

2019

Let it Be Us

INSPIRING FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION



ANNUAL REPORT

Let It Be Us / 145 West Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010 /
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2019



MISSION

Let It Be Us is a 501(c)3 Child Welfare Agency licensed through the State of Illinois. It's programs and initiatives significantly change outcomes for the children served by increasing the number of Illinois licensed foster homes available to foster care agency caseworkers. Let It Be Us recruits and educates foster parents, and provides direct referral of them to agencies via our Licensing Coaches. Let It Be Us operates through grants and donations and started out of a desire to recruit more families for children in foster care. Today, Let It Be Us uses best practices in digital marketing and recruiting to reach more people to attract them to the world of foster care.

Foster Parent Recruitment & Information Fairs

1,400 People attended fairs.



Targeted Recruitment Program

Let It Be Us created a registry of licensed foster homes - a considerable resource for agencies struggling to find licensed homes. Caseworkers call Let It Be Us for children who are in emergent need or are difficult to place. Let It Be Us uses the registry and social media to reach out to licensed homes who meet the child's needs for placement. Let It Be Us are experts in digital marketing and recruiting.

700 Licensed foster parents in registry.

160 Calls received from case workers who needed assistance finding licensed foster homes.

239 Children served.

500 Licensed homes provided to case workers. 2-3 homes per case.

Coaching Program:

The process to become a licensed foster parent is logistically challenging and emotional. To support and encourage parents to obtain their foster care license, Let It Be Us started a Coaching Program in June 2019 where Coaches with extensive experience in foster care licensing work one-on-one with parents to answer questions and provide guidance.

100 Families coached and licensed with many more in process.

Initiatives to Assist Children in Foster Care:

Our Closet

Serves children in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Waukegan office.

300 Sets of children (individuals & sibling sets) received diapers, wipes, bottles, formula, winter coats and school supplies.



IHSA 5th Year of Grant

IHSA is the the Illinois High School Association that has given Let It Be Us a 5 year grant from 2014-2019 of 60 Illinois high schools filling backpacks with school supplies to deliver to children in foster care.

900 Backpacks filled and delivered.

Direct Support

Impactful support for children in Illinois foster care - with the goal of making a profound difference - funding Chromebooks, tutoring, an educational trip through school, or helping an older teen aging out of foster care get his or her on her feet.



Let it Be Us is a nonprofit organization dedicated to changing the landscape of foster care and adoption in Illinois - our mission is to inspire foster care and adoption. Funds raised support programs that build a bridge between children waiting in foster care and waiting parents. Let it Be Us envisions a future in which the most vulnerable children have the opportunities and resources they need which can best be met by belonging in a family.

Susan McConnell
Founder & Executive Director

Board of Directors:

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Rick Smith
Brandon Verwijst

Tom Burns, Advisor

Goals and Initiatives

- Advocate on behalf of all children within Illinois foster care
- Recruit foster and adoptive parents for all children in Illinois foster care
- Provide licensed and waiting foster and adoptive parents for children referred to our programs through our partner agencies
- Host recruitment events throughout the most populated areas of Illinois
- Publish “Wednesday’s Children of Illinois” - a Let It Be Us publication featuring waiting children
- Create awareness of “foster to adopt” options through media campaigns and adoption recruitment events
- Direct support service projects to benefit children in foster care