Dillon
The Doyal Family
Lauren and Danny Droubi
Cody Edgerton
Nicole B. Eidman
Sydney and Robert Eifler
Jane and Gus K. Eifler
Ramsay Elder
Stephen Elison
Genna Evans
Stephanie Evans
Mike Fabian
Kelsey Falcone
Jen Fink
Lindsay Fox
Liz Freeland
Alyx Gautier-Winther

Mary Katherine George
Jennie Getten
Lauren Gibbins
Jamie Griffin Goeres
Goldstein & Associates
Lacey and Matt Goossen
Veronica Griffin
Sarah and Bill Groves
Maria Hadjialexiou
Holly Hagerman
Alle Houstoun
Kevin Hulsey
Jayne Johnston
Erin Kaplan
Audrey Kersey
Lakyn Kipniss
Candice Klein
Melissa Klupchak
Iva Knobbe
Leigh Kollaer
Jennifer Kuck
Elizabeth Labanowski
Sidney E. Lacey
Sepideh Lavasani Soltani
Le Amiche Club
Edward I. Lee MD, F.A.C.S. - Nuveau Plastic Surgery + Medical Aesthetics
Brooke Lee
Janine Levitch
Denita Logan
Solutions IS
Steve Lukingbeal
Samuel and Gloria Luna
Benjamin Lundquist
Kristen O. Lyons
Mike Mahlstedt
Sierra Mansukhani
Janine Matetich
Dinah McClymonds
Chelsea McDermott
Ian and Maria McKeige
Crossley Mears
Michele Mendenhall
Brittiany Mossy
Jamie Moullé
Bissan Mounir
Hillary Naeve
Stacey and John Nguyen
Natalie Oliver
Anjali Olligschlaeger
Mrs. Heather Olson

Lisa and John Ortega
Patricia and Stephen O'Sullivan
Kecia Patton
Anne Lee Phillips
Marsha Rampersad
Marlene Rankin
Kiara Rankin Miglioretti
Kathleen and Scotty Reynolds
Arash Roozbeh
Renee Omsberg Rosener
Liz Ross
Katherine Bohard Saliccioli
Lauren Sanders
Liz Scofield
Lauren Scotton
Linda R. Shelton
Blair Shoemaker
Melissa Simon
Vanessa Skrabanek
Ashley Sloan
Jana Sloan
Jeffrey and Erin Spoor
Carrie Steele
Natalie Steen
Annina Stefanelli
Rebecca Stehle
Melanie J. Stern
Karen Sumner
Winnie Sy
Amelia Tomjanovich
Shahrokh Toranji
Lesley Unger
United Ways of Texas
Laurie Vander Ploeg
Reena Vashi and Soham Naik
Robert and Mary Vasquez
Tyrrell Ann Venditti
Amanda Venta, Ph.D.
Monington and William Von Gonten
Stephen M. and Vicki Smith Weinberg Endowment Fund
Audrey White
Carolyn Whiteman
Stephanie Wiegand
Malia Willis
Karen Wong
Michael Yeckley
Beatrice Zarco
Lauren Zlotnik

\$100-\$249

Rebecca Adler
Lynn Anderson
Mike Barajas
Jennifer Barron
James Breaux
Richelle Carey
Sandy Carter
Brenton Cheeseman
Mike Chryssikos
Cole Family
Connell Crawford
Colleen DiFonzo
Bunmi Fashola
Jordan Gaston
Stephanie Gaston
Phillip Gonzalez
Jocelyn Greely
David Gugino
Nicole Gunter
Jessica Hatton Cohen
Jeannie Jacobs
Marcela Lantrip
Alex LaPiana
Milena LaRubbio
Robert Martin
Elizabeth Martin
Michael Merlo
Christina Miller
Tanner Moran
Paul and Traci Mundwiller
Henley Old
Juanita Orsak
Daniel Powers
Jessica Raba
Nikolai Robinson
Peggy R. Roe
Katherine and Babak Roozbeh
Alex Rubenkoenig
Jodi Rubenstein
Carrie Shephard
Becky Steele
Tylitha Stewart
Rebecca Tripplehorn
Ashley Tufts
Johanna Viniello
Anonymous
Tasheaya Warren Ellison
Roselyn Weaver
Jamie Webster

Gifts In-Kind

Alley Theatre
 Alphas of Brazoria County
 Axiom Space
 Buchanan's Native Plants
 Buff City Soap
 Chapter AE, PEO
 Clark's Oyster Bar
 Rachel and Tim Dash
 Fairytale Photography Studio
 Fleet Feet
 Freight Solutions, LLC
 Grand Lux Cafe
 Gringo's Mexican Kitchen
 Hamilton Shirts
 Happy Hour Pilates
 Houston Grand Opera
 Houston Zoo
 Steve Kennedy
 KPMG LLP
 Laurenzo's El Tiempo Cantina
 Edward I. Lee MD, F.A.C.S. -
 Nuveau Plastic Surgery + Medical
 Aesthetics
 Susan Litts
 Lockton Companies & The
 Henningsen Family
 Zach Maxwell
 Miron Crosby
 Mister Car Wash
 Nice Winery
 Pappas Restaurants, Inc.
 Resurrection Metropolitan
 Community Church
 St. Francis Episcopal School
 Taste of Texas
 The Houstonian Hotel, Club &
 Spa
 Theatre Under the Stars
 Topgolf
 Total Wine & More
 Warby Parker
 West University Elementary
 School

Gifts In Honor Of

ROBERT HAVARD
 Madeline Thomas
 DEJUANA S. JERNIGAN
 Melissa Simon
 CHEA KELLY
 Lacey and Matt Goossen
 JUSTINE KLINKE
 Nancy Bihlmaier
 Caroline Brown
 Liz Freeland
 Dinah McClymonds
 ROSIE LEE LAVEY
 Sidney Lacey
 RUTH AND ANTHONY J. NOCELLA
 Angela Fox
 Janine Levitch
 Becky Steele
 Bob and Craig Taylor
 TARA AND LIAM O'SULLIVAN
 Alexis Contopoulos
 Sarah and Bill Groves
 Patricia and Stephen O'Sullivan
 Sepideh Lavasani Soltani
 Melanie J. Stern
 Shahrokh Toranji
 Karen Wong
 ANNIE RICHARDSON
 Blair and Bryan Loocke
 Peggy R. Roe
 Laurie Vander Ploeg
 LORRAINE VARGAS-TOWNSEND
 Puneet Tangri

Gifts In Memory Of

MARY VIRGINIA TUINSTRAN
 Margaret Daffin

Recurring Givers

Mark and Laura Dobbins
 Patricia Gorham
 Robert Hernandez
 Susan Holley
 Melissa Hoffman
 Delia Lopez
 Solon Rasco
 Lori and Patrick Willey

*Thank you for your
 tremendous support.*

*We could not connect
 children with forever
 families without you.*





9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 415
Houston, TX 77092

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #8327
HOUSTON, TX

“To see these kids go from hiding in their shell and traumatized, to thriving, enjoying life and being kids is amazing. Every kid deserves that.”

—Amber Yonda
Arms Wide Adoptive Mom

