

Survey: Consideration to Adopt Children in Foster Care Hits Record High

79% of Americans thinking of adopting for the first time consider kids in foster care

***Note: Embargoed until Monday July 24, 2017 at 12:01 a.m. eastern**

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

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NEWS PACKAGE

<p>SUGGESTED TEASE</p>	<p>COMING UP, HOW CHANGING ATTITUDES ABOUT ADOPTION ARE CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES FOREVER.</p>
<p>ANCHOR LEAD</p>	<p>THERE ARE MORE THAN 110 THOUSAND CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE WAITING FOR A HOME¹. UNFORTUNATELY, MORE THAN TWENTY THOUSAND OF THOSE CHILDREN GROW UP AND LEAVE THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM WITHOUT EVER BEING ADOPTED.</p> <p>BUT A NEW SURVEY SHOWS THAT MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER ARE CONSIDERING FOSTER CARE ADOPTION.</p> <p>CLARK POWELL HAS MORE.</p>
<p>(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption :00 - :03</p> <p>Shot of Lorie bringing food into dining room</p> <p>CG: Dwain Hargis Adopted five children</p> <p>Shot of family at table</p> <p>Shot of Olivia at table</p> <p>CG: Olivia Hargis</p>	<p>(Nats - Sound) :02</p> <p>AFTER THEIR CHILDREN WERE GROWN, LORIE AND DWAIN HARGIS WEREN'T READY TO BE EMPTY NESTERS. :04</p> <p><i>"I was coming home one day and actually saw a phone number for a foster care company and just brought the phone number home to her."</i> :06</p> <p>AND WHILE THEIR PLAN WAS TO BE FOSTER PARENTS, THAT QUICKLY CHANGED WHEN THEY MET OLIVIA JUST EIGHT WEEKS LATER. :05</p> <p><i>"I said you know, I feel like I want to be adopted. And they said, well then we're going to have to adopt you."</i> :10</p>

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<p>Adopted from foster care</p> <p>CG: Lorie Hargis Adopted five children</p> <p>Shots of Olivia and family eating dinner</p>	<p><i>“Once we saw her finally and kind of got to know her a little bit there was no question that she was supposed to be ours.” :06</i></p> <p>OLIVIA HAD BEEN IN AND OUT OF DIFFERENT FOSTER HOMES FOR SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS. BUT WITH THE HELP OF THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION, SHE BECAME A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE HARGIS FAMILY...SOMETHING LORIE SAYS MADE OLIVIA A WHOLE NEW KID. :10</p> <p><i>“She started to trust. She started to realize this is going to be my forever home.” :04</i></p>
<p>Lorie Hargis (CG’d earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Olivia at dinner table with family</p>	<p>OLIVIA’S STORY IS ONE THAT THE FOUNDATION SEES OFTEN, SO THEY WORK HARD TO FIND PARENTS WHO CAN HELP WITH EACH CHILD’S INDIVIDUAL NEEDS. ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE AGE OUT OF THE SYSTEM WITHOUT BEING ADOPTED. OLDER CHILDREN, SIBLINGS AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ARE MOST AT RISK OF NOT BEING ADOPTED. THEIR MISSION IS TO SPREAD THE WORD THAT UNADOPTABLE IS UNACCEPTABLE. :18</p>
<p>Shots of DTFA meeting</p>	<p><i>“These children are just like any other child. They’ve simply had a rough start in life. But they are free for adoption, and they should find a permanent family and a safe home.” :09</i></p>
<p>Rita Soronen Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption President & CEO</p>	<p>AND THE MESSAGE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE. THE FOUNDATION COMMISSIONED A NATIONAL SURVEY THAT FOUND NEARLY EIGHTY PERCENT OF THOSE THINKING OF ADOPTING FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE CONSIDERED FOSTER CARE ADOPTION – WHICH IS A BIG JUMP FROM FIVE YEARS AGO. AND FOUR OUT OF FIVE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT A CHILD IS IN FOSTER CARE THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN. THEY ARE ALL VICTIMS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT OR ABANDONMENT.</p>
<p>Graphic: -Nearly 80% of those thinking of adopting for first time have considered foster care adoption. -4 out of 5 understand a child is in foster care through no fault of their own</p>	<p>THE HARGIS FAMILY ADOPTED FOUR MORE FOSTER CHILDREN AFTER OLIVIA JOINED THEIR FAMILY. IT’S A DECISION THEY SAY ALLOWED THEM TO GIVE THE CHILDREN THEIR CHILDHOOD BACK. :23</p>
<p>Kids running outside to trampoline</p>	

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<p>Kids getting on trampoline</p> <p>Dwain Hargis (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Olivia and siblings jumping on trampoline</p> <p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p><i>"This is not your fault. You didn't ask for any of this. Your job in our home is to be a kid, and because a lot of times kids have maybe not had that opportunity."</i> :09</p> <p>IN CECILIA KENTUCKY, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :02</p> <hr/> <p>EVERY FAMILY THAT WORKS WITH THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION HAS A DEDICATED ADOPTION RECRUITER TO GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE PROCESS.</p> <p>TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FOSTER CARE ADOPTION, VISIT DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION DOT ORG.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>A survey by @DTFA finds those who are considering adoption are increasingly considering foster care adoption. http://bit.ly/2tYzRWt</p> <hr/> <p>A national survey finds that those looking to adopt for the first time are increasingly considering foster care adoption. With more than 130,000 children waiting in foster care for a home, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is on a mission to place as many children as possible with loving families and to spread the word that every child is adoptable. http://bit.ly/2tYzRWt</p>

EXTRA BITES

<p>Rita Soronen Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption President & CEO</p>	<p>Soronen explains the Foundation's mission: <i>"We raise awareness about those children so that citizens know they're waiting to be adopted, and then we drive evidence-based, successful programs that actually help to move those children out of foster care and into adoptive homes."</i></p> <p>Soronen says they find homes for children at risk of aging out:</p>
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<p>Rita Soronen Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption President & CEO</p>	<p><i>“It’s particularly effective with older youth, with children in sibling groups, children with mental and physical challenges, those children who are most at risk of turning 18 or 21 and leaving foster care without an adoptive family.”</i></p> <p>Soronen says no child is unadoptable: <i>“No child should ever be labeled as unadoptable simply because of their situation, their journey through foster care, their personal circumstances, that it’s our job to get them adopted.”</i></p> <p>Soronen states the results of the survey: <i>“Over the past few years, we’ve seen truly a significant increase, about a seven percent increase, of Americans who, when they’re thinking about adopting, are thinking about foster care adoption.”</i></p>
<p>CG: Lorie Hargis Adopted five children</p>	<p>Lorie says there are too many children in foster care who need a home: <i>“There’s so many kids out there that need adoption and are in foster care. They need good homes and we just felt like we probably had that potential to give another child a good home and a good life.”</i></p> <p>Lorie says loving children in foster care shows them someone cares: <i>“You just love ‘em. You just let them know that they can trust you, that they can believe in you, and believe that someone does actually care in this world unbeknownst to them because of what they’ve been through.”</i></p>
<p>CG: Dwain Hargis Adopted five children</p>	<p>Dwain says having Olivia in their home felt natural: <i>“It was like we were meant to be together, she belonged with us at that point. And it just felt very natural, like we had had her from day one.”</i></p> <p>Dwain says no child is unadoptable: <i>“Being a child knowing that maybe someone does call me unadoptable and well no one loves me, and no one would want to love me. I just, I don’t agree with that. Every child is adoptable in my eyes.”</i></p>
<p>CG: Olivia Hargis Adopted from foster care</p>	<p>Olivia explains how painful being in foster care was for her: <i>“It was tough, scary, and painful because I didn’t know what was going to happen. I didn’t know if I was going to get stay or not, but it was rough.”</i></p>
<p>CG: Olivia Hargis Adopted from foster care</p>	<p>Olivia says being with the Hargis family felt natural:</p>

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“It was different because I had never felt that feeling. I’ve always felt like, scared and weird. But this was different. I felt like I was supposed to be here.”

References

¹*Get Informed*, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, 2017. Online:
<https://davethomasfoundation.org/learn/get-informed/>

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