



A & P Team—Post Adoption Support from the start!

Pat O'Brien
Bob Friend

**GOOD
MORNING
NASHVILLE
ASAP
NOW!**

Welcome to:

**We Can Begin Post-
Adoption Work at
Recruitment!**

Pat ☺'Brien

You Gotta Believe!

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Klingberg Family Centers

Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program

**A Signature Program of the Dave Thomas
Foundation for Adoption**

Are You Being Called To Serve a Child?

A Self-Assessment Survey

Learn what your greatest gift is in your call to be of service to children. Follow directions below to assess which activity, skill, decision, or role in life is your greatest attribute in your ability to be of service to a child. Whatever box your finger or pen ultimately lands on will be the area where you can offer a child your greatest gift. Keep your mind open, suspend judgment and enjoy this self-assessment and you will learn a great deal about your individual greatest strength as it relates to serving children.

Teach	Advocate	Mentor	Coach
Befriend	Act Silly & Playful	Listen	Adopt A Teen
Show Empathy	Enhance Self-Esteem	Unconditional Commitment is love	Prevent Homelessness

1. Place your finger on any **gray or shaded** box
2. Move your finger **left or right** to the nearest **white** box
3. Move your finger **up or down** to the nearest **grey or shaded** box
4. Move your finger **diagonally** to the nearest **white** box
5. Move your finger **left or right** to the nearest **gray** box
6. Now, remember your greatest strength to serve a child (which is the box your finger is on right now). Concentrate on the strength in that box.

Please Turn This Sheet Over!

U-D (Up-Down)

D (Deficit)

D (Disorder)

L-R (Left-Right)

D (Deficit)

D (Disorder)

D (Diagonal)

D (Deficit)

D (Disorder)

Congratulations!

Your finger landed on

Adopt-a-Teen

So, please consider how signing up for an interesting, informative, and even fun, therapeutic parent preparation class experience to learn about how to become a permanent parent to an older teen or youth adult, might become your greatest calling in your service to a child on the verge of aging out of the foster care system.

For instance, when you learn about parenting teens who need a person like you to become a permanent presence in their lives you will learn that your new *role* in life can become that of a:

TEACHER ADVOCATE MENTOR COACH FRIEND

to a child through the final stages of childhood and throughout young adult and adulthood as well.

The therapeutic parenting learning experience will also show you how to create a bond with this wonderful young adult or older teen through teaching and/or enhancing your *skills* to:

ACT SILLY & PLAYFUL, LISTEN, SHOW EMPATHY, ENHANCE SELF-ESTEEM.

Combine your newfound *roles* and *skills* with:

UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT

(Which we define as your decision to love)

And you will go a long way in helping to:

PREVENT A CHILD'S HOMELESSNESS

upon discharge from the foster care system. If we do not attempt to get teens into permanent families before they are discharged from foster care, they run a high risk of becoming homeless upon discharge from the very same system they were placed into to protect them.

To learn more about making a permanent commitment to an aging out teen or young adult please contact me, **Pat O'Brien**, at **860-832-5539**, **Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter @ Klingberg Family Centers** so that I can personally refer you to a staff person at a local therapeutic agency near where you live. Remember the commitment to learning is what we are asking for. Should you decide not to make the adoption decision after you have taken the learning experience, we will feel that you have achieved the valuable experience of becoming aware of the need and perhaps consider becoming a permanent presence in a teen's life as a volunteer mentor, resource, life coach, advocate or friend.

You can also listen to a live radio call-in show I host "The Adopting Teens & 'Tweens Radio Forum" every Sunday evening from 6:30-7pm (Eastern Time) by logging on to www.am1240wgbb.com. And if you cannot listen to the live stream of our broadcast, listen to the many inspirational stories and interviews we have done with adoptive and other permanent parents to teens aging out by going to our archived shows at www.adoptingteensandtweens.com E-mail me at pat.obrien@klingberg.com.

Or call me at **any time** at **718-570-5134** because

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR FAMILY

HOMELESS

NYC Homeless Statistics

- **60%** of homeless living in NYC municipal shelters grew up in foster care as children.
- **50%** of youth surveyed in NYC study of runaway and homeless youth programs reported growing up in foster care.
- **70%** of youth residing in New York City's Covenant House reported having been in foster care: 27% with a foster parent, 43% in foster group homes.

Nationwide Homeless Statistics

- **46%** - almost half – of all youth in shelters across NJ had been in DYFS's care the previous year before arriving in the shelter.
- **56%** of all young adults accessing federally funded youth shelters in 1997 had previously been in foster care.

Nationwide

Homeless Statistics (cont.)

- **49%** of youth in a national survey of runaway and homeless youth shelters conducted by NASW spent time in out-of-home care *in the previous year alone*; 38% in foster care, 11% in another shelter.
- **61%** of homeless youth under 20 years of age reported having been placed in foster care, group home or institution before the age of 18.

The Next Generation

- **27%** of the homeless who did not grow up in foster care have children living in foster care. National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **77%** of former foster children who are homeless have children living in foster care.
- **29%** of NYC homeless parents who **did not** have a history of foster care had active cases with ACS. Institute for Children & Poverty survey of nearly 400 homeless parents in NYC.
- **73%** of NYC homeless families who **did** have history of foster care had active ACS cases.

What is the cause of homelessness?

Common Wisdom

1. Poverty
2. Unemployment
3. Addiction
4. Mental Illness

Real Reason

- Lack of any functional human relationships

**The
Major
Culprit!**
*A Child Welfare
Permanency
Planning Goal*

The Major Culprit?

*A Child Welfare Permanency
Planning Goal*

EMANCIPATION

(1 word)

INDEPENDENT LIVING

(2 words)

ANOTHER PLANNED
PERMANENT LIVING
ARRANGEMENT

(5 words)

*The Effect of All Three:
Discharging a youth to no one but
him or herself.*

Why is this absurd?

- Where do you think most 22-year old college graduates, who come from fairly well-off one-or two-parent families, go after graduating with a 4 year bachelor's degree? **(FOUR CLICKS)**
- **The Average Age is 26**
 - o What is the average age that a young adult raised in his or her own family leaves their home of origin to set up a home of their own. **Three Clicks.**
 - o I did not get discharged to Independent Living until I was 43 years old and there was no time before that that this was even a practical consideration for me.

Did You Know?

- 85% of College graduates, 22 years of age and older, return home to their parents after they graduate college with a college degree? **4 click back**

http://money.cnn.com/2010/10/14/pf/boomerang_kids_move_home/index.htm

DID YOU KNOW?

- nearly 23 million adults between the ages of 18 and 34 lived with their parents in 2012?
This is 32% of all people in that age range.

DID YOU KNOW?

This is up from
18 million, or
27%, 10 years
earlier --- 2002.

- <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323699704578326583020869940.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

- And 56% of all children between 18 and 24 live with their parents.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/08/01/a-rising-share-of-young-adults-live-in-their-parents-home/>

AND DID YOU KNOW?

- that some kids plan on never leaving home and that this could actually be a good thing both for them and their parents?

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/financialfinesse/2012/08/16/boomerang-children-living-at-home-may-not-be-such-a-bad-thing/>

A WORD ABOUT

- **HUMAN
TRAFFICKING.**
- **PRISON
INCARCERATED**

DID YOU KNOW?

- LA Times reported that **59%** of 174 youth involved in sex trafficking in 2010 were in the foster care system. From Article entitled “Most LA County Youths Held for Prostitution Come From Foster Care” published on 11-27-12.
- Of children reported missing to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children who are also likely sex trafficking victims, **60 percent** were in foster care or group homes when they ran away

DID YOU KNOW?

- Similar Stats are true when prison populations were surveyed.
- Being alone in the world often leads to desparate acts.
- Too many females trafficked, too many males in prison.

Harvard University Press

Published a book by Christopher Jencks simply entitled The Homeless, which reported nothing about the foster care system's contribution to creating half the homelessness in our culture, but nonetheless concluded the following:

“When unmarried adults get into economic trouble, parents are usually their first line of defense against homelessness. 5.6 million unmarried working age adults had incomes below \$2,500. 42% of them lived with their parents, compared to only 9% of the unmarried adults with incomes above \$30,000. The contrast leaves little doubt that the main reason unmarried adults live with their parents is economic. It also shows how important parents are in keeping young adults off the street, especially today when the income differential between the young and their elders is widening.”

What Is a Parent?

A PARENT

*At least one adult
who makes a
unilateral decision
to unconditionally
commit to a child's
well-being
for a lifetime.*

A working definition of the word

FAMILY

Is often a place,
but always a safety net
with at least one parent,
that provides a youth
and/or young adult
with the opportunity to
not succeed
(or perhaps even fail)
until he or she
can succeed.

You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc.
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www.yougottabelieve.org

Log on our website to learn about our weekly radio & TV broadcasts. 28

SO, WHERE ARE THE SUPPORTS?

*(Who will help
parent youth 16, 17,
18, 19, 20 and above
permanently for the
rest of their lives?)*

A

SUPPORT

ISNOWHERE

**A
SUPPORT
IS
NO
WHERE**

**A
SUPPORT
IS
NOW
HERE**

**A
SUPPORT
I
SNOW
HERE**

**YOU
ARE
NOW
HERE!**

**AND WE NEED A
MIRACLE**

**DO YOU KNOW A
YOUTH 16, 17, 18,
19, 20, or older who
needs a miracle?**

A MIRACLE

A miracle is just a shift in
perception;

It is a shift in how we perceive
a situation.

“Our greatest tool for
changing the world is
our capacity to
change our mind
about the world.”

--Marianne Williamson
A Return To Love

- **18+ Yr Old**
- **Wants to finish High School & Higher Ed stress free w/o a deadline**
- **Never too late to see parenting modeled.**

- **Want someone to walk down isle w/**
- **Celebrate Graduations and other significant life events**
- **Rely on in times of crisis (flat tire, hospitalization etc)**
- **A place to go on holidays and breaks from school**
- **Trusted person to talk to for advise.**

**WHEN YOU
CHANGE THE WAY
YOU LOOK AT
THINGS,**

**THE THINGS
YOU LOOK AT
CHANGE.**

- **Summer Camp Best friends Parents**
- **Siblings Adoptive Mom – Legal Sibling**
- **Youth’s Surrogate Parent - Education**
- **Group Home Manager - AT**
- **Father’s Brother’s Wife.**

- **Former Foster Mother and sister's adopting mom.**
- **Current TFC Parents – Re-framing permanency as treatment.**
- **Youth's Birthmom.**
- **Jailed Uncle's Wife**
- **Former neighbor & godparent.**

- **Recruiting Parents**
Previously Unknown
- **Guitar Teacher and Youth's Church**
- **Grandfather's church after funeral.**
- **FOCUS Staff and Parent Group**
- **PFLAG Parent Gp**
- **True Colors Ments**
- **Group Home staff where child lives or lived.**

The Adopting Teens & Tweens Radio Forum

Sunday from 6:30-7pm (ET)

www.am1240wgbb.com

www.adoptingteensandtweens.org

END

“Think about this. In 1865 the federal government of the country freed 4 million Blacks.

Without a dime, with no property, nearly all illiterate, they were let loose upon the land to wander. That’s what begins the aftermath of slavery.”

Harper’s Magazine Forum, Page 38, November 2000

And here it is. 149 years later. And we do the exact same thing to tens of thousands of young adult and/or teen children (disproportionately African-American, Latino and LGBT) in our care every year.

We discharge them without a dime in their pockets, without any property, and rarely with a high school diploma so they might as well be illiterate.

And without that unconditionally committed permanent parent in their corner they are simply being

“Let loose upon our land to wander.”

We can absolutely do better for each and every kid in our care.

A Hundred Years From Now

*... it will not matter what my
bank account was, the sort of
house I lived in, or the kind of
car I drove ...*

*but the world may be
different because I was
important in the life of a child.*

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860-832-5539

or

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**Wendy's Wonderful
Kids @ Klingberg
Family Center**



**“Be the change
you wish to see
in the World.”**

- Gandhi

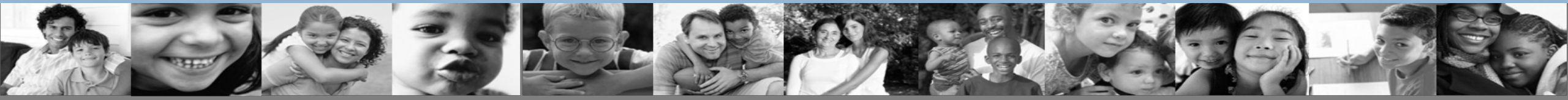
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• **Man's Mind,
Once Stretched
by a New Idea,
Never Regains
its Original
Dimensions**

Oliver Wendell Holmes

*I can only Hope you will be inspired to learn
more after you think about it.*



Setting the Stage



Historical Practice, Policy and Assumptions that Lead to Inadequate Post Adoption Support

- Assumption that a child's history/family legacy, both strengths and areas of struggle, can be ignored or avoided (or whitewashed) via adoption by a loving family
- Assumption that adoption is primarily between the adoptive parent(s) and the child.
- Securing legal permanency supersedes or negates the need for emotional permanency
- Assumption that termination of a parent's rights equates with termination of their relationship with their child



Historical Practice, Policy and Assumptions that Lead to Inadequate Post Adoption Support

- De-emphasizing the importance of full, half and step sibling relationships by limiting or forbidding contact
- Eliminating family connection from the supportive and planning process to determine the primary and backup permanency options
- US history of sending orphans to farms to serve as indentured servants—US legal history of treating children as property
- Other ideas?



OUR FRONT-END LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

- **Reasonable Efforts**

- Prevent removal, Detention alternatives

- **Family Finding**

- Non-custodial parent, relatives
- Paternity Inquiry [Determination]

- **ICWA** — Inquiry, Notice and Involvement

- **Relative Placement**

- Kinship/NREFM

- **Siblings**

- Placement or Connection to Siblings;

- **Family Reunification**

- Return Home
- Reasonable Visitation;

- **Concurrent Planning**



- Reasonable Efforts
 - Return Home
 - Permanent Plan
 - No APPLA for children under 16
 - Guardianship
 - Adoption
- 14 and older involved in case plan development
- ICWA – **Involvement**
- Ongoing Relative Search
- Relative Placement
- Transitional Planning
 - Important connections



New Fed. Law: [PL – 113-183, Sub. B]

Improving Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and Supporting Permanency

- Eliminates APPLA for children under age 16
- When APPLA is used - At each permanency hearing:
 - Documentation of INTENSIVE, ONGOING, UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS FOR FAMILY PLACEMENT
 - Unsuccessful efforts to return home or secure a placement for the child with a fit and willing relatives (including adult siblings), a legal guardian or an adoptive parent, including through efforts that utilize search technology (including social media) to find biological family members for the children.



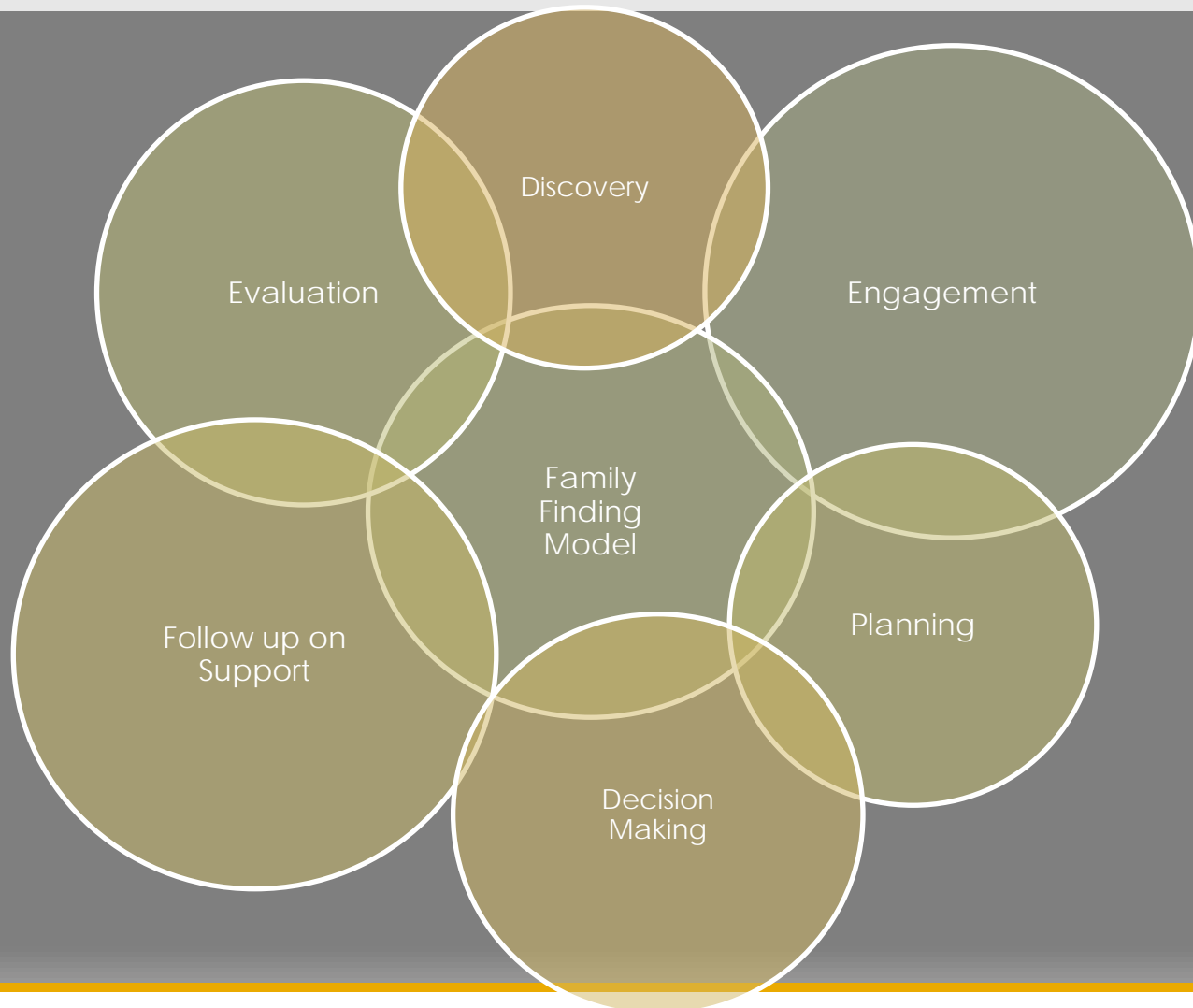
REDETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT

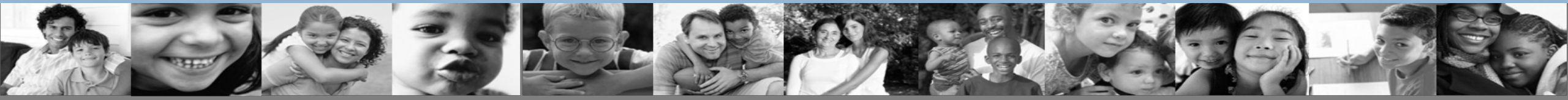
- At each permanency hearing (court or admin) Court does the following:
 - Ask child about desired permanency outcomes
 - Judicial determination explaining why, at time of hearing, APPLA is the best permanency plan for the child and provide **COMPELLING** reasons why it continues to not be in the best interest of the child to:
 - Return home
 - Be placed for adoption
 - Placed with a legal guardian
 - Placed with fit and willing relative



NIPFC practice

Components
do not
necessarily
occur in order
or only once.





For more information about our capacity to
provide customized internet searches
including social media, or for training on
Family Finding and other permanency
approaches, please visit
familyfinding.org
or contact
FamilyFinding@senecacenter.org