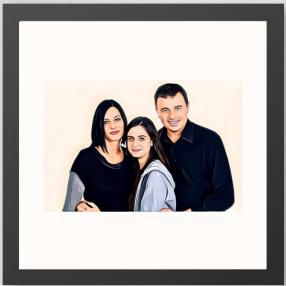
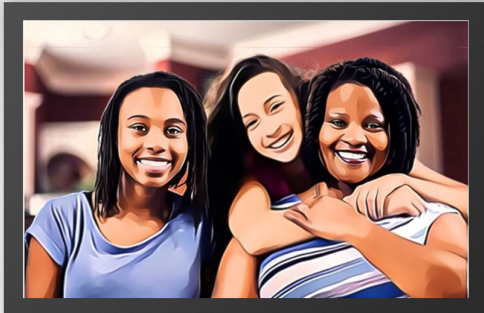


DAVID & MARGARET YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2021



**David & Margaret**  
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES



# Support Youth and Families in Foster Care

1

## MAKE A DONATION

to support youth and families in the foster care system

<http://bit.ly/DMYFSdonate>



## TAKE ACTION

2

## OFFER SUPPORT

to a family providing foster care. Reach out to a family you know is fostering or call us and we can arrange to connect you with a family.

[foster@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:foster@davidandmargaret.org)



3

## HELP FAMILIES

celebrate the highs (and lows) of their foster care journey. Include them in family friendly events and reach out when they are celebrating a child's accomplishments, let them know you are there for them during any challenging times.



4

## THINK

about becoming a respite care foster parent. You can offer a much needed break to foster parents who may need to travel without their foster children, or simply need a break.

Learn more at

<http://bit.ly/DMYFSFoster>



## Our Values

We maintain a safe and nurturing physical and emotional environment in which to live, learn and grow. By doing so, we create and maintain a model of service in which we share, change and lead by these vitally important values: integrity, mutual respect, knowledge, teamwork, choice and accountability, safety and service.

## LEARN MORE/ ASK A QUESTION

If you would like more information about becoming a resource/foster parent, would like to schedule an orientation or have questions regarding foster care and adoption you can reach us at

**1-800-4-FOSTER**

and

[foster@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:foster@davidandmargaret.org)



The Foster Care and Adoption Agency at David & Margaret certifies and supports families through each step of their foster parenting journey!

### ♥ **Foster Care**

Pairing children in the foster care system with safe, supportive foster parents while unable to be with family.

### ♥ **Long-Term Foster Care**

Foster care for children who enter the country without familial support.

### ♥ **Intensive Services Foster Care**

The ISFC program supports children with unique and complex needs greater than those in standard foster care.

### ♥ **Respite Foster Care**

A temporary placement to provide foster parents with a supportive break.

# ARE YOU READY TO BE A Resource Parent?

## STEPS TO BECOMING A RESOURCE/FOSTER PARENT



**1** Be ready to open your heart and your home



**4** Complete the training classes



**2** Attend an orientation



**5** Pass the background check



**3** Fill out an application



**6** Work with you appointed social worker to complete your home study



## A FEW MUSTS:



You must be **25** or older



Have **SUFFICIENT INCOME** to support your family



Have **ENOUGH PHYSICAL SPACE** in your home for a child/children



Have an acceptable **DRIVING RECORD**



**David & Margaret**  
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION AGENCY



# Love & *Laughter*

John and Vicki Hoffner have been making a difference as foster parents with David & Margaret for a little over a year. They accepted their first placement of two school-aged boys in January of 2020 after completing their certification process with the Foster Family and Adoption Agency!

The parents adopted a little girl from the foster care system years ago but Vicki shares they “still felt the need to give back and be a part of a child’s life.” They knew there were more children in need of a loving home and understood they could be the ones to provide it.

John had recently retired as the Program Manager at the City of Pasadena Water and Power Department and they decided to use the extra time as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children in foster care.

At the beginning of their placement there were a few challenges. The brothers had experienced trauma before coming to the Hoffner’s home and it manifested in anxiety and disruptive behaviors. But with the consistent love and care provided by the Hoffners as well as mental health services and support from David & Margaret, the boys were able to thrive in their new environment.

“They’re adjusting well.” Vicki expresses. “Through the security of having a regular routine and knowing what to expect, you can see them being able to be kids now. I think a lot of it is just not having to be scared of what’s going to happen next.”

A stable home can make all the difference for youth in foster care. It provides a safe foundation for healing and allows children the freedom to simply be children instead of worrying about their safety or having their basic needs met.

These days things are much more peaceful. The Hoffners have watched the boys rebuild their confidence and heal from their pain. John supports the kids through the mornings and afternoons as they work on their Zoom school, tutoring, and individualized education program classes while Vicki works as a licensed psychologist. In the evenings when they don’t have visitation appointments with the bio-family or visits with their supportive and helpful social worker, Brenda, they enjoy walks with their dog, family dinners, practice reading, and thorough bed-time routines.

“It’s very fulfilling.” John shares, reflecting on how the boys have grown while in their home.

“There are so many kids who need a family,” Vicki adds. “You know, you think we’re missing out on shows, traveling, hanging out with adult friends, or whatever, but this is much more satisfying. The laughter quotient alone that comes with kids in your home is worth it all.”

# Open your heart and your home



**OLDER FOSTER  
YOUTH NEED  
HOMES TOO**

**LGBTQ+ YOUTH  
ARE IN NEED OF  
SUPPORTIVE  
HOMES**



The goal of foster care is reunification with their biological family. As a foster parent your role is to support that goal while creating a stable and loving environment for the child/children.

Adoption through foster care is a possibility for some children, but only when reunification with their biological family is not an option.



A diverse pool of Resource/ foster parents supports better experiences for youth in care. At D&M we welcome all potential parents and encourage underrepresented groups such as same-sex couples, singles, and older adults to become foster parents. We are here to support you on every step of the journey.



**David & Margaret**  
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION AGENCY

# LOS ANGELES Foster Care Facts

38,000



Children currently are in foster care in Los Angeles County.



67%

Of youth in foster care are 5 years old or older

Many children in California's foster care system experience frequent placement changes. **Of the children who are in foster care for 24 months or longer 15% experienced 5 or more placements and 44% experienced 3 or more placements.** When the number of placements rise, frequently the trauma experienced by the child does as well.



1,500+

children will age out of foster care this year.



After reaching the age of 18, 20% of the young adults who were in foster care will become instantly homeless.

Only 50%

of young adults who age out of the system will be gainful employment by the age of 24.



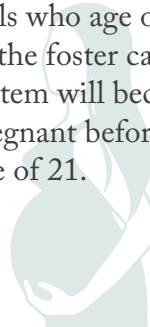
Only 3%

of young adults who age out of foster care earn a college degree.



7 out of 10

girls who age out of the foster care system will become pregnant before the age of 21.



The percentage of children who age out of the foster care system and still suffer from the direct effects of PTSD:

25%



Data sources include: Children's Law Center of California, Foster club, NYFI, DCFS, Children Now, Pew Trusts



David & Margaret  
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION AGENCY

# ELISHA'S Story



**Elisha has provided a safe, loving home for nine children in foster care over the last five years.**

She felt a strong calling to become a foster parent but as a single person who worked full-time, she was worried she wouldn't meet the qualifications needed to become certified. She quickly learned that wasn't the case and because of her commitment and determination to support children in need, as well as her excellent organizational skills, she was able to make her way through the certification process in only 2 months.

She received her first placement just three weeks later.

Through David & Margaret, families receive Resource Family Approval, meaning they are certified as foster and/or adoptive

parents. For Elisha her heart was set on providing temporary care to the many children in foster care that may need her support and because of this she is considered a 'foster only' home.

Children can be placed into the foster system at all hours of the night and Social Workers work quickly to pair these children with caring foster parents, temporarily, while distant relatives are contacted, and a case plan is sorted out. This is called an emergency placement and as an experienced 'foster only' parent, Elisha is very familiar with the process.

"I've had children come at 10 o'clock at night, clothes too small, and their belonging in one plastic grocery bag..." Elisha shares, "They've come here scared and dirty and hungry, and I've received babies right from the [Newborn Intensive Care Unit] NICU."

Each of these children has various traumas, backgrounds, and needs, and Elisha emphasizes that as their caregiver, as their family, it is her responsibility to advocate for them and to make sure each of their needs are being met.

Her placements have ranged in length from 2 weeks to 13 months and over the last five years, she has parented 5 newborn babies and 4 children. Most of these youth have been adopted by their forever families and a few have reunified with their relatives. Elisha has been a critical part of their journey and these transitions.

When asked how she can love and care for these children only temporarily, Elisha admits that she does get attached and she would love to adopt them all but that is not why she was called to become a foster parent. She understands the urgent need for parents to provide temporary care for children in foster care and understandably, parents who have their heart set on adoption aren't always willing to open their homes to children who may reunify with their families.

While Elisha acts as a temporary caregiver, her involvement has a permanent effect on her children, and she has the unique opportunity to bridge families together.

"I had a baby with me that was going up for adoption," Elisha shares, "And this family was waiting four years to be matched with a baby and because of my journey and my calling of keeping babies safe until they go to their forever home or are reunited with their birth family, they were able to adopt their baby."

Building families and watching children heal and grow is what being a foster parent is all about. In just five years, Elisha has made a huge impact on countless lives and will continue to do so as long as the need is there.

To families who have thought about becoming foster parents, Elisha says, **"Do it! These children are worth it. There has never been a time where I wished I didn't have the child, or I wished I wasn't in foster care. Just to watch them heal and meet milestones and overcome struggles is so worth it."**



# Foster Parents Needed

Attend  
an  
Orientation!



Schedule an orientation  
1-800-4-FOSTER



For orientation dates visit  
<http://bit.ly/FFACal21>



Resources and support for young adults 18-25



**COMPASS Programs**  
— at David & Margaret —

[COMPASS@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:COMPASS@davidandmargaret.org)



**MENTAL  
HEALTH  
SERVICES**

909-596-5921, ext. 3510

**D&M offers Mental Health Services to Medi-Cal Eligible Youth Ages 0-21.**

**Services Include:**

- Case Management
- Psychological Testing
- Rehabilitative Services
- Individual, family, and/or group therapy
- Medication Assessment/Management

# INTENSIVE SERVICES Foster Care Parents *Needed*



**Some children in the foster care system have unique and complex needs, greater than those in standard foster care. These children need a team of professionals and in-depth services in order to heal and thrive. Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) was created to meet the needs of these children.**

Most youth with these challenges live in group homes where they are unable to receive the foundational support they need. In the ISFC program, they have the opportunity to live in a safe home setting with their foster parent while undergoing the treatments they need in and out of their home. ISFC parents are committed to providing a child in foster care with the extra support, connection, love and time they need to heal and make progress toward accomplishing their goals.

Treatment foster care is designed to provide safe and nurturing care to a child or youth in a more structured home environment than typical foster care. Ideally, in time, the child will be able to “step down” to traditional foster care or be able to reunify with biological family members.

The D&M Social workers are available 24/7 to support ISFC parent(s) as they tend to the healing process for these deserving youth. The ISFC Parent requires addition training, provided by D&M, and is a part of the treatment team including social workers, therapists, and other experts who are working to help the child replace problem behaviors with positive behaviors so that she/he/they can succeed at home, in school, and out in the greater community.

ISFC Parents are there to love the child, to listen and help the child process their feel-ings, help them find appropriate ways to release their anger and sadness, and help them learn new healthier coping mechanisms and behaviors. There is no doubt this is challenging work for the foster parents, but it is also incredibly rewarding and joyful when you see a child adopting new behaviors and leaving negative ones behind.

Currently, there are not enough families available. If you think you are ready to make a lasting difference in the life of a child please attend an information session and discuss with our trained team what is required to become an Intensive Services Foster Parent. Be a part of the team that is changing the world, one child at a time!.



# DAVID & MARGARET FOSTER CARE FACTS

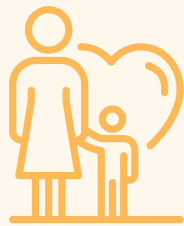


In 2020 of the children in the foster care program 100% of them were in only one home. Minimizing the number of placements makes a significant difference in the child's well being. A study in the journal "Pediatrics" found "that children with multiple placements had between 36 and 63 percent greater risk of developing behavioral challenges than did children in stable placements." And a study in the journal "Development and Psychopathology" found that multiple placements can further delay permanency for foster kids, increase their academic difficulties, and make it harder for kids to develop meaningful attachments.



When children are placed in foster homes sometimes they need supportive services to help them cope with and process what has happened. While not always the case, when it is, David & Margaret has services on site that can support the child and their family. At David & Margaret 31% of children in foster care received some additional services.

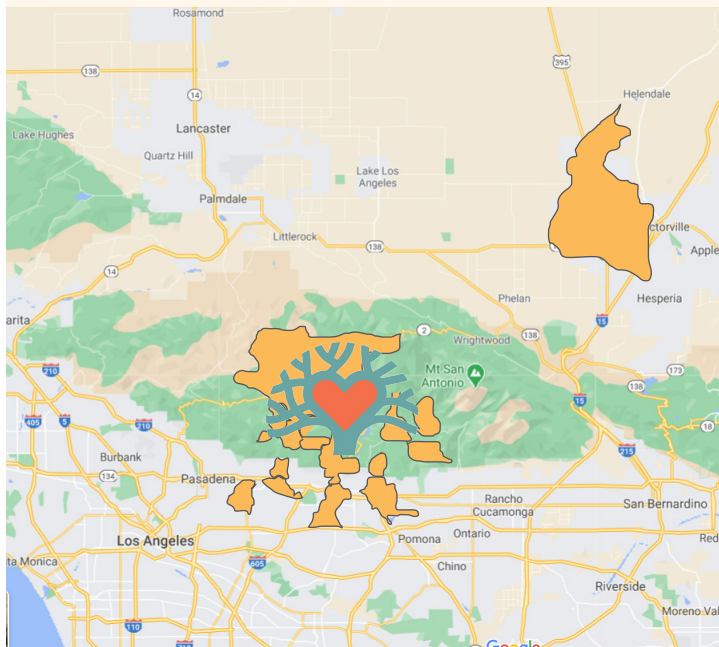
## NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER HOMES SUPPORTED BY DAVID & MARGARET



2018	10
2019	14
2020	26



of the youth interviewed reported that they had all the support they needed to feel comfortable, and had access to all their necessities and beyond.



David & Margaret provides support to foster homes in the communities indicated on the map. If you are not in a zip code we currently support a family in don't worry, we are happy to expand our service area and welcome new families.



*In a recent focus group at David & Margaret youth currently in foster care with families working with David & Margaret stated they had the support they needed to feel comfortable. They had access to all the necessities and beyond.*

*IN the same focus group the youth that participated felt they were treated with respect by the D&M team members. They also said they felt they were listened to and that team members are responsive to their needs.*





**David & Margaret**

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

1350 Third St.,  
La Verne, CA 91750

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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
FIRESRING



1-800-4-FOSTER

**FOSTER A TEEN**

[foster@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:foster@davidandmargaret.org)

  
**Dave & Maggie's**  
*Center*

**SHOP FOR GOOD**

Shop Tuesday - Saturday 10 am -4:00 pm  
1351 Palomares, La Verne, CA 91750