



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month

Austin, Texas – May 10, 2015 – The Month of May is National Foster Care Awareness Month.

For the month of May, Upbring, an organization committed to ending multi-generation child abuse through innovative children’s services, would like to invite all Texans to recognize the care and commitment of foster families across the state and encourage all interested parties to join us at www.upbring.org and find out how they can get involved to help end the cycle of child abuse in Texas.

“May is an opportunity for stakeholders, families and citizens across Texas to think about what we can do as a society to better protect our most vulnerable members,” said Upbring President and CEO Dr. Kurt Senske. “At Upbring, our mission is to break the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities. By recruiting loving families who welcome kids who need care and support into their homes with open arms, we can break this vicious cycle of child abuse – I hope every Texan uses Foster Care Awareness Month to think about how they can personally make an impact in the life of a child in their community.”

Randy and his brother Rory came into care with Upbring Foster In Texas (FIT), at ages six and eight, after they were discovered living with an older, homeless man who was addicted to drugs. Regardless of best efforts, their birth names and dates were still unknown – this man had kidnapped both boys at a very young age but couldn’t recall from where.

Despite their extreme childhood trauma, once in FIT care, Randy and Rory flourished into friendly and charismatic young men. Through the love of a nurturing foster family and regular participation in Trauma-Informed Therapy, the boys continue to heal and enjoy life as healthy, happy teenagers.

FIT is the largest provider of foster care and adoption services in Texas – more than 2,000 children depend on FIT every year to provide safe, loving foster homes. Currently, the program staff is engaged in addressing the immediate need for more families willing and able to help foster infants, teens, siblings and children with special needs. All of the foster

parents are required to undertake extensive training and background checks before children are placed in their homes.

May is National Foster Care Month, a month designated to recognize and celebrate foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals and other members of the community who make it their mission to help foster children and youth find permanent, loving homes.

About Upbring

Upbring, the new Lutheran Social Services of the South, is a 134 year-old nonprofit organization with a rich legacy of serving vulnerable people across Texas. Its mission is to break the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities. Upbring serves more than 30,000 people annually and provides innovative programs and services for children including foster care, adoption, education, residential treatment and community services. For more information, visit Upbring.org.

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