TheTruth about Today’s Foster Care Crisis and the Role of Faith-Based Agencies

**THE FOSTER CARE CRISIS**

Kids in Foster Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>396,966</td>
<td>442,995</td>
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**A PROBLEM GETTING WORSE**

14 STATES AND D.C. experienced a decline in the number of beds or homes from 2012 to 2017. Some states experienced up to a 20% decrease.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

(Where faith-based agencies have been removed) has lost 2,000 families in that time frame.

Each year, around 20,000 kids age out of foster care without an adoptive home. The odds they face aren’t good.

20% WILL BE HOMELESS AT AGE 18.

50% WILL BE UNEMPLOYED AT AGE 24.

97% WILL NEVER GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE.

Footnotes:

The unique role of faith-based organizations

Faith-based agencies are crucial to finding homes and helping children. They serve children without regard to race, gender, or sexual orientation. Faith-based agencies work alongside secular and government agencies to recruit a diverse array of foster and adoptive parents.

Religious groups have cared for children and helped them find loving homes—often well before governments got involved.7

36% of the families recruited by one Christian organization said they would not have become foster or adoptive parents were it not for that organization’s efforts.12

The harm to children if faith-based agencies close is real.

Boston stopped partnering with faith-based providers in 2006. One year later, the percentage of children who aged out of the Massachusetts foster care system rose by over 50% and has not returned to pre-2006 levels.13

2X Christians are roughly 3X more likely to have seriously considered fostering.9

82% of families in one study pointed to faith or church support as a factor that facilitates successful fostering.11

36% of families recruited through church or religious organizations foster 2.6 years longer than other foster parents.10


3X Christians are more likely to adopt.18

IN 2011, Illinois passed a law ending its partnerships with faith-based agencies.

BETWEEN 2012 AND 2017, ILLINOIS LOST 1,547 FOSTER HOMES - the most significant decrease in any state that reported this data.


Footnotes:
14 Foster Care Housing Crisis, The Chronicle of Social Change, Appendix A at 13-14, https://perma.cc/95K8-WTXA.