



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Mission: To support and empower children placed in out-of-home care and the families that provide for them.

Dear Friends

2021 allowed for a fresh start for Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends. In 2020, we needed to stay connected to our families with virtual support and communication and we continue to use those methods, as well as welcoming families to our office on Tuesdays and for events.

In 2021, we served many new and existing families, but the number of children placed into foster or kinship care was at an all-time high. These are numbers we don't like to see, but we are glad we have resources to help families, the kids, and social workers.

By returning to in-person, our programs were greatly utilized and more families and even social workers were understanding our services offered.

Who We Serve

In Manitowoc County:

- 55 Foster Homes
 - 170 Children in Foster Care
- 56 Kinship Homes
 - 89 Children in Kinship Care



87 families served



706 packages of diapers, pullups, or feminine hygiene products through Jake's Network



56 birthdays celebrated with a cake & gift

87 Care Kits Packed



115 children provided with gifts for the Holidays

As for 2022, we anticipate more children entering the foster care system, especially children under 3 years old, as this is the trend we are seeing when packing Care Kits. We have been relying heavily on our volunteers to meet the needs of foster parents and kinship providers, who are taking these children in at a moment's notice.

We look forward to hosting events for families, providing appreciation items, and keeping our Care Closet as stocked as possible for the kids entering care.

Molly Stolp

Molly Stolp
Board President

A Look Back

- Moved to a new location in March of 2021. This space houses our Care Closet and allows for us to host meetings, groups, and small events for our families, volunteers, and members.
- Partnered with Jake's Network for Hope, a nonprofit from Neenah, to supply diapers, wipes, pull-ups, and feminine hygiene products to our families at no cost to anyone. On average we support 40 youth each month.
- Celebrated the most birthdays to date thanks to our sponsors, EPIC Tree Care, Festival Foods, and Cravings.
- 2021 was the kick-off to our long-planned Graduation & Independence Program. This program assists young adults (grades 9-12) in out-of-home care with the proper tools for them to lead successful adulthood following high school graduation. The group meets once per month, at our location, or hosted by a local business.
- Developed continuous and consistent communication with foster and kinship parents through multiple media in order to help meet their needs for kids.



A Look Ahead

- Porta Potty Races, our large annual fundraiser took place on February 26th at the Smiling Moose in Newton.
- Collaborating with the many wonderful nonprofits and businesses in Manitowoc County, to create a closer relationship and maximize the resources and supports for families we all serve.
- Strategic planning continues with plans for a part-time Office Manager to meet the demands of our growing organization.
- Fostering Connections, our social support group, started off slow for 2021. We plan to offer a meal and possible child care in collaboration with Human Services.



Graduation & Independence Program

1 in every 4 kids who age out of foster care won't graduate from high school or earn a GED; only 3% of kids will earn a college degree. The numbers for teens in foster care aging out of care are alarming, and it's a problem everywhere.

In 2021, we implemented our Graduation & Independence Program thanks to a lot of hard work and planning by our board. This program assists young adults (grades 9-12) in foster or kinship care, with the proper tools for them to lead successful adulthood following high school graduation.

This group has met once per month, either at our office or a local business, to talk about money planning/credit, how to find/rent an apartment, self-care, college resources, and so much more. The kids in the program are also provided dinner and an opportunity to 'shop' in our Care Closet after the class.

We hope to see more participants in our fall of 2022 class, but our pilot year has been a success.

Finances

We are thankful 2021 brought continued financial support from individuals and corporations in our community. It is with this continued support that we are able to provide families and children in out-of-home care with much-needed resources.

Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends is 100% run on volunteers and donations. Our revenue comes from local grants, monetary donations, fundraising, and in-kind donations. Our money goes towards resources for families, events, appreciation, and building/office expenses.

Looking towards the future with our fast-growing organization, we hope that in 2022 we are able to hire a part-time Executive Director. The amount of work our volunteers put in is beyond amazing but we need the added support of a paid position.



“ At that moment I knew he no longer felt like he was alone in the world of out-of-home placement. ”

"With the support of Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends, the stresses of becoming a kinship parent were much less. Not only have you all helped the children in my care, but you have also supported me and my family throughout this journey. From the first backpack, the kids received 2 days into care filled with a few essentials and toys, the much-needed car seat, to the gifts for Christmas, the summer party, the groceries during the height of COVID, the birthday program with a gift, and cake, the diapers and wipes.

One of my favorite memories was taking the kids to the summer party and my little guy saying 'All these kids are just like me! They live with someone else that loves them!' At that moment I knew he no longer felt like he was alone in the world of out-of-home placement."

- Tara Reyes, Kinship Parent

How to Support Us

We are dedicated to reaching as many children, foster parents, and kinship providers as we possibly can in our community. We need your financial partnership to reach that goal. At some point in life, we all need a helping hand. LFFF is providing the support and resources to the children in our community who need it the most. We hope to continue this mission for many years. We are excited about the future of LFFF.

LFFF is not like other nonprofits. We believe no child should go without. We are local so our focus can stay in our community. We have created our programs based on the needs identified by the families we serve.

Visit our website, lakeshorefosterfamilies.org, to find out more about our organization or to donate. There you will find our wish lists, how your company can host a drive, or how you can place a monetary donation. Each dollar donated makes such an impact on our organization.

Thank you for your time and support. We look forward to what 2022 has to offer.

