



The Forgotten Initiative®

Helping you support the foster care community.



People everywhere supporting the foster care community and experiencing Jesus together.

The foster care community needs you and you need them.


You have been given strengths, life experiences, and resources that you can use to help those who are feeling overwhelmed, misunderstood, or forgotten. When you support agency workers, foster parents, vulnerable adults, and children, you have the opportunity to show Jesus to them.



By entering into relationship with the foster care community, you are changed too. You are drawn to Jesus in new ways, your perspective is shifted, and your need for Jesus is made more apparent. This is our hope.

*We want to see people everywhere
supporting the foster care community
and experiencing Jesus together.*





OUR MISSION

**Helping you
support the foster
care community
through awareness,
encouragement, and
advocacy.**

TFI'S 3 CORE TENETS



Awareness

Awareness leads to action.

Before taking action, you must first understand the need. We want to help you see through the eyes of the agency worker, foster parent, vulnerable adult, and child. You will learn their stories and the challenges they face so that you can take your next step.

(Proverbs 2:6, Proverbs 3:27, James 4:17, Philippians 2:3-4)



Encouragement

You are not alone.

You are already deeply entrenched in the world of foster care. You have been faithful to walk in obedience to Jesus, and now you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, misunderstood, or unequipped to continue. Maybe you even feel hopeless. Know this; you are not alone. There is hope, and we will bring you resources and encouragement to help you walk out your calling.

(Hebrews 10:24-25, Psalm 32:7-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Matthew 11:28-29)



Advocacy

You can be a voice.

There is only so much you can do on your own. Maybe you're a foster parent or serving the foster care community in some other way, but you want to do more. You know the need is overwhelming, and you want to engage other people. We are ready to equip you to be a voice for the foster care community so that you can mobilize others to serve.

(Matthew 25:40, James 1:27, 1 John 3:17, Proverbs 31:8-10)



The Biblical call to care for the forgotten.

Feed the hungry,
and help those in trouble.
Then your light will shine out from the darkness,
and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.
The Lord will guide you continually,
giving you water when you are dry
and restoring your strength.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like an ever-flowing spring.
Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.
Then you will be known as a builder of walls
and a restorer of homes.

Isaiah 58:10-12

Our Story and Timeline



Jami Kaeb
Founder and
Executive Director

An Unexpected Journey (May 2008)

We never planned to adopt, and foster care wasn't on our radar, but God made us aware, and ultimately, awareness led to action. After having two daughters by birth and adopting our son from Guatemala, my husband Clint and I began our second adoption journey. Little did we know that God had something very different in store for us. Several times we hoped to adopt, and each time our hopes were dashed. I couldn't understand why, but through our waiting journey, I learned God was doing something more significant than we expected or dreamed.

A Change in (My) Perspective (November 2009)

After multiple rejections, we found ourselves waiting again. But our hope would soon fade after hearing another "No." I begged God to give me His perspective, and that's when I felt Him say, "It's not about bringing a child into your family, it's about bringing your family to a child." This new perspective opened the door to a whole new world for us called foster care. Once again, we became aware, and awareness led to action.

With my kids in tow, I walked into our local foster care agency to find out more. I saw the rooms where children waited to be placed with a foster family, but the rooms didn't look friendly or welcoming, and I was compelled to do something. With permission from the agency, I called out to my family and friends to help create a space that would make these kids feel special, and they jumped into action. Through this, I learned a valuable lesson: God's people care about the foster care community, but they don't always know where to begin or how to help. When I made them aware of the need and gave them specific ways to serve, they got involved.

New Beginnings and Growth (April 2011)

The Forgotten Initiative (TFI) was born, and it wasn't long before other people reached out, looking to do the same in their areas. This was bigger than me. What started as a way to help my community support our foster care community, soon grew across the country. Our family has grown since that time too. Three siblings joined our family through foster care, and then adoption, and finally, we adopted our youngest son from Uganda.

Today Moving Forward

God has done immeasurably more than I could have asked or thought and I can't wait to see what He will continue to do! I look expectantly towards the future where people everywhere are supporting the foster care community and experiencing Jesus together!

Foster care exists because the brokenness in our world affects family relationships.

When children are removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, they become part of the foster care community. Each of these children are surrounded by adults who are part of the foster care community too.

Agency workers and foster parents work to protect and care for these children until they can return home with biological parents or find permanency with another family. Without permanency, these children, now young adults, age out of foster care alone, often finding themselves vulnerable to the same addiction, homelessness, and hopelessness that their biological parents faced.

This doesn't have to be the end of their story. You can make a difference in the lives of agency workers, foster parents, vulnerable adults, and children who feel alone, misunderstood, and forgotten.

400,000+
children in foster care in
the United States

100,000+
of those children are
waiting to be adopted

20,000
youth (18-21) will age out
of the foster care system

Who We Serve

Agency Workers

The role of agency workers can be challenging as they juggle the demands of heavy caseloads and long hours. Workers often feel the physical and emotional strain that comes from caring deeply for the people they serve. Seeing trauma and navigating hard decisions daily takes its toll—a toll that isn't meant to be carried alone.

Foster Parents

Life changes very quickly for foster parents with new children to care for, trauma to understand, and a system to navigate. Too often, they feel alone or isolated, even sometimes from their church who might be unaware or unprepared to step in and help. Foster parents feel the heartache that comes from holding loosely but loving deeply, as they attach to the children in their care while at the same time pray for restoration, redemption, and reunification of the family.

Children

Children enter foster care because they have been abused or neglected by the very ones meant to keep them safe. This trauma impacts their bodies and their brains in significant ways, which affects their development, attachment, physical health, emotional responses, and behaviors. Once in foster care, a plan is created to bring safety and permanency to the child, whether through reunification with their parents or through adoption or legal guardianship.

Vulnerable Adults

Biological Parents

Many biological parents grew up in and out of foster care and are caught in the hopeless cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and mental illness. They have few positive role models or safe people to call in times of crisis. Therefore, they are unequipped to care for their children, even though they love them. In times of stress, they often default to what they have experienced in the past and sadly, this can result in abuse or neglect of their children.

Young Adults

Reunification or adoption does not happen for all children who enter foster care. Instead, some leave the system as young adults with no safety net to fall back on. We all crave relationship—we were made for it—and without a family to lean on for support, these young adults face life and all its circumstances on their own. Sadly, for many, their future includes homelessness, addiction, incarceration, or even becoming victims of sex trafficking as they fall prey to those offering relationship.



Be a catalyst for
change in your
community.

TheForgottenInitiative.org



“

Our county currently has the lowest number of children in care in recent years, and the highest number of resource families available to serve them. Our agency credits TFI and our collaborating ministry with serving our families, thus allowing them to be sustained in their roles. Our agency also recognizes the community we have worked to develop; foster families are supporting each other and being supported by the Church.”

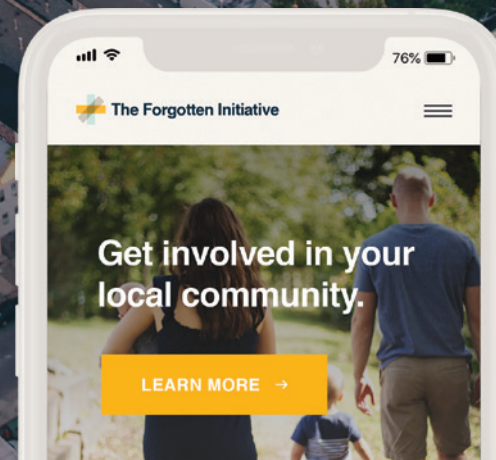
TFI Advocate, Georgia

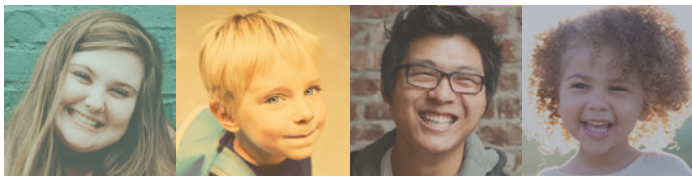
Ready to take action?
Remember, the foster care
community needs you and you
need them.

You have been given strengths, life experiences, and resources that you can use to help those who feel overwhelmed, misunderstood, or forgotten.

Here is a good place to start. **Serve with a TFI Advocate near you or become a TFI Advocate:**

TheForgottenInitiative.org/advocate





Helping you support the foster care community through
awareness, encouragement, and advocacy.

TheForgottenInitiative.org



**The
Forgotten
Initiative®**