

Board of Directors:

Risa Forrester, President
Amy Emerson, Secretary
Diana Perkins, Treasurer
Beth Brewer
Max Pope

Staff:

Holly Towers - Executive Director
Robert P. Elliott - Development Director
Jordan Sanchez - Foster Care Director
Amy England-Smith - Adoption Coordinator
Ben Hunt - Foster Care Specialist
Courtney Sunderland - Tulsa Foster Care Coordinator
Emily McRay - Special Events Coordinator
Jennifer Kelly - Care Connect Coordinator
Jordan Merrill - Tulsa Foster Care Specialist
Margaret Butler - Foster Care Specialist
Melissa Ritchie - Foster Care Specialist
Natalie Bergstrasser - Independent Living Coordinator
Sara Judd - Administrative Assistant
Schaller Wright - Foster Care and Adoption Specialist
Stephanie Hiebert - Adoption Assistant
Tiffany Hooper - Business Manager

501 E 15th St, Suite 400A
Edmond, OK 73013
405-216-5240



NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
OKLA CITY, OK
PERMIT NO 1006



LILYFIELD
Christian Adoption and Foster Care

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY

SPRING 2018



Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce the launch of our newest effort, EmpowerOKC, which is focused on preventing the circumstances that lead families to be involved with the child welfare system. EmpowerOKC has made our first partnership with Westwood Elementary School in the 73108 zip code. Through partnerships with Westwood, businesses, non-profits and the community, the program is designed to transform families and their community to be a place where children are safe and can thrive.

Over Westwood's Spring Break, we hosted two events for students and their families. On March 18th, EmpowerOKC hosted a Bingo Night for children and their families with help and food provided by Serve Midtown. On the 21st, we held a Family Fun Day with volunteers from the Memorial Road Church of Christ Campus Ministry.

Lilyfield has purchased a building adjacent to Westwood Elementary where resources for the children and their families will be available. We are also looking to raise funds to pay for our new building and fund our new program. EmpowerOKC will provide important resources to help strengthen families and the community. Would you consider partnering with us by donating \$100 per month?

Thank you for your prayers and support in our new program!

*Holly Towers, LCSW
Executive Director*

An Interview With a Mentor

Debbie is a mentor to Amber through the Gateway Independent Living Program. Gateway mentors provide encouragement and support to Gateway participants as they work toward their goals and gain life skills. Debbie was drawn to being a Gateway mentor because of her childhood experience of moving often and her experience as a birth mom, placing her child for adoption.

What do you enjoy doing together?

We enjoy taking pictures and doing spontaneous mini photo shoots. We also enjoy watching cheesy romantic comedies. Sometimes we try to guess what will happen before it happens.

What is the greatest thing you have learned from her?

The greatest thing I have learned from her is resiliency. Being in the military, we also talk about resiliency but she is a poster child for resiliency. When situations happen she works through them and bounces back stronger than ever.

What is your favorite memory (or a few) of mentoring her?

She was at my house one weekend and we both had homework to do. She was sitting on one couch doing homework and I was sitting on the other. She had a question about her homework and even though I wasn't knowledgeable in the subject I was still able to help her.

We were sitting on my couch drinking coffee and both talking about relationships we have had with our families and realizing we are even more alike than we thought. We talked about seeing the positive side of things.

Another favorite memory is when she texted me about a decision she had made that she was unsure about. I am able to support her by encouraging her that there is nothing wrong with the decision she has made. This particular time, she thanked me for not making her feel judged, which made me feel good knowing she felt that way.



Debbie (right) and her mentee, Amber.



Pictured above is Westwood Elementary and pictured right is our new building with Westwood in the background.



“God’s Plans are Bigger and Better”

“In December 2015, I learned that I had been accepted to medical school, and I soared to the top of the world. I couldn’t have been happier. In January 2016, I learned that I was pregnant, and I sank to the bottom of a pit. All I had worked for seemed to crumble before my eyes and I couldn’t have been more devastated.

Medical school and babies both require a huge amount of attention and an even larger amount of care and dedication. I have a loving and supportive family who offered to help me in any way they could, but that didn’t change the fact that if I stayed in medical school and tried to be a mom, both my education and my little one would get less than their fair share of attention. Add to that the fact that I believed my baby deserved to have both a mom and a dad who would love him and were capable of giving him everything he needed and more, and the situation looked bleak. In the midst of my turmoil and chaos, the word “adoption” from my mom brought a sudden rush of peace, and after contemplation and prayer, I knew for certain that God had big plans for this baby and adoption was the first step.

In a search for adoption agencies on Google, Lilyfield appeared and I was immediately drawn to their warm, supportive, Christ-centered mission. Schaller, the adoption specialist I was paired with, took such good care of me, ensuring I always had everything I needed and truly becoming invested in my life and the life of my baby, and I knew that if I ever changed my mind about adoption she would help me figure out how to get the resources I would need to be a parent.

Lilyfield provided a set of families who matched the qualifications I had set for the parents of my baby. After looking through the families’ books, I found one that seemed perfect, and it was time to meet. Sitting down for that first lunch, I got to know the people who are now two of my best friends. I knew then that they were my little boy’s parents, and, as a big sister myself, I was especially excited to give their daughter a little brother! From that point on, we were all in this together, and lunches and doctors’ appointments as a group (adoptive parents, Schaller, my mom, and me) became the new norm!

Fast forward over a year—I have just completed my third semester of medical school, and that bump in my belly is now a happy, healthy, very active toddler! My adoptive family and I still get together almost once a month, and they send me a steady stream of pictures and updates. Instead of feeling like I have lost something, I can instead happily say that I have gained four new members of my family. If you had asked me that first day I found out I was pregnant, there is no way I could have told you everything would turn out in such a wonderful way, but God’s plans are bigger and better than anything I could imagine.” - (Molly, Lilyfield Birth Mother)



capable of giving him everything he needed



Upcoming Events:

- April 10, 2018 - Quarterly Care Connect
- May 17, 2018 - EmpowerOKC Community Open House
- May (Date TBD) - Family Reunion for Tulsa and OKC
- August 13, 2018 - Lilyfield Golf Classic
- September 21, 2018 - Legacy of Love Benefit Auction in OKC
- November 8, 2018 - Legacy of Love Benefit Auction in Tulsa

Tributes

Donated By:

Donna and John Hansen
 Dean and Jacque Hildebrand
 David and Jean Burns
 Jeremy and Karel Ludwig
 Mike and Kathy Wright
 Curt and Deborah Niccum
 Gary and Ann Walcott
 Royce and Holly Gambill
 Sammy and Nancy Graham
 Billie and Nancy Riggle
 Bobby and Gayle Johns
 James and Lynnette Bryant
 Norman and Jackie Duncan
 Rick and Janet Howel
 Sammy and Nancy Graham
 Duane and Cathy Shipman
 Terry and Beverly Poff
 Dot Maple
 John and Virginia Ware
 Todd and Kathy Wright
 Curt and Deborah Niccum
 Don and Emma Magee

In Memory of:

Angela Voyles
 Ann Simonson
 Bill Musgrave
 Doug Broach
 Doug Broach
 Dub and Margaret Orr
 Ervalene Walcott
 Frieda Swift
 Geron Gall
 Gwen Brewer
 Gwen Brewer
 Gwen Brewer
 Gwen Brewer
 Jackie Carter
 Jim Lovett
 Karen Smith
 Macie Jackson
 Margie Riner
 Robert Dowell
 Steve Myers
 Wilma Adams

Donated By:

Donald and Melissa Wilson
 Bert and Glenda Niccum
 Donald and Melissa Wilson
 Glenn and Sandra Hardin

In Honor of:

David Wilson
 Glen and Connie Wallace
 Holden McGarrah
 Sherry Owen

20th Annual Lilyfield Golf Classic

Hosted by:
Southwestern Metal, Roofing, and
Waterproofing, Inc.

August 13, 2018

4 Person Scramble
\$150 Per Player
Fee Includes: Green Fee-
Golf Cart-Lunch-Prizes
Balls-1 Mulligan-Prizes
All proceeds benefit Lilyfield

Save The Date

A Family Reunion Story

“Fostering has been an amazing journey for me. My first placement was an 18-month old little girl. She was scared and confused, but adjusted to her new home rather quickly. She taught me the ropes of how to be a parent, and although it wasn’t always easy, I learned a lot.

From the beginning, reunification with her mother was the goal. After several months, it was looking as though reunification wasn’t going to happen. That is, until we found out who her father was. Her father did not know he had a daughter. He wanted to be active in her life.

In January 2017, I suddenly lost my father. It was heartbreaking, but made this relationship between my foster daughter and her father much more real. After seven months of being her mommy, she went to live with her father and sister. To know the relationship I had with my father, and to know that now she will have that relationship with her father is such a blessing to me.

She has been with her family for a year now. She turned three last month, is growing up fast, and never stops talking! She gets along with her sister, and has been part of a family that loves her and wants the best for her. I’ve been able to stay in contact with her family, and they even let her come visit for short trips. Although this reunification process didn’t go the way we expected, God had bigger plans for her. To be part of this incredible transformation in her family’s life has been a blessing.” - (Brooke, Lilyfield Foster Parent)