THE REALITY OF FOSTER CARE ON THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

On any given night on the Olympic Peninsula, there are no beds available for a child in need.

Most often, children are relocated off of the Peninsula - being moved as far as Spokane because of lack of available homes.

One family received NINE calls in one day from DCYF trying to keep kids in care within in their community. There is that little availability.

It is not uncommon for kids in care to be picked up early in the morning and returned late at night multiple times a week for required appointments counties away.

THIS. HAPPENS. HERE.

WE ARE ON A MISSION TO CREATE RADICALLY SUPPORTED FOSTER HOMES.

We want children entering the system on the Olympic Peninsula to find a different system of care.
THE STATE OF FOSTER CARE & WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

50% OF FOSTER HOMES CLOSE WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR.
Our programs increase the support and stability of fostering caregivers, decreasing the number of children moving from home to home.

3% OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH WILL MAKE IT TO COLLEGE.
We encourage our youth to "Dare to Dream" about all that they could become while providing the educational tools and mentoring they need to reach their goals.

ONLY 50% OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH WILL BE EMPLOYED AT AGE 24.
We provide opportunities for youth in foster care to gain tools and learn skills that will help prepare them for a successful future.
60% of former foster youth fall below the poverty line despite earning an income.

Our programs provide children and youth with the resources they need to develop a strong foundation that will help them secure a job and earn a living.

Only half of youth in care graduate from high school, many with only an equivalency diploma.

We equip students with encouragement and supplies to make school fun.

More than 1 in 5 former foster youth will become homeless after age 18.

Our Dare to Dream program provides youth with the resources they need to learn life skills, and secure a job as well as a place to live.
“I cannot even begin to describe how humbling it has been to have so much love and support enveloping our family. I could only wish that all foster families could experience that someday.”

- Sharon, foster mother
Our Love Box program provides wrap-around support for the whole family. Volunteers meet with their matched families at least monthly to help provide support, consistency, and normalcy as well as friendship and encouragement to the families they serve.

LOVE BOX PROGRAM

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- **44** children served monthly
- **11** families served monthly
- **39** hours per month on average donated to each family
WE HAVE 11
LOVE BOX TEAMS
WHO ARE EXPERTS AT
SHOWING UP
FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

In the Love Box program, a team of committed volunteers is matched with a single foster family, to walk alongside them on their foster journey.

Every family is different, so every Love Box team must be as well. Some Love Box teams cook a Friday night meal. Some tutor. Many babysit and drive to extracurriculars.

ALL are focused on healthy relationships that span foster placements and reunification.

Love Box is what community-supported foster care looks like at its best. Its regular people, showing up consistently to fill in the gaps of an overburdened child welfare system.

For children, Love Box volunteers are extensions of their natural supports. For families, they are a lifeline.
THE IMPACT OF LOVE BOX ON ONE FOSTER FAMILY

- 60 Batches of Cookies
- 11 Volunteers
- 1 Year of Service
- 28 Boxes of CSA Produce Delivered
- 20+ Love Box Deliveries
- 96 Hours Walking Kids in Strollers While the Parents Homeschool
- 40 Hot Meals Delivered
- 1 Vitamix
The first time we talked to Susan Ramirez, CEO of National Angels in 2018, she told us that we shouldn't take her word whether support would make a world of difference for one kid or one family. Instead, we should walk the walk and try supporting one family for one year before applying to become a chapter. So spring of 2018, we created an early pilot of what would later be the Love Box program.

In this first-ever Love Box, we matched a group of 8 volunteers to walk alongside a young couple, Ari & BG as they became foster parents. The couple had never fostered, *never parented*, and were newly married. We met with them prior to being licensed, threw them a baby shower, and formed the first unofficial Love Box which later became official under Seattle Angels and later Olympic Angels in 2020.
The night the first child arrived, the Love Box was ready. A meal schedule was set up, clothes were brought, and everyone buckled in for whatever would come next.

The first child was soon followed by two more - siblings. Our Love Box was there on Day 1. They were there when things later got hard. They were there for reunification, and they are still there for these children, 2.5 years later, who have been returned home and then removed again. All this time later, they are still in foster care. And the Love Box leader is still coming every week.

The Love Box leader's home has become respite as well as an emergency placement. Because of this one Love Box, children have finished the school year in their own school. They've stayed here. Close to visits with family, and within reach of their counselor and guardian ad litem.

20 children in total have come through this one foster family's door so far in their foster story. 20 children.

When we look at the support this ONE Love Box has given this single fostering family since that first baby shower, the IMPACT is stupefying.

This Love Box has:
- Driven 4,163 miles
- Invested 1,752 hours
- Donated $9,464

All directly in support of this 1 family
"I think I'm learning that Olympic Angels is really just a magical salve that keeps everyone focused on being and doing their best."

- Amanda, volunteer
DARE TO DREAM PROGRAM

The heart of the Dare to Dream program is to walk alongside youth as they navigate through life's challenges. Mentors meet bi-weekly with youth and help meet both practical and emotional needs, as well as provide guidance through developmental milestones.
In the Dare to Dream program, young people from the foster community are matched one-on-one with mentors that show up at least twice a month.

The reality is that many of our youth from foster care will not find permanency through adoption or return home to family. With this in mind, our mentors are committed to being an adult who consistently pours life, hope, and skill-building into them.

Mentors will explore 10 recommended milestones with their mentees and mutually agree to work on the ones that are most important to them.

Each milestone is essential to life beyond foster care: obtaining a driver's license, securing housing, retaining employment, money management, and more.
THE IMPACT OF DARE TO DREAM ON ONE TEEN IN FOSTER CARE

1 YEAR OF SERVICE

1 Teen & Mentor

COACHING ON HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

11 HOURS RESEARCHING AND SAVING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

25 HOURS WALKING, BIKING AND TAKING YOGA CLASSES TOGETHER

8 FAMILY MEALS

12 HOURS LEARNING TO DRIVE STICK AND GETTING HER LICENSE

HOURS BUILDING HER VERY OWN TINY HOME TOGETHER

40 HOURS LEARNING ABOUT FINANCIAL AID AND APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

20 HOURS RESEARCHING AND SAVING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
Our first Dare to Dream mentee we met at the age of 20. He had been in the foster care system since he was in elementary school and was soon to age out of care at age 21.

In 2018, we awkwardly asked him if we could meet him for pizza downtown regularly to hear how things were going. As he approached the cliff of aging out, these pizza meetups took on a new urgency. They soon became about housing and advocacy appointments. Like so many kids before him, he became homeless immediately upon aging out of the foster care system.

Aging out of foster care without a healthy support system or transitional housing set-up had created a predictable crisis.
LOVING him the way we would our own kin transformed this relationship from "client" to someone we had the honor of mentoring through this tough season. We had the privilege of walking beside him as he navigated the terrain between an isolated childhood in care and independence in a community.

This year, we have achieved what we set out to do. He has finally been approved for the disability he should have been awarded long ago when he was still in foster care. Through much advocacy, he has secured a place in his community to live. He has a group of dedicated folks who aren't paid to show up. We have increased his natural supports 10 fold.

The Dare to Dream Program has given us a framework to rally support around him and safely see this through as people that love him.

One part cheerleader, one part advocate, one part friend, ALL IN.

Our community needs Olympic Angels help to step into the gaps of the foster care system.
"So many of our youth have significant trauma and also developmental delays that make it difficult for them to navigate through life.

The US and WA specifically, do not have a system in place to support these young adults in the ways they need to be. This is a systemic issue that will likely take decades to address. Everyone sees the failures of our system when you see the homeless encampments and unsheltered adults in large cities and small towns.

At this time support for young adults with additional needs happens on a personal level. Imagine if your young person was without you and tried to access all of these services. It would be impossible."

- Caseworker for Department of Children, Youth, and Families

**BENEFITS OF DARE TO DREAM**

- **Build Confidence & Self-Worth**
- **Increase College Participation**
- **Encourage Overall Academic Performance**
- **Form Trust-Based Relationships**
- **Build Independent Living Skills**
- **Positively Impact Physical & Mental Health**
Without our volunteers, the impact of our programs would simply not be possible. Each volunteer's role is unique and meaningful to the youth and families we serve.

We are so thankful for each and every volunteer who commits to walking alongside children, youth, and families with us.
OPERATIONAL SPENDING SUMMARY

73.5% Staff Salaries
- Interim Executive Director
- Case Manager
- Marketing Manager

8.7% Professional Fees
- Background checks
- Insurance
- Legal
- Accounting
- Case Management Software

5.1% Marketing

3.7% Office Supply & Equipment

1.7% Rent & Utilities

3.6% Chapter Support from National Angels

0.7% Other

2.9% Emergent Needs

EXPENSE CATEGORIES

88.1% Programs
0% Fundraising
11.9% Administrative
CAPACITY BUILDING

We estimate that every $1 paid to our Case Manager yields a 258% return - in the form of volunteer hours, in-kind and monetary donations.

**Case Manager:** Coordinates all volunteers who serve children, youth and families in foster care on the Olympic Peninsula.

**Olympic Angels Volunteers:** Partner with families, becoming consistent, healthy adults that children and youth can depend on.

**WE ESTIMATE THAT EVERY $1 PAID TO OUR CASE MANAGER YIELDS A 258% RETURN - IN THE FORM OF VOLUNTEER HOURS, IN-KIND AND MONETARY DONATIONS.**

Read our full budget to actuals statement.
“Stuff” is important, but healthy relationships are essential. Above all else, volunteers give their time and dedication to show up in the ways they are most needed. Sometimes that's a listening ear while taking a walk, rides to soccer, or just letting a kid feel like a kid while they go fishing.

Whatever that child or family needs, our volunteers and Case Managers help fill it.
2021 IN-KIND DONATIONS

An in-kind donation is a non-cash gift made to a nonprofit organization, including goods, services, time, and expertise.

TOTAL YEAR TO DATE IN-KIND DONATION VALUE:

$87,061
We are so proud to see what you have done since you got to work. And we are so excited to see what else can be accomplished.

We are absolutely determined to see the day when children entering foster care find a system full of people they can depend on.

We can't wait to partner with you to make this vision real.

Thank YOU