



Transforming
Children's Care

GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM

Spotlight Series on
Foster Care Practice:
Webinar 2 -
Identification of Foster
Carers

5 May 2022

This webinar
will begin
momentarily.





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Spotlight Series on Foster Care Practice: Webinar 2 - Identification of Foster Carers

5 May 2022





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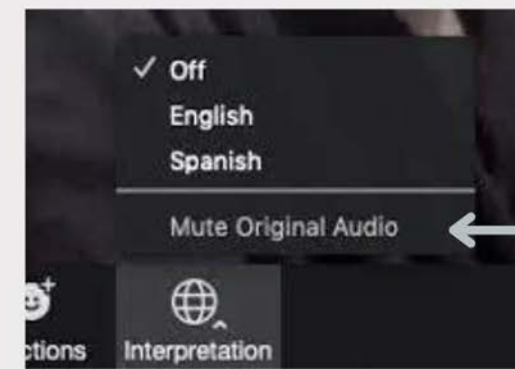


¡Bienvenidos!

Este evento cuenta con
interpretación simultánea inglés-español.
Cuando esté activada la interpretación, sigas estas
instrucciones:

1. En los controles, presione la opción
Interpretación.

2. Haga clic en el idioma que desee
escuchar.



Silenciar el audio

WELCOME

- This webinar is hosted by the Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform
- The platform establishes more strategic sector-wide collaboration from global to local levels to strengthen children's care and care systems
- Sign up at the link in the chat to join the platform and receive updates about future webinars



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HOUSEKEEPING

- This webinar is being recorded and the recording will be made available to you in Spanish and English.
- Introduce yourself in the chat (select “Panelists and Attendees” when sending a message so everyone can see it)
- Use the Q & A to ask questions and upvote and comment on the questions of other attendees.



LOUISE COX

International Programme Manager
Martin James Foundation

BARBRA ABER

Regional Family Care Advisor,
Catholic Relief Services



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SPOTLIGHT SERIES ON FOSTER CARE PRACTICE

We will be holding a monthly spotlight webinar that focuses on various aspects of foster care practice

Upcoming dates for the webinar series

- 2 June
- 7 July
- 4 August



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AGENDA

Welcome

Presentations

Panel Discussion and Q & A

Upcoming opportunities and closing



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**MARIA
HERCZOG**

Senior Policy Analyst,
Institute for Human
Services



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Identification of foster carers

5 May 2022

Maria Herczog

Summary of the presentation

- Diverse history of foster care around the world
- Cultural differences, traditions and practices
- Devoting a life to children – valued, undervalued or not valued activity
- Changing – growing – expectations
- Children with special needs
- Changing models and practices
- A study on the four Vishegrad countries (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia)

Children with special needs

- Serious, chronic medical conditions
- Emotional disturbance
- Behavioral issues
- Physical disability
- Mental health issues
- Willingness and capability of prospective foster carers
- Availability and accessibility of the needed services and professionals, supporters

Diverse history of foster care around the world

- In all societies supporting children in need for care in out of home has been practiced
- History of foster care shows great variety and forms
- Development of the concept of foster care, differentiation from kinship care
- Recruitment, registration, assessment, pre-service and in-service training, supervision and support

Cultural differences, traditions and practices

- Differences of the local, national culture, religion and traditions has determined the development and practice of care
- Institutional vs. community, family-based care
- Institutionalisation and De-institutionalisation and its impact on foster care
- Life changing decision to be made
- Conditions of suitability

Devoting a life to children – valued, undervalued or not valued activity

- Changing culture, place and share of responsibility of parenting
- Changing role of women as carers
- Changing perception of child rearing and the knowledge, skills needed
- Place and respect of foster care
- Respond and acceptance of the broader family, community
- Lay persons – “only care takers” and/or professionals

Changing – growing – expectations

- Expectations from foster carers
 - Temporary care of children in most instances
 - Regular contact with the family of origin (if this in line with best interests of children)
 - Meeting the developmental needs of children in their care
 - Ensuring adequate health and education
 - Trauma informed care

Changing models and practices

- Full time volunteer foster carers
- Working foster carers
- Forms of professionalization of foster care
- Employment options
- Organisational differences – civil society, non-profit, for-profit
- Different types of foster care – emergency, short term, long term, therapeutic

A study in the four Vishegrad countries Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia

- 50 foster carers interviewed in each country
- Main motivation is love of children, helping those in need,
- Different perceptions on the role and place of foster care
- Lack of clarity often between kinship care, foster care and adoption
- Identification of foster carers is getting harder
- Professionalization of foster care, educational background, age and place of living
- Attitudes toward children with special needs, Roma children
- Financial implications – income, allowance and the costs

**CLAUDIA
CABRAL**

Executive Director,
Associação Brasileira Terra
dos homens



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Identification of Foster Carers



Changing Laws to implement Foster Care in Brazil



NATIONAL LEVEL

National Plan on Alternative Care – Family and Community Living Brasil 2006

Law 12.010 Brasil 2009 (FC for the first time in Law/ Estatuto)

Ministry of Welfare System – Technical Orientations on FC and reduction on institutional care - 2009

Ministry of Welfare System – Policy centered in Family living /SUAS 2009

INTERNATIONAL

Guidelines for alternative Care (UNGA) 2009

Brazilian Guidelines was approved before the international guidelines



ESTIMATED REDUCTION OF MORE THAN 50% OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE



2003

000 Foster Care Services

19.373 Sample 20% Children in Institutional Care (Large Institutions) –

80.000 Estimated number of Children in Institutions in Brazil (2003)

Source IPEA – federal Government



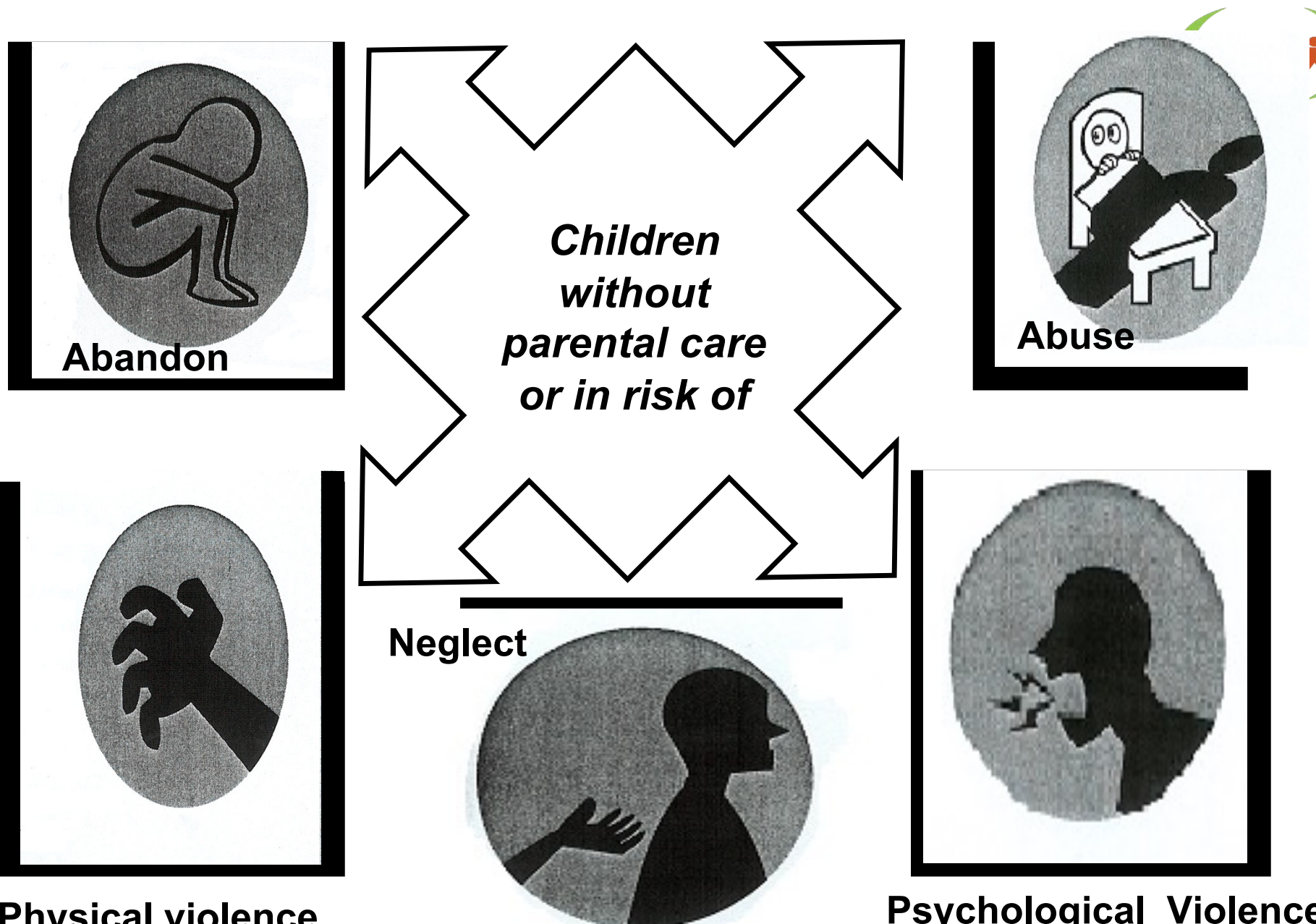
2019

1.377 Children in Family Care (Foster Family new services growing each year)

31.769 Children in Residential Care (small setting for less than 25 children)

Source - Ministry of Welfare site

Violence against children



National network for CWPC

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ALL OVER
THE COUNTRY
CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT
2006 - 2010



PREVENTION FIRST

Community Living – focus on empowering local leaders

Original Family support – Nuclear and extended Family

Kinship care: *Care by extended family*

A 'RANGE' OF OPTIONS FOR CARE OUT OF ORIGINAL FAMILY

FOSTER CARE : Care by another family than the original one

'Prioritizing' medium term Foster Care placement : 1 year and half

Long term is an exception but a need

Prioritization on reintegration to original family than adoption

RESIDENTIAL CARE : less than 25 children (**distinct modalities**)

Number of children in Care - Brazil 2020



2.798 Residential Care Services with 25.534 children
432 Foster Care services with 1.876 children and 2.536 Foster Families
27.410 children in Care
Obs: 13,4% Care services are FC and (comparing to Residential Care)
6,8% of children in Care are in FC services

Comparing 2019-2020

Number of children in FC +22%
Number of Foster Carers selected + 73%
Number of FC Services +13%
Number of Residential - 0,1%

Looking for Foster Carers

Media

- Radio – spot
- TV and Newspapers
- Social Medias (facebook, instagram, twitter)
- Municipality sites and blogs

Events

- Posters - folders - t-shirts – outdoors - stickers
- Outdoors in public places
- Parties in the city

Meetings with partners

- Meetings with strategic partners – Justice services eg
- Meetings within the Municipality – Welfare system, health, education



Brasil Foster Care Placement

CHILDREN NEEDING PROTECTION OUT OF ORIGINAL FAMILY



TUTELAR COUNCIL - CHILDREN'S COURT – JUSTICE SYSTEM

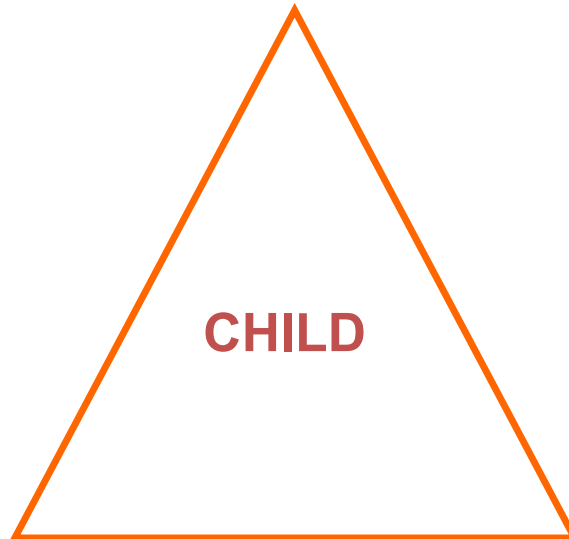


WELFARE SYSTEM SERVICE

CHILD

FOSTER FAMILY

ORIGINAL FAMILY



SOME PARTICULARITIES



SUBSIDY - FUND SUPPORT

- financial subsidy in the form of the law or according to local parameters
- use must be centered on the needs of the child and adolescent being cared for.
- differentiated financial subsidy for the reception of a child and/or adolescent with a disability

Foster Care as a first placement – Young children

Foster Care after Residential Care – Adolescents
Focused selection / preparation

Selection Process

Each municipality has its own format. In most of them we find:

- ✕ 1^a interview (contract)
- ✕ Home visits / interviews (~ 4 contacts)
- ✕ Preparation Course (~ 20 hrs)
- ✕ Foster Families Group (monthly)

SOME MOTIVATIONS FOUND

- Solidarity – desire in helping;
- Previous informal experience with Care in the family;
- Loving children – home full;
- Company for the own children;
- Wanting to provide a child with the same care as they have received as a way of giving back to society and themselves - a grateful person;
- Full time after retirement;
- Part of a religious belief – Catholic approach in Brazil;
- Desire to contribute to the change of society

REFLECTIONS ON THE PROFILE OF FOSTER FAMILIES



WHO ARE THE FOSTER CARERS WE ARE LOOKING FOR?

- Emotional and Rational balance (volunteer and professional);
- Availability, time , commitment with the day by day care;
- Interested in learning about Children´s right and the history of Institutionalization in Brazil – professional side;
- Open to respect and even include original family on the process;
- Open to diversity;
- Not intending to adopt (Adoption is another kind of Program)
- Attachment and non attachment skills

OBS: ANY FAMILY MODEL CAN CANDIDATE THEMSELVES. NO RESTRICTION IN TERMS SINGLE PERSON, DIVORCED, REMARRIED, GENDER, ETHNICITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

THANK YOU!

Claudia Cabral

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**VIDIVI
KARANGWA**

Deputy Country Director,
Hope and Homes for
Children, Rwanda



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FOR
CHILDREN**



IDENTIFICATION OF FOSTER CARERS

RWANDA EXPERIENCE

Rwanda April 2022





HISTORY



Foster Care has its roots from ancient Rwandan tradition due to natural social values system of care for children without parental care. For example a death of parents happened; extended families, neighbours, friends would immediately take the responsibility of children and provide all support needed

Existing initiative that worked to support the spirit of FC such Malayika Mulinzi with a translation of Guardian Angel:

Initiated by Imbuto Foundation with full support of the First Lady in 2007;

Operated in Rwanda to support foster care for children without families

Under this approach, selected families that welcomed children without any blood relationship were given an award/incentive for caring for children

Other slogans were initiated to continue disseminate the good initiative such as 'Treat Every Child as your Own'

"Malayika Mulinzi, a call for all Rwandans" slogan for DAC 2020

It provided good outcome and inspired actors in the child protection as well as the government; the MIGEPROF embraced the approach and integrated it under the National Commission for Children responsibilities.





HOW ARE FOSTER CARERS IDENTIFIED

- Advocacy and awareness campaigns - TV commercial campaigns, billboards, radio spots
- Announcement in churches; education programs on fostering children.
- Local Leaders as Community Development Network members.
- Individual requests as outcome of awareness, referral from other foster families
- Specificity for Special Foster Carers: community neighbouring centers providing services to Children With Disabilities, training Community Volunteers on disability, inclusive education and basic physiotherapy; NCPD committees support for screening



HOW ARE FOSTER CARERS IDENTIFIED ctd,

- Parents with experience of caring for a child with disability
- Hot line for more information on Foster Care
- Sms messages sent to the population for more information on Foster Care
- Preliminary session: explanation on roles, and responsibilities of foster carers in order to make them aware of what is requested to help the community; then make an official request (Foster Care applicant form)



- By experience Muslim families showed much motivation and were among the best FC.



MOTIVATION TO BECOME FOSTER CARERS

- The influence of the culture and seeing their own parents doing the same.
- Being influenced by other Foster Care families in the same area, friends and family members.
- Christian parents would like to welcome a child as a vow given to God; being good Samaritan due to their nature or Christianity; values, beliefs that good actions will allow heaven.
- Parents who were also cared for by non biological parents in their childhood.
- Couples who do not got chance to have children or the one who gave birth to children of the same sex and are searching for a child of different sex.



“I COULD NOT STAND TO SEE CHILDREN SUFFERING, THEY ARE OUR FUTURE AS A COUNTRY. WHEN I WAS A CHILD I WAS SUPPORTED BY SOMEONE FROM THE COMMUNITY, HE FORGED ME INTO THE PERSON THAT I AM TODAY. IT IS MY TURN TO GIVE BACK THE GOODNESS I HAVE RECEIVED IN MY PAST”.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Rwandan community has strength/force to look for alternative solution for children without parental care as result of closure of institutions for typical children; and ongoing closure of those caring children with disabilities.
- District as local government structure is in charge of government objectives implementation.
- Child protection welfare officer (CPWO) is based at District and works closely with Gender and Family promotion in one unity of good governance under vice Mayor social affairs' supervision



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ctd,

- These 2 staffs work with all sectors in the District including the community to make sure they understand and they are supported technically to identify and train potential foster carers. Each sector together with Izu target to avail a number of FC as one of service for CP concerns. Training manual for LA is available at District level.
- Awareness using different channels: churches, posts, community work, meetings gathering citizen to communicate government initiatives (family evening, regular community meetings every Tuesday, community work every last Saturday of the month, IDPD celebration).
- Interested applicants pass through processes which happen in the community at Sectors or Districts offices (Preliminary session plus Completion of applicant form normally look as screening step; Assessment through home visit; training and Approval).



ACTIVITIES ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY





ACTIVITIES ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY



Foster care parent, explaining to others her experience as foster parent



Foster Carers for children with disabilities

- Notice from experience: difficult to find foster carers who come to request for a child with disability.
- Trough mentioned process, professionals engage applicants and share the needs of children with disabilities as the most in need than others
- Few engaged parents pass through the same process and receive additional sessions focusing on disability and caring for a child with disability.
- Specificity of the child's disability is very crucial during the assessment, matching, preparation and placement.



LEGAL FC PLACEMENT

Types of placement	WM	CIZ	Total
Biological family	19	11	27
Extended family	2	4	5
Guardianship/FC	5	3	7
Independent living	0	3	3
Total	26	21	47

- Placement status: 2 institutions for children with disabilities (from 2 Districts).



CWD PLACED IN FOSTER FAMILY



**HOPE
AND
HOMES
FOR
CHILDREN**



**NIYONZIMA
THOMAS**

Foster Carer and
Secondary School Director



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THOMAS' TESTIMONIAL

BY: NIYONZIMA

Thomas

May 5, 2022

TESTIMONIAL

- ☐ **SINCE MY CHILDHOOD, I FACED A LOT CHALLENGES AND SUFFERED A LOT.**
- ☐ **I GREW UP IN A FAMILY WITH SMALL INCOME, AND A LOT OF CONFLICTS.**
- ☐ **FOR THAT I COULD NOT AFFORD TO PAY SCHOOL FEES, I NEEDED SOMEONE TO SUPPORT ME.**
- ☐ **IN 2004, I MET A WONDERFUL FAMILY AND THEY HELPED ME TO PAY MY SCHOOL FEES UP TO THE END OF SECONDARY SCHOOL.**
- ☐ **THAT FAMILY WAS NOT AMONG MY RELATIVES , LOVE WAS THEIR ONLY MOTIVATION.**

TESTIMONIAL

- ☐ **BECAUSE OF THE KINDNESS I'VE RECEIVED FROM THAT FAMILY, I WAS INSPIRED TO SUPPORT AND HELP A CHILD AFTER FINISHING MY SCHOOL AND GET MARRIED.**
- ☐ **AFTER FINISHING THE UNIVERSITY, I GOT MARRIED TO A BEAUTIFUL LADY. I MAJORED IN EDUCATION.**
- ☐ **IT WAS NOT EASY TO RECEIVE OR SUPPORT A CHILD AFTER MY MARRIAGE, WE WERE HAVING TWO LITTLE CHILDREN AS A TEACHER, WE WERE NOT RICH ENOUGH TO HELP OR SUPPORT ANY OTHER PERSON/CHILD**

TESTIMONIAL

- ☐ I DECIDED TO DISCUSS WITH MY WIFE ABOUT ADOPTING A CHILD, AT MY GREAT SURPRISE, SHE WANTED TO HELP VULNERABLE CHILDREN SINCE HER CHILDHOOD.
- ☐ FROM THAT DISCUSSION, WE DECIDED TO GO TO OUR DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS TO SEARCH FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP US TO ADOPT A CHILD.
- ☐ WE HAVE MET WITH THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF GENDER AND FAMILY PROMOTION AT DISTRICT AND HE LINKED US TO THE NCC AND HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN STAFF WHO WERE REINTEGRATING CHILDREN IN FAMILIES FROM AN INSTITUTION.

TESTIMONIAL

- ☐ **THEY WERE SURPRISED TO SEE SOMEONE INTERESTED TO ADOPT A CHILD WITHOUT BEING SENSITIZED BY SOMEONE ELSE, THEY ASKED ME IF I DON'T HAVE A CHILD BY MY OWN AND I RESPONDED THAT I HAVE 2 CHILDREN AND NEED TO BE A PARENT FOR ANOTHER CHILD.**
- ☐ **I WAS PUT ON A LIST, THEN AFTER MY FAMILY WAS VISITED AND ASSESSED TO SEE IF WE WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE AND HELP ANOTHER CHILD, WE WERE ASSESSED BY NCC AND HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN STAFF.**

TESTIMONIAL

- ☐ AFTER THE ASSESSMENT, MY FAMILY WAS SELECTED TO BE TRAINED FOR BECOMING FOSTER PARENT IN ORDER TO SEE IF I COULD BE A GOOD PARENT FOR THE CHILD BEFORE THE DECISION OF ADOPTION.
- ☐ WE WERE TRAINED BY THE STAFF OF NCC AND HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN ON WHAT IS A FOSTER CARE FAMILY, CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION, PARENTING SKILLS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOSTER PARENTS
- ☐ AFTER THE TRAINING, WE WERE VISITED AND PREPARED TO RECEIVE A CHILD, WE WERE MATCHED WITH A CHILD, AND THAT CHILD VISITED US, WE VISITED THE CHILD IN THE INSTITUTION.

TESTIMONIAL

- ☐ AFTER THIS ENTIRE PROCESS, IN 2017 I HAVE RECEIVED A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL. IT WAS A PURE JOY IN OUR FAMILY, SHE WAS 9 YEARS OLD BY THEN.
- ☐ WE HAVE SPENT 2 YEARS AS A FOSTER PARENT FOR THE CHILD, WE WERE TRAINED ON HOW TO ADOPT A CHILD AND IN 2019 WE WENT TO COURT AND LEGALLY BECOME ADOPTIVE PARENTS FOR THE YOUNG GIRL.
- ☐ NOW SHE IS 14 YEARS OLD, SHE IS IN PRIMARY 5. HER LIFE AND MY LIFE HAVE CHANGED FOR GOOD. I FEEL LIKE A HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A DREAM AND A PROMISE TO GOD, SHE IS HAPPY WITH MY CHILDREN, SHE REALLY PERFORMS WELL AT SCHOOL. SHE IS A BLESSING!

THANKS!

***“I FEEL SO GOOD BECAUSE I
HAVE FULFILLED A PROMISE
TO GOD FOR ADOPTING A
CHILD.”***

***NIYONZIMA Thomas,
A parent***

Panel Discussion and Q&A



Opportunity to Join the Task Force on Foster Care

The **Task Force on Foster Care** has been established to provide a platform for sharing and learning on foster care practice experiences from different contexts across the globe.

The group will meet on the Tuesday following each webinar. Learnings from this platform will inform the development of a Thematic Brief on Foster Care.

We encourage and welcome people with lived experience of foster care, foster carers, practitioners, Government actors, and those interested in sharing their experience of the implementation of foster care services to join the Task Force.

If you are interested in joining the Task Force, please sign up to the Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform and request to join the 'Foster Care Group'.

<https://www.transformcare4children.org/user/register>



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THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

Please see the chat box for a link to learn more about the [Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform](#) and find out how to join.

We will be sending you a link to the webinar recording and slides in a follow-up email shortly. If you have questions, comments or recommendations for future webinar topics, please send them to:

contact@transformcare4children.org

En el chat encontrará un enlace para obtener más información sobre la [Plataforma de Colaboración Mundial para la Transformación de la Atención Infantil](#) y saber cómo unirse a ella.

En breve le enviaremos un enlace a la grabación del seminario web y a las diapositivas en un correo electrónico de seguimiento. Si tiene preguntas, comentarios o recomendaciones para los temas de futuros seminarios web, envíelos a:

contact@transformcare4children.org



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