

## **November 2022, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story**

### **National Adoption Month**

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption services, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, healthy home.

LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment. But more work needs to be done. Thousands of children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care into a “forever family”.

To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit [LSIowa.org/Foster](http://LSIowa.org/Foster), or contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit [LSIowa.org/church-relations](http://LSIowa.org/church-relations) or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **A Picture of Foster Care and Adoption**

The goal of foster care is to reunite children with the parents when possible. The foster family can play an integral part in making that happen, often becoming mentors to the birth parents, helping them learn parenting skills they may not have had modeled to them.

An LSI provider told me about a picture she had recently received. Imagine, if you would, a photo of two women, one on each end of a bench, and four kids with them. All happy. All smiling. It looks like they were enjoying a beautiful day in the park.

On the left is the birth mother of those kids. She will be the first to admit, things haven't been easy – but she loves these kids.

The other woman is the foster mother. She loves these kids too. Two of the kids were adopted by the foster family, one lives with the birth mom, and the foster child on the mother's lap was soon to be reunited with the birth mom. They are celebrating Mother's Day together.

Foster families provide more than a safe place for children to land. This foster/adoptive parent is a wonderful mentor for this birth mom!