

# 2023 Annual Update

The  
*Fostered*  
GIFT

## **The Mission:**

TFG is a nonprofit service organization that identifies the gaps that occur when a child, birth up to eighteen, experiences a crisis that prevents them from returning to their natural home, and offers comfort, encouragement, resources, necessities, and support to that child to help bridge that gap, remove barriers to success, and ease the trauma of the transition.

We help kids that can't go home.

## **The Method:**

- On-call Gift Squad (Tipton)
- Gift Kit Delivery
- Christmas on Your Own
- A Place to Wait (DCS Region)
- Fostered Start Scholarships
- Fostered Gift Finders

## A Rewarding Year

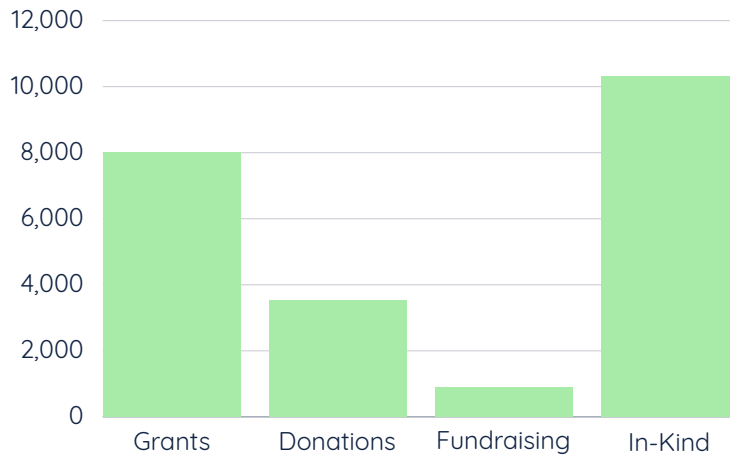
The highlight reel for this year can be titled blessed. One by one, we have been bridging the gap for kids with new partners, new A Place to Wait locations, new volunteers, new training opportunities, and new lessons on how to do things better. We were able to provide community education again and again to help others see the needs of the children waiting for answers and the needs of those that are helping to find the answers. Our community has welcomed us and embraced our mission with open arms.

## Gather Community Resources

### **Monetary and In-kind Support:**

Part of our mission to bridge the gap is to bridge the gap between a community that wants to give and children that need their help. Because of the confidential and urgent nature of the situations, the community does not have access to impact that moment. So, we help bridge that gap too. We gather the resources the community offers for these children and get it to the kids. And our community has been beyond generous in that mission. Below is the financial breakdown of our funding for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. We humbly thank you for every single donation.

- Grants: \$8000
- Donations: \$3541
- Fundraising: \$885
- In-kind Donations: \$10,235



## Get it to the Kids

And we have many ways that we do that. These are the resources we have been able to get to children in the last fiscal year. And none of that would have been possible without the donors and community that serve beside us in this mission.

- Fostered Start Scholarships: \$1000
- Fostered Start Household: \$1000
- Christmas on Your Own: \$500
- A Place to Wait: \$1950
- Gift Kits: \$1640
- On-call Gift Squad: \$468

## A Place to Wait Locations

Another way we connect donated resources to the children that need it is through our A Place to Wait locations. Donated items allow us to restock them on a regular basis so the children that visit them can take a comfort item with them when the wait is over. These are our current locations:

- Covington Police Department - Patrol
- Covington Police Department - CID
- Atoka Police Department
- Tipton County Sheriff/Juvenile Court

## Our Growing Team

And none of these things could happen without a team that chases the dream. Our dedicated board members often wear two hats, serving as board members and officers to maintain organizational

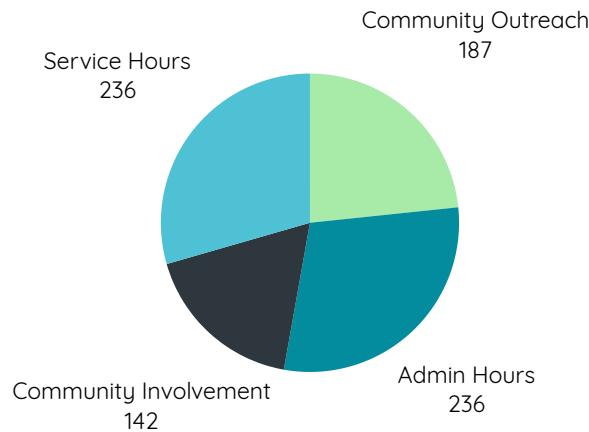
oversight and also serving as appointed directors, keeping the day-to-day operations and services running smoothly. Meet our core team:

Shannon Leach	Co-founder, Board President, Community Relations Director
Carrie Gross	Vice President, Development Director
Daphne Waddell	Treasurer, Finance Director
Jennifer Hall	Secretary, Services Director
Sharon Timbs	Board Member, Administrative Operations Director
Noah Caldwell	Co-founder, Board Member, Information Technology Director

And more joining us soon! We also have many support positions that keep our organization moving in the right direction including advisory council members, service volunteers, event volunteers, committee members, and fostered gift finders.

## The Gift of Time

No matter what position is held or what tasks are being completed, all of the work of our organization is completed 100% by volunteers. No matter the job, our volunteers dedicate their time to make a difference for a child and ease the trauma of the transition. The TFG team has given over 800 hours this year to make this mission happen.



## What is Next?

We have even greater goals for the future. We will continue to strive for our vision to ensure that every child that experiences a crisis and cannot return to their natural home also experiences a comforting transition, with minimal barriers, minimal waiting, minimal additional trauma, and with all

needs addressed until a more stable resolution can be found. We will continue to pursue the values of collaboration, accountability, respect, education, and service in all we do. Our future goals include:

- More APTW locations
- Expand our board and volunteers
- Full advisory council
- Promote foster parenting
- Increase Fun and Games fundraisers
- Increased support for kids aging out
- Establish quarterly open trainings
- Increase community partners

## Special Recognition

- Agape of Covington
- Redfern Boutique
- The Soap Factory
- Tia's Handbags
- Harris Shelton - Amber Shaw
- Covington Police Department
- Woman's Missionary Union
- FBLA-Munford
- The Robinson Foundation
- Southwest Electric
- Simmons Bank
- Celebrate Munford
- CASA of Tipton County
- Duane and Shelia Cole
- Tonya Hodge
- Pastor Randall Duda

## More Community Partners

- Cole's Carquest
- Star Physical Therapy
- Crafted Coffee
- Fastimes
- Haddad's
- Home Depot
- Smyrna Baptist Church
- Maley-Yarbrough Funeral Home
- DCS Community Advisory Board
- Rosemark Full Gospel Church
- Holly Grove CP Church
- Raynor Law Firm
- Kathryn's Flowers
- Miller's Pharmacy
- Naifeh's
- Big Hatchie Baptist Association
- Walgreens
- First Baptist Church - Covington
- Howard's Tinting
- Liberty Baptist Church
- Tipton County Public Library
- Dyersburg State Community College
- Bradford Pharmacy
- Carl Perkins Center
- Colorful Cafe and Latte
- CrossKick of Atoka
- Old Town Hall and Cafe
- Tractor Supply

## How You Can Help

As you have read, the problem is complicated, but the mission is simple. Gather resources, get those resources to the kids. And you can help us do that. There are many ways that you can support the

mission to bridge the gap.

- Become a TFG donor
- Volunteer for TFG
- Sponsor A Place to Wait
- Donate Gift Kits
- Purchase from online wish list
- Shop our community partners

## A Letter from the President

It is a beautiful thing to watch a wish come true. That is exactly what has happened over the last year and a half, since the day The Fostered Gift became more than words on paper. A young girl's desire to give back what she was given morphed from a dream to a reality right before her eyes. It has been a breathtaking experience. And a fast one.

As anyone of the founding members can tell you, the time has flown by quickly. Thanks to a loving community that has embraced our mission, a board of the most compassionate humans who have given their time, and numerous mentors who have encouraged our goals and lifted us up in their prayers, TFG has grown rapidly from plans into action, and is on track to continue to do so.

We are beyond thankful to those who have supported our work and, in many cases, made our jobs possible. What started with an idea to help foster children entering custody soon expanded to encompass any child unable to return home. This change occurred as we became more educated about the needs of our community and our first responders. Shortly after that, A Place to Wait locations emerged as we gained even more insight into what could comfort children experiencing life-changing situations. We could only learn these lessons by listening to the needs of the very people we were trying to help. Thank you to all who have been a voice of wisdom for us along the way, guiding us to become a dynamic organization which is focused on the mission that exists and not just one we decided upon.

While there has been a great deal of change within our plans and paths, there has not been much change in the gaps that exist for the children we serve. Children are still experiencing traumatic unknowns when a crisis occurs which prevents them from returning home. Children are still encountering long waits until answers, many times temporary, can be found. This has been the story for decades, and at least for now, will continue to be the story. We still need good foster parents, we still need safe and comforting places for children to wait for answers, and these children still need rescue and respite. Until those realities change, The Fostered Gift will still be here, still trying to ease the trauma of those transitions, still trying to be a bridge for a gap we cannot yet close.

As we look to the future of what we know will be the same, we also look to the future of what can be better. We pray we continue to improve and excel at teamwork, focus, community education, serving others, reaching areas in need, listening, encouraging, and changing lives. We pray the days ahead

bring us more resources, more connections, more opportunities, and more ways to help a waiting child. That is the mission before us. We are grateful that you are here beside us as we pursue it.

Until next time,

Shannon Leach

TFG co-founder, President

## Contact Information

P.O. Box 124

Burlison, TN 38015

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

[communityrelations@thefosteredgift.org](mailto:communityrelations@thefosteredgift.org)