



# A Decade of Caring & Growing

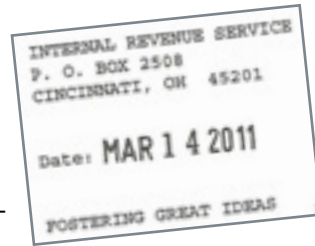
2020 and Beyond



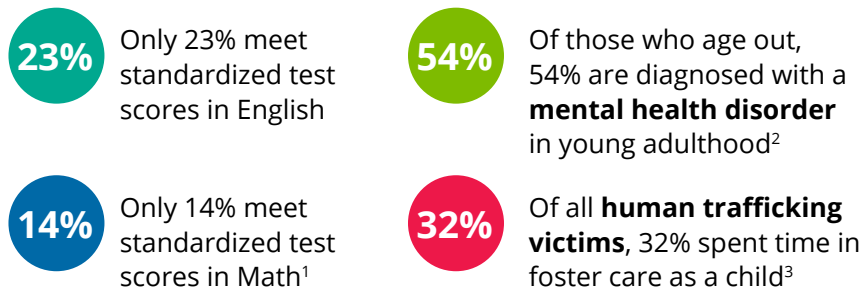
**Fostering Great Ideas<sup>®</sup>**  
Reimagine Foster Care

## 10 years ago, I opened a letter from the IRS...

Fostering Great Ideas was officially a non-profit corporation! Our goal was to pilot, and then to scale, sensible ideas that help children in foster care. We knew these children suffered deeply and we believed a renewed, community-wide response could change their situation for the better.



## The stats for children in foster care are sobering:



Children experience the damage of many goodbyes, of feeling unwanted, and of residual trauma from abuse and neglect. All these weigh heavily on the children, constricting their ability to grow and mature, to thrive, and to become the individuals they were meant to be.

## Over these 10 years, our approach has remained steady and our impact has increased annually.

We continue to restore dignity to the children, re-engage their families when possible, and provide purposeful ways to become involved as a caring community. We are proud that, despite COVID, 2020 was a year of growth in service to children.

## As we celebrate our 10th year, the future is bright...

David White  
CEO & Founder, Fostering Great Ideas

1. <https://edsources.org/2019/students-in-foster-care-a-quick-guide/621586>  
2. [https://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudies\\_NW\\_Report\\_FR.pdf](https://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudies_NW_Report_FR.pdf)  
3. Gibbs, D. A., Henninger, A. M., Tueller, S. J., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018). Human trafficking and the child welfare population in Florida. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 88, 1-10.

## Relationships Matter

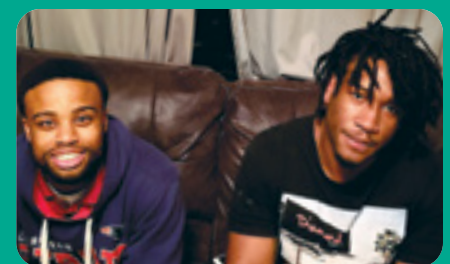
One of the ways we support youth in foster care is through our mentor program, *Life Support*<sup>®</sup>. Jarome shares the value of his mentor of 7 years (and counting!).

**“I can say with my personal experience that having a mentor has played a vital role in my life.** He has been one of the only people in my corner since day one.

I appreciate all the times when I didn’t have someone I could depend on emotionally, and **he has consistently been there for me** when I needed him the most. He’s always been one of my biggest supporters, and I’m grateful Fostering Great Ideas allowed me to meet such a generous individual like my mentor.

His family treats me like I’m a part of the family, and I’m ever so grateful for the time I’ve spent with them over these past few years.

I’ve realized having that support system behind you is crucial to success and shouldn’t be taken for granted. Personally, **I believe everyone in the foster care system should have a mentor.** It’s not just until you age out of the system; this is a lifelong relationship.”



Jarome (right) with his mentor, Patrick.

# 2020: Our Approach



## Supporting Children

Children in foster care need to know they matter.

### 44 Children & Youth Tutor Match®

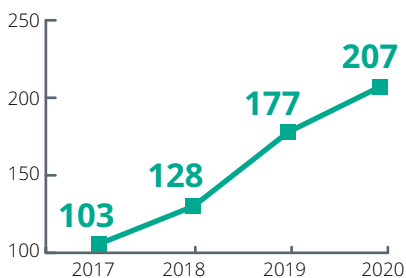
Academic tutors for students to catch up to their peers and excel in school.

### 105 Youth Life Support®

Mentor support so adolescents feel valued and make positive decisions.

### 58 Older Youth College Bound® Camp & College Fellows®

Emotional and academic guidance for older youth ready for college and career.



Growth of Children Served



## Restoring Families

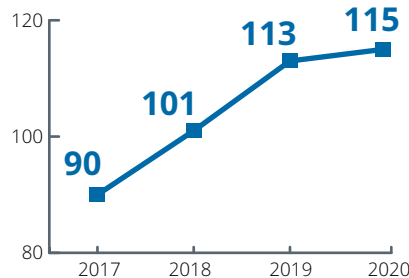
Healthy relationships are key to long-term well-being.

### 42 Children Moms Matter®

Peer-to-peer facilitated support so parents acknowledge their intense pain, take responsibility, and walk the path of recovery with other moms.

### 73 Children & Youth Sib-Link®

Sibling visits so brothers and sisters separated in foster care can routinely visit one another, celebrate important milestones, and re-establish their family bond.



Growth of Children Served



## Connecting Communities

Change is possible when the larger community comes together.

### Empathy

#### Life in Limbo®

Our experiential workshop, opening eyes to life in foster care for thousands of participants across 10 States, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. Now offered monthly as a virtual training.

### Advocacy

#### Speak Up®

Our advocacy platform, providing grass-roots reform. Led by foster alumni and youth across the nation, supported by the community.

### Support

#### Care2Foster®

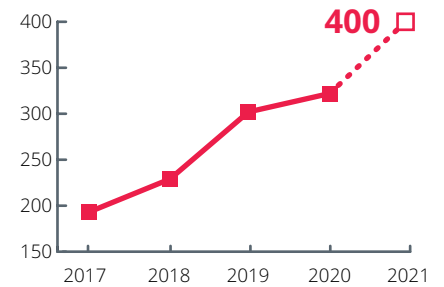
Our foster parent platform, guiding families as they consider fostering, and supporting thousands during their foster care journey.



# Our Plan

With your investment, we plan to serve **400 children** (a 24% annual increase) with our innovative, relational programs in 2021: restoring families; guiding children and youth to academic success and emotional well-being; and guiding older youth through high school and into college or a career.

Our challenge, every year, is to scale concepts that can reach the **430,000 children** in our nation's foster care system. To this end, we also have some really big plans over the next 3 years...



**Children Served through Direct Relationships**



## Academics

### Tutor Match®

You read the sobering stats for children in foster care on the first page. In the communities we serve, children who are tutored do noticeably better than these stats. We have begun to tutor children in multiple states, using a virtual option.

#### Vision:

We mobilize tutors across multiple states to ensure that children in foster care succeed academically at a rate comparable to the general population.



## Relationships

### Sib-Link®

Over half of sibling groups are separated while in foster care. Yet, no state has a transport system specifically set up to provide consistent sibling engagement. We plan to develop this sibling-only system for one state, and then inspire others.

#### Vision:

We take the lead on sibling rights, ensuring that children in foster care can visit their siblings through a transportation network.



## Advocacy

### Speak Up®

Why do 20,000 older youth leave foster care every year but few remain involved in reform? We have begun working with these foster youth and alumni, encouraging them to tell their story. Their collective voice can inspire change.

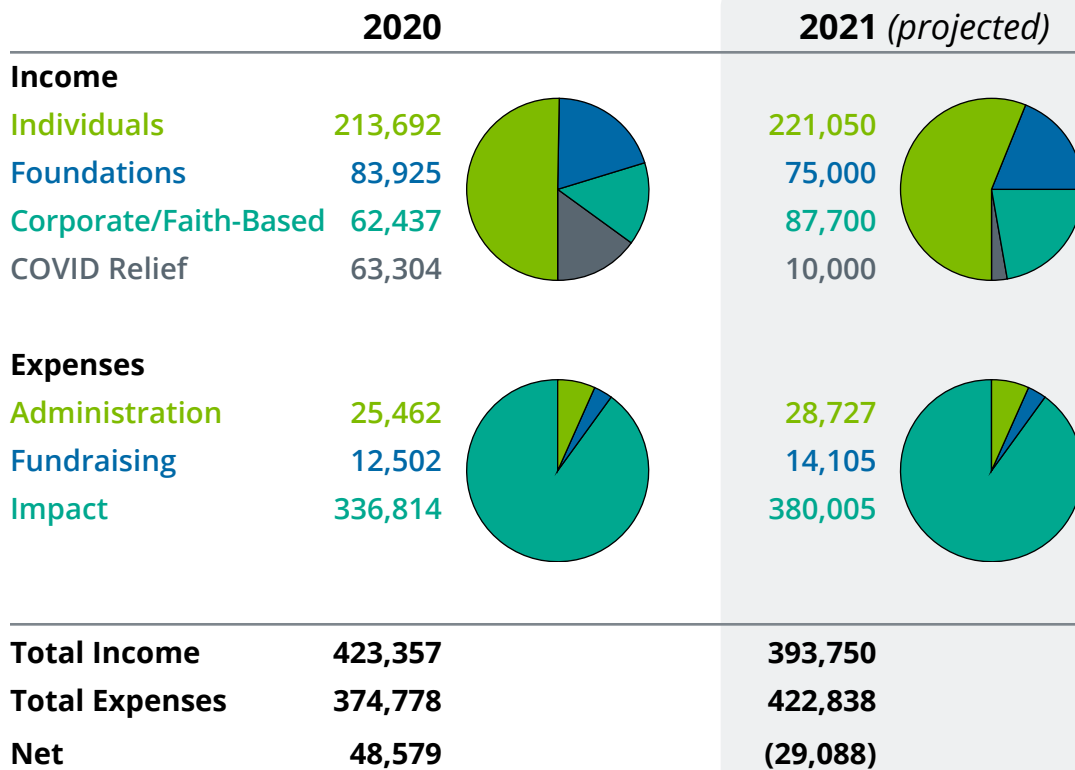
#### Vision:

We grow a national network where people with lived experience in foster care tell their stories boldly, prioritize change, and lead system reform.

We began 10 years ago by listening to children, adapting to needs, and keeping a sense of urgency. Thank you for supporting us on this journey as a donor, volunteer, or corporate partner.

**We couldn't do it without you.**

# Your Investment



## Invest in 2021

Consider giving today, to build the work for tomorrow. Fill out and mail this form to:  
 Fostering Great Ideas • 321 Pimlico Rd, Greenville SC 29607. You can also give online at [fgi4kids.org](http://fgi4kids.org).

- \$5,000** Guides 10 youth through mentoring to encourage their dreams.
- \$2,500** Connects a sibling set for one year of visits to develop a life-long bond.
- \$1,000** Restores one mom to healing and recovery through peer support.
- \$750** Tutors one child struggling to catch up in school.
- \$500** Coaches foster youth and alumni to become advocates for system reform.
- Any Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
Supports the mission and makes a difference to children in foster care.

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**Thank you!** Fostering Great Ideas is a 501c3 nonprofit. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. FEIN #27-4622960

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fgi4kids.org |      fgi4kids

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