

Helping Hearts

“For us, we are finally able to just be mom and dad.”

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Take the First Step Attend an Orientation

Are you interested in learning more about how you can transform the lives of children in need through foster care or adoption? Take the first step and attend a monthly virtual orientation. You can meet our staff and learn about the process to become a foster and/or adoptive parent. Orientations are on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. CST and open to anyone living in the Greater Houston or South Texas regions.

Have you adopted a child or assumed permanent managing conservatorship of a child formerly in Texas foster care? We can also provide support! Our permanency support team provides case management, respite care, support groups and more to help your family thrive.

Share and Connect Fuel Our Mission

Have a story to share? We are looking for foster and adoptive families to speak about their Arms Wide family and journey. We are always seeking new ways to share our mission and keep up with our families.

In addition to sharing your story with us, we also want to expand our connections in the community. Would you be willing to connect us with your workplace, place of worship, or another group? Invite one of our staff to come and speak with your network about how the work we do at Arms Wide transforms lives through foster care and adoption.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact our Communications and Development Specialist, Nikolai Robinson, at nrobinson@armswide.org.

Stay In The Loop Follow Us

Arms Wide posts updates regularly! Stay in the loop by following us on social media @ArmsWideTX, visiting our blog at armswide.org/category/blog, and registering to receive our online communications at armswide.org/get-our-newsletter.

New Office, Same Commitment to Children

We're excited to share that our Houston office has moved to Suite 415 of the Brookhaven building at 9800 Northwest Freeway! This new, updated office allows our Houston team to maximize the space we need, cross-collaborate across programs and departments, and re-direct more expenses to supporting the children and families we serve.



If you visit or mail us at our Houston office, please update your contact information to:

Arms Wide
9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 415
Houston, TX 77092



Helping Hearts

THE TUCKER FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Sarah and Billy Tucker were already parents to two teenagers, but they had long felt called to expand their family through adoption. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they began seriously exploring the possibility and learned about Arms Wide's adoption program through a friend from church. After many discussions and consideration, Sarah reached out to Arms Wide to learn more about the adoption process. She brought the information home to Billy and told him, "If we don't do this now, let's just shut the door on it."

The pandemic created a unique opportunity for them to take on the time and commitment required to pursue adoption. With their children growing older and knowing they would not have this opportunity forever, Sarah and Billy decided it was time to take a leap of faith. They began their adoption journey with Arms Wide, opening their hearts and home to a child in need of a permanent family.

They began the training process with the intention of only pursuing adoption but began to change their minds when they started learning about the children's circumstances and the urgent need for families to provide foster care. As a teacher and firefighter, Sarah and Billy are "helpers by default" and decided to open their hearts and home to foster care. After many family conversations, their teenagers also embraced the idea, supporting their parents' decision to welcome children in need of care and stability. "My son always talked about wanting a younger sibling and loves babies. He was very excited about the process," Sarah recalled. "My daughter had a lot of questions, but we gave her as much information as possible and she came around to it."

After the Tuckers earned their foster care license, Sarah received a call about a seven-week-old boy, Wally, who needed a home after being discharged from the NICU. The family ran to the store to pick up baby supplies and met Wally in the hospital that evening. The next day, Sarah picked him up from the hospital to take him to his new home.

"It was so surreal to bring a newborn baby to our home," Sarah said. "That's not usually how it goes, you don't drive yourself home from the hospital!"

The Tuckers immediately leaned on their village for support. They created and shared an Amazon wish list, and friends, family members, and neighbors quickly responded by delivering meals and sending clothing, baby supplies, and other essentials for their newborn.



Throughout the journey, the Arms Wide team provided critical guidance and encouragement while also connecting the Tuckers with experienced foster parents who became a valuable source of advice, support, and reassurance. Together, these connections helped the family navigate the challenges and joys of welcoming a child into their home.



“I met one of my very best friends through one of the trainings at Arms Wide,” Sarah said. “We wouldn’t have been able to get through this experience without her and her family.”

After a year, it began to feel as though Wally would be part of the Tucker family forever. Yet the path to adoption proved to be long and uncertain. “Everything that could have happened, happened,” Sarah recalled. “Parental rights being returned, appeals, decisions overturned.”

From November 2021 through early 2025, the Tuckers endured years of legal challenges and uncertainty, holding onto hope that they would one day be able to adopt Wally. After all, they were the only family he had ever known.

Several years into the process, Sarah received a call from CPS informing her that Wally’s birth mother had given birth to a baby girl, Charlotte, who needed a temporary home. Recognizing the limits of what they could take on at the time, the Tuckers made the difficult decision to decline Charlotte joining them. However, they were connected with Charlotte’s foster family so the siblings could begin building a relationship. Over time, the two foster families became close friends, arranging regular visits and creating opportunities for the children to know one another.

Ten months later, CPS contacted the Tuckers again with news that it was time to find a permanent family for Charlotte. By then, the Tuckers knew in their hearts that the siblings belonged together. They made the decision to welcome Charlotte into their family and pursue the adoption of both children, ensuring they could grow up side by side.



On National Adoption Day in 2025, after four years of worry, uncertainty, and perseverance, Wally and Charlotte became Tuckers in front of a very large crowd of family, friends, and caseworkers new and old.

Sarah said, “For us, we are finally able to just be mom and dad. And our older kids no longer worry about Wally and Charlotte going anywhere.”



Changing Lives Through Our Luncheon

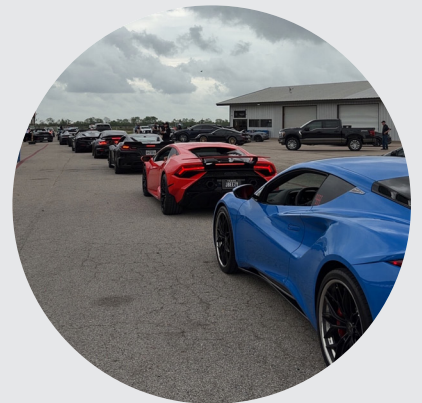
Thanks to our amazing co-chairs, **Amanda Boffone** and **Julie Longoria Chen**, we raised more than \$200,000 at our annual Fulfilling Families Luncheon back in May, benefitting our foster care, kinship care, adoption and permanency support services, which we provide at no fee to families.

We are especially, deeply grateful to **The Nocella Family** for providing a generous matching gift opportunity of \$50,000, in honor and memory of Tony Nocella, long-time board member and friend of Arms Wide.



Drive for Kids

After a couple of rescheduled dates due to bad weather, we were so glad to finally attend Drive for Kids, benefiting Arms Wide and Child Advocates, in April. We are so grateful to MSR Houston, Lupe Tortilla, and the rest of the sponsors and car clubs for their support and generosity.



Support Children During National Adoption Month

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Double your donation to Arms Wide on November 10!



Mark your calendars and set your reminders for the Coastal Bend Day of Giving, an annual 24-hour charitable challenge which benefits our programs serving families in the South Texas region. All gifts will be doubled up to \$25,000! Early giving opens on November 2. Visit coastalbenddayofgiving.org to support Arms Wide!

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Join us for the **20th Annual All In For Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament** on Wednesday, November 18, at River Oaks Country Club.

Over the past two decades, this beloved event has become one of Houston’s premier charity poker tournaments, drawing community leaders, philanthropists and card sharks from across the region. In addition to a lively poker tournament, All In for Adoption also features delicious food and drinks, an exciting silent auction, and high-end door prizes. You won’t want to miss this momentous anniversary event! Visit armswide.org/all-in-for-adoption for more information.



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9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 415 • Houston, TX 77092
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Arms Wide's mission is to transform the lives of children in need of safe and nurturing permanent families.
Arms Wide is funded by private donations and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Give While You Shop:



Walmart org

Blizzard of Giving

One of the best ways to directly impact the lives of children and families involved in the Texas foster care system is to join in on our annual Blizzard of Giving Gift Card Drive! We are so grateful for all the toys and clothes we receive every holiday season, but gift cards fill in the gaps for the older children and parents we serve. Get your church, business or organization to join in on the holiday cheer, and contact info@armswide.org for questions and support to help you get started.

