



## One of the largest sources of strength for a child is the love of a father.

But, not all children get to experience the love of a father. **Many children are afraid of their fathers or have never met their father.** Moms and dads might look different and be different, but they love just as hard. At Children's Hope Alliance, foster parents, staff, and extended family members become the parental figures for these youth. They try to fill the void these children experience because they have no one else.

It's our hope to train these children to make good choices and do the right thing, just like Proverbs 22:6 asks us to do. **If we don't heal their hurts and care for these children now, society could end up paying for them later.**



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For more information: 1-800-320-4157

[ChildrensHopeAlliance.org](http://ChildrensHopeAlliance.org)

Please consider making a gift today or providing a home for a child to show children that no matter what their individual circumstances are, their Heavenly Father cares about them.

**Your continued support means the world to the children and families we serve.  
Have a wonderful Father's Day!**

## meet JOSH

Josh has been physically abused his entire life. And physically abused wouldn't be the best way to describe it. He was brutally tortured. He finally was taken from his parent's custody after he ended up the ER with a fractured spine. Examples of daily punishment would be being whipped with a leather strap, forced to sleep outside naked, and basically being waterboarded with ice water in bed while bound. He was pushed out of a window in their two-story home by his stepmother, which resulted in the fractured spine.

When he entered the hospital, one of our CHA foster moms was immediately at his side and never left over the next three months. He had significant outbursts, was violent, and never slept. His foster parents were nervous about bringing him home but, nevertheless, pushed forward. This year has been the hardest of their life, but they knew they needed to give this child a fighting chance. And boy, have they.

Josh was constantly scared of every noise and every movement. He couldn't leave the house. He never slept more than three hours at a time and would cry out in the middle of the night. Getting him to bathe or be close to water would cause a severe meltdown and pure terror.

Today, his foster care team barely recognizes him. He runs up and gives his team hugs. He has taken swimming lessons and loves to be in the pool. He sleeps through the night and wakes up feeling happy. He has been on vacations with his foster family and is enjoying every new experience. He laughs constantly, and is described as the "sweetest, funniest kid."

His foster mom talks about replacing his dark memories with new ones, so she is always trying to find little moments to share with him. She has never left his side and has devoted her life to helping heal this broken child.

Due to the extensive abuse, Josh will always need a catheter and a back brace, but he has been medically cleared to resume any activity and try new things. He said he would like to go skydiving, but his foster mom said she was thinking more like a trip to the beach.

Child's name and photo have been changed for his protection, but his story is very real.



**64%**

of foster children enter the system due to neglect.

Average stay in foster care is **33 months**

**NC ranked #34**

in overall child well-being

Sources: NC Child Health Report Card 2021 and AFCARS 2020

### Did you know there's a foster care crisis in North Carolina?

Siblings are often split up and moved to various counties throughout the state because of a deficit in the quantity and quality of foster homes. Do you have room in your heart and home to take in these vulnerable children? Are you the ONE family who today will seriously consider fostering a child?

Becoming a foster family presents many challenges and **we need a community of volunteers to surround, support and serve foster families with Christ's love.**

Consider the reward of investing in a child's life.

If this message speaks to you, please contact our Foster Care team to find out how you can become a foster parent or help foster families in your community.

**Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.**

—PSALM 27:10