

# The Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services



For a Better Future Incorporated  
Molly Horn (President)  
Lauren Grimes  
Amber Bosland

Media Kit



# CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

## FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS CYS?

Centre County Children and Youth Services is a branch of the County government. Its goal is to provide social services to children and youth and their families throughout Centre County in order to ensure their right to a healthy, happy living situation.

### WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, foster care is a system of twenty-four-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, family foster homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, childcare institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

When government officials decide through various stages of investigation that a minor is living in an unsafe or unhealthy home situation, he or she is removed from the home and becomes a ward of the state. That minor is then often placed in the private home of a state-certified caregiver, a foster parent. All legal matters involving the child's placement and duration of stay are the responsibility of the family court and child protection agency, while day-to-day care and nurturing are the responsibility of stand-in foster parents or state guardians.

### WHO IS CYS?

Jordan Joyce, CYS Recruiter  
Centre County Case Workers  
Centre County Commissioners  
Centre County families and children

### HOW DO I HELP?

Becoming a foster parent is a straightforward process.

1. Inquiry: A community member contacts CYS in order to schedule a 'first home visit.'
2. First home visit: A CYS staff member visits the interested party's house and discusses the background and inner-workings of the foster care system and the process of becoming a foster parent.
3. Application: The individual or couple fills out an application to become a Centre County foster parent.
4. Home study: A CYS staff member schedules a home study after reviewing the application. At the home study, the staff member

collects paperwork and interviews the family in order to ensure mental and emotional stability and determine what children they are best suited to foster parent.

5. Approval meeting: After the home study, a CYS administrator will meet with the individual or couple to go over remaining policies, approval requirements, and any concerns the original evaluator had that arose during the home study and interview.

6. Pre-service training: If the CYS administrator approves the individual or couple's application, she will send an acceptance letter with instructions on the mandatory six week training session required before formal fostering can begin.

## **CONTACT**

Jordan Joyce, Foster Home Recruiter for Centre County CYS  
FICS

310 West Linn Street

Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-355-3807 ext. 216

Fax: 814-353-3179



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

### FACT SHEET: BLUE RIBBON EVENT

#### **WHAT IS THE EVENT?**

The CYS Blue Ribbon Event is being held to celebrate and recognize the children involved in the Centre County foster care system.

#### **WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?**

The Blue Ribbon Event will take place on the steps of the Bellefonte Court House at 420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, PA 16823.

#### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN?**

CYS will tie ribbons around two trees; one tree will represent the number of foster children under the age of 13, and the second tree will represent the number of children who are over the age of 13.

#### **FEATURED GUESTS**

Centre County District Judge Daniel R. Hoffman, II will be the commemorative speaker and will be joined by Centre County CYS staff, directors, recruiters, caseworkers and families. Centre County foster parents will also speak about their lives with foster children and how their lives changed with their fostering experiences.

#### **SPONSORS**

Prospectors Allegheny Rib Company and Panera Bread Company will be providing food and drinks for the dinner following the CYS Blue Ribbon Event.

#### **WHO IS CYS?**

Lisa Bednarchik, CYS Foster Home Specialist  
Jordan Joyce, CYS Recruiter  
Centre County Case Workers  
Centre County Commissioners  
Centre County families and children

#### **WHAT DOES CYS DO?**

The Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services furnishes social services to children and youth and their families throughout Centre County. The Office works with families with problems concerning the safety and well being of their children and/or youth to identify problem areas and to deal effectively in resolving the difficulties.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

### FEATURE STORY

Centre County Office of Children & Youth Services  
420 Holmes Ave. Bellefonte, PA 16823 • 814- 355-6755

Contact:	Jordan Joyce	814-355-3807 ext. 216 (office) 814-353-3179 (fax)
	Lauren Grimes	301-670-9856 (office) 301-651-5152 (cell)

May 1, 2010

**For immediate release**

### **FIVE NEW WAYS TO LOVE**

*In just three years of living in State College, the Carpenter family has opened their home to five of its most needy residents.*

It is 8 am on the first day of school and Cindy Carpenter\* is attending to the morning's last minute details: packing an extra treat in lunchboxes, tying shoes and kissing cheeks.

What an outside observer probably wouldn't realize from watching Cindy and her family move comfortably through their morning routine is that one of her two boys is not a permanent family member. Christopher\*, the younger one, is her foster child of six months.

"When he first moved in with us, all he wanted was to be a normal kid," Cindy said. "His favorite thing was just having a lunchbox to carry to school for the first time."

Cindy and her husband John had already been thinking about fostering when they moved their family of one boy and three girls to State College two years ago. "We saw it as our way of giving back to the world," Cindy explained.

They saw a flyer for Centre County Child and Youth Services at church, and a few months later they were attending their first of eight training sessions to become foster parents.

After a month of respite care providing full-time foster parents with time to themselves by taking in their child for two weekends a month, the Carpenters were ready for their own experience. Two years later, they have opened their home to four more: the three siblings who are with her now and Christopher, who lived with them for 11 months.

Cindy recalls her favorite memory with Christopher in South Carolina. "It was the first time he saw the beach—until then, he'd never even been out of Pennsylvania."

But the ride has not all that simple. Cindy works two part-time jobs to help pay the bills, but sometimes—especially now, with three at once—her jobs have fallen to the wayside.

"It used to stress me out, but when you have kids who have never had an adult not 'on something' in their lives, spending an hour with them becomes the priority," she said. "You learn to let the little things go."

Speaking of letting go brings up another challenge of fostering—having to say goodbye to a child after months of care. Unlike adoption, the goal of foster care is to put children from damaged homes in a stable and healthy environment while their birth parents receive education and training in hopes of reunification. This has the painful result for foster parents that they must eventually face the departure of their temporary children.

Cindy has been lucky—she and her family still have an amicable relationship with Christopher and his mother. "We hope to keep contact with him through occasional respite care," she said.

But in the end, it is not these details that make the foster care experience for the Carpenters. The true value for Cindy comes just from knowing she has made one child's life a little bit easier. "You have to know that you've done what you set out to do. You've planted your seeds, and now it's someone else's turn in the adventure."

---

\*Names have been changed for privacy reasons [CYS: this story is written from an interview with Hillary Haris.]



# CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT- Radio**  
Centre County Office of Children & Youth Services  
420 Holmes Ave. Bellefonte, PA 16823 • 814- 355-6755

Contact: Lauren Grimes 301-670-9856 (office)  
301-651-5152 (cell)

### BE THEIR FOSTER PARENT

Start Date: June 15, 2010  
Kill Date: July 15, 2010  
Run Time: 15 seconds

Be their mentor (Deep male voice)	(:01) (:01)
Home (High female voice)	(:01) (:02)
Support (Mid-range female voice)	(:01) (:03)
Friend (Mid-range male voice)	(:01) (:04)
Hope (Mid-range female)	(:01) (:05)
Second chance (Deep male voice)	(:01) (:06)
Be their foster parent. For more information call the Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services at 8-1-4-3-5-5-6-7-5-5 and find out how you can help. (Mid-range female voice)	(:09) (:15)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

### BE THEIR FOSTER PARENT- CHILD

Start Date: June 15, 2010  
Kill Date: July 15, 2010  
Run Time: 30 seconds

One-third of foster children in Centre County do not have homes. I was one of them, until my foster mom and dad decided to take me into their home. It was the first time anyone read me a bedtime story or played catch with me in the backyard. You can help kids like me too. (Female child voice)	(:15) (:15)
Be their mentor (Deep male voice)	(:01) (:16)
Home (High female voice)	(:01) (:17)
Support (Mid-range female voice)	(:01) (:18)
Friend (Mid-range male voice)	(:01) (:19)
Hope (Mid-range female)	(:01) (:20)
Second chance (Deep male voice)	(:01) (:21)
Be their foster parent. For more information call the Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services at 8-1-4-3-5-5-6-7-5-5 and find out how you can help. (Mid-range female voice)	(:09) (:30)

-MORE-

## FOSTER PARENT, Add 1

### BE THEIR FOSTER PARENT- MOM

Start Date: June 15, 2010

Kill Date: July 15, 2010

Run Time: 30 seconds

I always wanted a family, but I wasn't sure if I was ready. When I heard that one-third of foster children in Centre County didn't have a place to call home, I had to help. Fostering was challenging at first, but in the end I learned more than I could have ever imagined. Changing the life of a child changed my life, and it can change yours too.	(:15) (:15)
Be their mentor (Deep male voice)	(:01) (:16)
Home (High female voice)	(:01) (:17)
Support (Mid-range female voice)	(:01) (:18)
Friend (Mid-range male voice)	(:01) (:19)
Hope (Mid-range female)	(:01) (:20)
Second chance (Deep male voice)	(:01) (:21)
Be their foster parent. For more information call the Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services at 8-1-4-3-5-5-6-7-5-5 and find out how you can help. (Mid-range female voice)	(:09) (:30)





# CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT-TV

Centre County Children and Youth Services  
420 Holmes Avenue, Bellefonte, PA 16823 • 814-355-6755

Contact: Lisa Bednarchik 814-355-6755 (office)  
814-929-9393 (cell)

### BE THEIR FOSTER PARENT

Start Date: May 15, 2010

Kill Date: June 15, 2010

Run Time: 30 seconds

VIDEO	AUDIO	TIME
WS of home slowly fades from black.	<u>MUSIC: MELODY LOW UNDER FOR 29 SECONDS THEN OUT</u>  One-third of foster children in Centre County do not have homes. I was one of them, until my new mom and dad decided to become foster parents and take me into their home. They were the first ones to read me a bedtime story. You can help kids like me too. (Child's voice)	(:15)(:15)
Black screen, white text "Be their mentor", WS still of dad helping boy to ride bike to expands from center. In white text "mentor" expands over and with the picture at (:16)	Be their mentor (Male voice)	(:02)(:17)
WS still of mom reading to girl expands from center with white text "home" over and expanding with the picture	Home (Female voice)	(:01)(:18)
WS still of parent and daughter hugging expands from center with white text "support" over and expanding with the picture	Support (Female voice)	(:01)(:19)
WS still of woman and two children playing a board game expands from center with white text "friend" over and expanding with the picture	Friend (Male voice)	(:01)(:20)

-MORE-

## FOSTER PARENT, Add 1

WS still of family and child around a birthday cake expands from center, white text “hope” over and expanding with the picture	Hope (Female voice)	(:01)(:21)
WS still of a boy on a scooter with parent behind expanding from center, white text “second chance” over and expanding with the picture	Second chance (Male voice)	(:02)(:23)
Black screen with white text “Be their foster parent.”	Be their foster parent. (Female voice)	(:02)(:30)
Black screen with white text “Call Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services at 814-355-6755.” Fade to black at (:31).	For more information call the Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services at 8-1-4-3-5-5-6-7-5-5. (Female voice)	(:07)(:32)

POSTCARD



Hi,

Did you know that one-third of foster children in Centre County do not have homes? Well, I was one of them, until my foster mom and dad decided to take me into their home. It was the first time anyone read me a bedtime story or played catch with me in the backyard. You can help kids like me too! If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, call my friend Jordan at 814-355-3807 ext. 216.

Talk to you soon,  
Your friend at *CYS*

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES**

**BE THEIR SECOND CHANCE.  
BE THEIR FOSTER PARENT.**

---

---

---

---



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

### NEWS RELEASE

Centre County office of Children & Youth Services  
420 Holmes Ave. Bellefonte, PA 16823 • 814- 355-6755

Contact:	Jordan Joyce	814-355-3807, ext. 216 (office) 610-248-0399 (cell)
	Lauren Grimes	301-670-9856 (office) 301-651-5152 (cell)

April 12, 2010

**For immediate release**

### **BLUE RIBBON EVENT TO RECOGNIZE FOSTER CARE MONTH**

With National Foster Care Month around the corner, the Centre County community will come together with children and families of the foster care system to recognize the needs of foster children throughout the area and celebrate the guidance and support of their foster parents.

“Forty-five children in Centre County are currently living in foster care homes, but there are 69 in our system,” said CYS recruiter Jordan Joyce. “National Foster Care Month and our Blue Ribbon event draw attention to the year-long need for foster families to take care of children who cannot live at home due to neglect or abuse.”

“Sixty-nine children in Centre County are currently living in foster care homes,” said CYS recruiter Jordan Joyce. “National Foster Care Month and our Blue Ribbon event draw attention to the year-long need for foster families to take care of children who cannot live at home due to neglect or abuse.”

**-MORE-**

## **BLUE RIBBON EVENT, Add 1**

Children and Youth Services will hold their annual Blue Ribbon event Saturday May 8, 2010 from 4 to 6 p.m. on the steps of the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte, PA. Centre County Judges and Commissioners will join foster parents, caseworkers, and others to acknowledge and advocate for children and youth who require out-of-home-care.

At this event, CYS will tie ribbons around two trees; one tree will represent the number of foster children under the age of 13, and the second tree will represent the number of children who are over the age of 13. CYS urges individuals, organizations and communities to support a child in the foster care system and celebrate National Foster Care month.

Foster Care Month showcases a variety of other meaningful ways for the public to get involved and make a difference in the lives of these young people. For more information, visit [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org).



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

### NEWS RELEASE

Centre County office of Children & Youth Services  
420 Holmes Ave. Bellefonte, PA 16823 • 814- 355-6755

Contact:	Jordan Joyce	814-355-3807, ext. 216 (office) 610-248-0399 (cell)
	Lauren Grimes	301-670-9856 (office) 301-651-5152 (cell)

May 4, 2010

**For immediate release**

### LOCAL NONPROFIT FINDS NEW WAY TO REACH COMMUNITY

Sometimes the best way to come together is to let loose and have a little fun. Enjoying the company of family and friends is at the heart of the upcoming summer events that aim to bring current and prospective foster families together.

The Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services will host several outings including nights at a Spikes' game, pool parties and picnics in the park to give foster children a day of fun and foster parents a chance to connect with each other and those interested in joining the foster care program.

“Fostering is all about loving relationships and much needed support and stability,” said CYS recruiter Jordan Joyce. “We’re so excited to be able to offer fun outings for families while helping to bring them together and create a support system.”

Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent or family is encouraged to attend and ask current foster parents and CYS staff as many questions as they wish. The first event, a picnic in the park, will take place on Saturday, May 22 at noon at Orchard Park in State College, Pa.

**-MORE-**

**NEW WAY, Add 1**

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and crafts will take place from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sport equipment will also be provided for the basketball and lawn volleyball courts.

To register for the picnic or for more information about future events, contact Jordan Joyce at 814-355-3807, ext. 216.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Centre County Office of Children & Youth Services  
420 Holmes Ave. Bellefonte, PA 16823 • 814- 355-6755

Contact: Jordan Joyce 814-355-3807, ext. 216 (office)  
610-248-0399 (cell)

April 17, 2010

**For immediate release**

### **BLUE RIBBON EVENT TO RECOGNIZE FOSTER CARE MONTH**

**WHAT:** The Centre County office of Children and Youth Services will be joined by Centre County judges, commissioners, families and community members to celebrate National Foster Care Month and tie ribbons around tree branches to recognize the children of the CYS foster care system.

**WHEN:** 4-6 p.m. May 8  
Dinner to follow at 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** The steps of the Bellefonte Court House  
420 Holmes St.

**WHO:** Daniel R. Hoffman, II, District Judge  
Jordan Joyce, CYS Recruiter  
Lisa Bednarchik, CYS Foster Home Specialist  
CYS Case Workers  
Centre County Commissioners  
CYS Parents and Children  
Sponsors:  
Prospectors Allegheny Rib Company  
Panera Bread Company

**WHY:** National Foster Care Month helps CYS draw attention to the yearlong need for foster families in Centre County to take care of children who cannot live at home due to neglect or abuse. CYS will tie ribbons around two trees; one tree will represent the number of foster children under the age of 13, and the second tree will represent the number of children who are over the age of 13.

**-30-**

### **PHOTO OPPS**

#### **/NOTE:**

District Judge Daniel R. Hoffman, II will tie ribbons around the trees with CYS families and staff. Bellefonte Mayor and CYS foster parents will pose with trees.





## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

Centre County Children and Youth Services  
420 Holmes Avenue,  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
May 2, 2010

Chris Rosenblum, Features Reporter  
*Centre Daily Times*  
3400 E College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801

Chris Rosenblum:

There are 69 children in the Centre County Children and Youth Services (CYS) foster care system. Of those, 45 of them have a healthy and safe home with a Centre County foster family. These caring, nurturing individuals open their hearts and homes to some of the area's children in desperate need of stability.

Foster care is often a forgotten footnote, but throughout the month of May these families are recognized and honored for the dedication and love they put forth. In Bellefonte, National Foster Care Month culminates with CYC's annual celebration, the Blue Ribbon Event. Current foster mother of two years Hillary Haris agreed to speak at the event about the joys and difficulties of fostering and the importance of thanking Centre County's foster families for all that they do.

As a local paper, I know you care about recognizing the area's standout citizens and the positive example they provide. Writing a story about National Foster Care Month, CYC's Blue Ribbon Event and Hillary Haris' inspiring speech will offer the community a glimpse of the kind-hearted citizens of Centre County and put them in touch with the beauty of being a foster parent.

Haris, several other foster parents and a previous foster child from the Centre County area, as well as CYC Foster Home Specialist Lisa Bednarchik and Foster Home Recruiter Jordan Luckenbill, will be available for interviews. Many other important Centre County individuals, including the Mayor of Bellefonte and family court judges, will be speaking in appreciation of foster care families throughout the county. It would be best to run the story immediately after the event, perhaps on the last day of May as a culmination piece on National Foster Care Month.

For more information, contact head of CYC marketing Jordan Joyce at 814-355-3807 ext. 216.

All the best,

Molly Horn  
Public Relations Executive



## **CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES**

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

### **AUDIO NEWS RELEASE**

Centre County Office of Children & Youth Services  
420 Holmes Ave. Bellefonte, PA 16823 • 814- 355-6755

Contact: Jordan Joyce 814-355-3807, ext. 216 (office)  
610-248-0399 (cell)

Lauren Grimes 301-670-9856 (office)  
301-651-5152 (cell)

April 12, 2010

**For immediate release**

### **BLUE RIBBON EVENT TO RECOGNIZE FOSTER CARE MONTH**

The county has found a colorful way to honor foster families in Centre County involved in its foster care program.

The Centre County Office of Children and Youth Services will tie blue ribbons around trees to make the community aware of the ongoing need for foster parents in Centre County. One tree will represent the number of foster children under the age of 13, and the second tree will represent the number of children who are over the age of 13.

The organization charged with running the foster care program wants individuals, organizations and communities to support the 69 children in the Centre County foster care system and celebrate National Foster Care month in May.

Jordan Joyce, Children and Youth Services recruitment director, describes the importance of entering the foster care system.

**-MORE-**

## **BLUE RIBBON EVENT, Add 1**

(SOUNDBITE...20 seconds)

“Sixty-nine children in Centre County are currently living in foster care homes. National Foster Care Month helps us draw attention to the yearlong need for foster families to take care of children who cannot live at home due to neglect or abuse. We use our Blue Ribbon event to involve the Centre County community in the search for loving and welcoming homes locally. This event is extremely important and we hope many Centre County families can join us.”

Children and Youth Services will hold their annual Blue Ribbon event Saturday May eighth, two-thousand-and-10 from four to six P-M on the steps of the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte ((BELL-FONT)), Pennsylvania. Centre County Judges and Commissioners will join foster parents, caseworkers and others to acknowledge and advocate for children and youth who require out-of-home-care. Dinner will be served following the ceremony.



**CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES**

Be their second chance. Be their foster parent.

## Being Their Home: the Benefits of Foster Care

**Purpose:** to commemorate foster care parents at the Blue Ribbon Event in recognition of Foster Care Appreciation Month

Good afternoon, fellow foster parents and Centre County citizens. My name is Julie Ryland, and I want to thank you for coming out here today to recognize Foster Care Appreciation Month [pause for applause].

Over the past 21 years, my husband Terry and I have taken in a total of 38 foster children. They have come from violent homes, from angry homes, from careless homes...in essence, not what we would call a *home* at all.

They have been removed from these places, these non-homes, and put in the care of the loving staff at Centre County Children and Youth Services [acknowledge CYS staff with a palm-up wave in their direction].

But that is not enough. C-Y-S does the best they can to provide for these children in crisis, but they just don't have enough resources to give them the individual attention they need. That's where foster parents come in [pause].

Our job is not easy. These children have their own unique problems, issues and history that shape who they are and how they interact with the world. I knew a mother whose foster child had been left to starve as an infant [pause]. As a result, she had developed a tendency to hoard food whenever it was placed in front of her. One of our little ones had never been read to as a child, so it was up to us to help him find the joy of reading—and learning. By the time we said goodbye, he couldn't put a book down.

Each day is something new—problems at school, problems with siblings, problems with bedtimes and meals. But each night—and I know I speak for you as much as myself—each night, I lie down and think how lucky I am to have these special children in my heart and home.

When I think about my experience over the years as a foster parent, I realize that it is not just me who is helping them. They help me as well. They help me to see the beauty in every moment when they giggle over their first-ever toy [pause]. When I am stressing about burning the potatoes we're supposed to have for dinner, they help me to let the little things go when they smile and tell me, "Its okay, I've had potatoes before!" And when I take them to the shore so they can see the beach for the first time in their lives, they remind me to live in the moment.

In the end, its about what we can do for each other—how we can provide for them, and in return they give back to us. There are three main ways we ought to provide for our foster children, and infinite ways they give back to us.

First: Be their mentor. Foster children may come from a past void of a meaning of role model. They may come from a past of little guidance, without a strong person to look up to or to show them the difference between right and wrong. Our job is to teach them, lead them and live by example, and we find that over time they will thank us with their love and admiration.

Second: Be their support. Again, these children were removed from their houses because they had no real support—no one to be there for them when they needed help, or love, or even just a strong figure ensuring they do their homework. That is our job—to be

there for them, whatever their need. We see their gratitude bubble up as they slowly let us into their hearts and lives.

Third: Be their home. This is our truest goal as foster parents, to take children from non-homes and bring them into a place so full of our family's love and support that they come to understand the meaning of home.

Remember the children who come from non-homes...remember the hard-working staff at C-Y-S who do everything they can for these children...and remember the dire need for more foster parents to be their mentors, be their support...[pause] be their home.

Standing here and looking out at all of you who have come together to reflect on and celebrate the unique experience of being a foster parent makes everything worth it [pause]: the long hours of working with each child through their hardships, their repeated bedwetting, their stubborn refusal to listen...[slowly, dramatically] all of it is just a small stain on the garment of joy we all wear by being their mentor, guardian, support system, family. Thank you, fellow foster parents, for *being their home*.