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PROUDLY SERVING FOR OVER 11 YEARS
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Thank you for helping make 2019 the best year to date for Together We Rise. We are humbled by the dedication and support we continue to receive nationwide. Our mission started eleven years ago with the intention of helping one displaced boy. Today we are able to tangibly help more than a quarter of kids in foster care each year.

We are grateful for all that 2019 has brought. Through your support, we expanded our sibling reunification programs, launched the Superhero Box, and donated over 80k pairs of socks to kids across the nation. With the help of our volunteers, we replaced over 80,000 trash bags with Sweet Cases and continue to maintain the largest scholarship fund for current and former foster youth.

As we continue to grow, we rely on our adaptability and commitment to provide innovative solutions for the evolving needs of the at-risk children we serve. Thank you for joining us on this mission, we welcome all the goodness and new opportunities 2020 holds.

ORIGIN

Together We Rise was founded in 2008 because of a boy named Roger. Through Roger, we discovered the hard truth about how America’s youth experiences foster care. We were no longer sheltered from the situation and chose to take action to help him.

THE PROBLEM

In the United States, there are currently over 430,000 kids in the foster care system. While their time in foster care may vary, many go without significant childhood experiences.

OUR MISSION

Together We Rise is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the way youth navigate through the foster care system in America.

OVER 430,000 KIDS IN FOSTER CARE
OUR IMPACT

Thanks to our network of volunteers, social workers, foster agencies, corporations, and individuals like you, we have helped a record-breaking number of foster youth.

WHERE WE HELP

Together We Rise positively impacts kids in foster care nationwide. 100% of funds raised stay local to the community in which the funds were raised.

45

OUR PROGRAMS

We are changing the way youth experience foster care across the nation. One way we accomplish this is through our team building service projects. Our service projects provide a tangible solution to problems encountered by youth in foster care.

These team building service projects are an excellent way for individuals, groups, and corporations to get involved within their community; while bringing positive awareness and support to youth in foster care.

HELPED OVER 100,000 KIDS IN FOSTER CARE

CHANGING FOSTER CARE IN THE U.S.
**SWEET CASES & TEEN DUFFLES**

**DID YOU KNOW?** When children enter foster care, they are often given a trash bag to move their few belongings in.

Sweet Cases are new duffle bags filled with essential comfort items.

With your help, in 2019 we’ve replaced more than 80,000 trash bags with Sweet Cases and Teen Bags for kids and teens in foster care across the country.

**BIKE BUILD**

**DID YOU KNOW?** 47% of aged-out foster youth are unemployed.

While children experience the foster care system they often lose simple childhood joys like riding a bicycle. We provide free bicycles to thousands of children and teens. These bicycles help bring adventure, independence, and needed transportation for teens to get to school and work.

With your help, in 2019 we provided over 7,100 bikes to kids.

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**PROVIDED OVER 7,100 BIKES**

**REPLACED OVER 80,000 TRASH BAGS WITH DUFFLE BAGS**
BUILD A BOARD

DID YOU KNOW? Two out of every three children in foster care lack any means of transportation.

Skateboarding is not only a healthy activity but a means of transportation and a sense of adventure for youth in foster care. By providing skateboards to children in foster care we are helping empower them through the confidence they will build. Skateboarding can cultivate many lessons beyond a childhood pastime.

With your help, in 2019 we provided over 3,600 skateboards.

PROVIDED OVER 3,600 SKATEBOARDS

BIRTHDAY BOXES

DID YOU KNOW? Birthdays often go forgotten when children are in foster care.

Regardless of your age, birthdays are always a special day and deserve to be treated as such. Often children in foster care are overlooked and birthdays go unnoticed. Birthday Boxes are our solution to this disheartening problem.

With your help, in 2019 we celebrated close to 14,000 Birthdays.

CELEBRATED ALMOST 14,000 BIRTHDAYS
SUPERHERO BOXES

DID YOU KNOW? 14% of children in foster care experience depression. This is 7x higher than the national average.

The Superhero program is designed to make the children in foster care feel S.U.P.E.R Self Assured, Uplifted, Proud, Empowered, and Resilient. With our new Superhero Box program, we provide hope and encouragement to kids as they navigate the foster system. It is important to feel like people are rooting for you.

With your help, in 2019 we transformed over 4,600 kids into superheroes.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

DID YOU KNOW? Only 3% of youth in foster care graduate from college due to a lack of financial and emotional support.

Every year, we provide 10-15 aged-out youth with a $90,000 college scholarship and a family-like support system to ensure they achieve their academic goals and dreams.

In 2019, we provided over $1,000,000 in scholarships to aged out foster youth.

"Together We Rise has truly gone above and beyond anything I could’ve ever imagined. After learning I would be a recipient of the scholarship I knew my life would be changed forever. I now understand what it means when they say it takes a village, with the help of TWR I have been granted an opportunity to continue my education debt-free while still maximizing opportunities and having a true family in my corner! Thank you Family Fellowship!!!"

Juanje,
Undergraduate Student in Business Management
**REUNIFICATION PROGRAMS**

**DISNEY DAYS**
Every year we reunite hundreds of siblings separated by foster care placements at the Happiest Place on Earth. We firmly believe that childhood memories matter and through Disney Days we are helping create positive memories for siblings.

**SIX FLAGS**
In 2019, we expanded our reunification program and added an event at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, CA. Over 50 siblings separated by foster placements enjoyed a day filled with excitement and adventure.

With your help, in 2019 we reunited over 400 siblings.

**PROVIDED OVER 83,000 PAIRS OF SOCKS**

**REUNIFIED OVER 400 SIBLINGS**

**SOCKTOBER**
October brought on our first annual Socktober. During the month of October, we raised money for shipping and sent out more than 83k pairs of Bombas socks to kids in care nationwide. This feat was possible because our supporters value impacting lives of foster youth on all levels.

With your help, in 2019 we provided over 83,000 pairs of socks to kids nationwide.
SHOPPING SPREES

The holidays can be a difficult season for teens in foster care who often find themselves forgotten and neglected. To combat this, we host all-expenses-paid, volunteer-led shopping sprees for hundreds of teens in foster care in 5 major cities nationwide.

2019 Cities Included:

- Brea, CA
- Austin, TX
- Dallas, TX
- El Paso, TX
- San Antonio, TX

With your help, in 2019 we provided over $40,000 for shopping sprees benefitting amazing teens.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Together We Rise is powered by individuals and corporations who want to give back to their community. Our nationwide volunteers create the foundation for how we operate and function as an organization. From assisting with basic office needs to decorating Sweet Cases for children in foster care, we couldn’t do what we do without the support of our volunteers.

In 2019, we engaged over 100,000 volunteers nationwide.

PROVIDED OVER $40,000 FOR SHOPPING SPREES

ENGAGED OVER 100,000 VOLUNTEERS
AGENCIES

In each state, there are different regulations to abide by when it comes to protecting and caring for children in foster care. Our partnership with our network of dedicated agencies is vital to our success and the distribution of the support we offer children in foster care. They help ensure youth receive the supplies and resources we provide.

In 2019 we engaged over 1,700 agencies nationwide.

FOSTER LOVE CENTER-AUSTIN

Located downtown in the capital of the “Lone Star State,” the Foster Love Center serves as a beacon of hope for the foster community of Central Texas. Hosting multiple community volunteer events each month, this facility is quickly becoming one of the most recognizable facilities in the philanthropic community of Texas.
2019 FINANCIALS

Total Income: $4,901,581.90
Net Assets: $7,765,315.87

Program Expenses: $4,509,455.35
General and Admin: $343,110.00
Fundraising Expenses: $76,464.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel Mendoza
Chair
Kimberly Snodgrass
Secretary
Stephanie Baeza
Treasurer
David Mendoza
Gianna Dahlia
Christopher Mekdara

FOREVER PARTNERS
2020 PLANS

WE ARE RAPIDLY EXPANDING!

In 2020 we plan on leaving an even bigger impact by increasing our efforts across the board.

Program Expansion
Our programs are expanding with the launch of the STEM Box! Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math will now be a featured component of our efforts to minimize the extracurricular learning gap children in foster care often experience.

Framing Forever Home
We will be showcasing our brand new Framing Forever Home! A house located near Disneyland where newly adopting families will be able to stay 100% free of charge.

Ella
The Ella program is an innovative approach to managing the Life Book of children in foster care. Ella addresses the difficulties faced by foster parents, teachers, and social workers who work alongside the foster youth on a daily basis, implementing the necessary changes to ensure the seamless transmission of information in the foster system.
WHAT WILL WE DO TOGETHER IN 2020?

#FOSTERLOVE
TOGETHERWERISE.ORG

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