



Our Families

Foster from the Heart.

Uprising, the largest nonprofit foster placement and adoption agency in Texas, believes that as members of a caring community, we all share responsibility in helping to raise healthy children prepared to embrace successful lives.

Meet Chandra Wilson

In Dallas-Fort Worth, Chandra Wilson provides an excellent example. Since 2007, Chandra has served as a foster mother in Fort Worth to 17 children and has successfully guided five to college. She takes in some of Dallas' highest-risk girls, most of whom are dealing with a traumatic past. Chandra's desire is to continue ensuring that these children — who have endured great pain and suffering — have a strong foundation to stand on the minute they enter her home.

Chandra helps these young people find their own identity through healing. An important part of that process is empowering them to give back to other children who are now where they used to be. Every one of Chandra's girls who has left her home remains in contact with her today. It is a powerful bond. They are a family.

Meet Patricia Moreno

In Lubbock, there are some wonderful stories of families stepping in to fill a great need. Patricia Moreno's family has fostered more than 100 children. While many stories stand out, four-year-old Jessie's is unforgettable. The day he was placed, Patricia's husband asked if he'd eaten anything. "Yeah, I ate some chicken bones," he replied. He had clearly had a hard life to date.

While Jessie was not available for adoption, the Morenos treated him like one of their own. Their son, Eric, became very attached to Jessie, too, and enjoyed taking him fishing. They never caught any fish on these outings, so when Eric found out that Jessie was going to be placed back in his birth home; Eric took him to fish one last time so that he could catch one of his own.

Meet Carolyn Gilbert

Then there's Carolyn Gilbert. She became a licensed foster parent in 1996, shepherding more than five dozen children. When Julie moved in with Carolyn in 1999, they formed an immediate bond. The time with Carolyn greatly influenced Julie, and today, she serves in the community as a nurse, owns her own car and is in the process of buying her first home. Julie still makes time to visit—roses in hand—to express her gratitude to Carolyn.

We recognize that we can't break the cycle of child abuse alone

Giving vulnerable children the support and opportunities each of them deserves is more than one organization or government can do. We need businesses willing to train and employ 18-year-olds as they exit the foster care system; medical institutions eager to partner with us to improve the health of children in foster care; legislators prepared to support the needs of foster children in a complex system; and volunteers passionate about lending their time and skills to a cause bigger than themselves. And of course, we need more families like Chandra Wilson, Patricia Moreno and Carolyn Gilbert whose love and devotion as foster parents has raised expectations for what a childhood can be.