



## Welcome to our new families!

A huge welcome to our new resource families! We are so glad to have you here as part of our St. Louis PARTNERS family supporting kids!

Alexis Arthur

Brandon and Makayla Brigrance

Vera Karsch

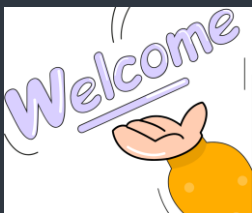
Tosha Kimberl and Dwayne Reid

Emily Lovercheck

Melissa Parson

Thomas and Lydia Sandler

Somalia Walls



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## SLP Launches Joint On Call System

Effective Thursday evening, July 7, St. Louis PARTNERS (SLP) is launching our emergency Joint On Call System. This is an emergency line that will be available to all resource parents after hours and on holidays!

We know it can be scary when you have an emergency situation, need support, don't know what to do or who to call. St. Louis PARTNERS (SLP) is here to support you!

This "on call" number 314-607-9705 will be staffed after our partner agencies' business hours, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. It is available to all our partner agencies' providers! If you have an emergency after business hours, just call this number.

A few examples where this number can help you is if there is an emergency illness, injury or crisis situation with a child placed in your care. For some families, this number will replace an individual agency number, and for other



families, this may be a number that you already have. Either way, this is now "the" number for everyone to call to make sure we can support you all in the best way possible!

Please program this emergency on call number 314-607-9705 into your phone now so you have it when/if you need it.

Know that you are never alone, and we are here for you!

## Meet Carter!



Carter is a creative, energetic and curious 11-year-old boy who is excited to meet his forever family! Carter is now going into the 6th grade! He is described as cute, sweet and caring. Carter enjoys sports, including basketball, track and soccer! Carter loves to read (especially the Goosebumps books) and to write! For more details and photos, visit his page [www.bringingfamiliesogether.com/meet-carter/](http://www.bringingfamiliesogether.com/meet-carter/). This is a low-risk placement as termination of parental rights has taken place. If you are interested in being a forever family for this incredible young man, contact Carol Pine, Adoption Specialist, via email at [CarolP@bringingfamiliesogether.com](mailto:CarolP@bringingfamiliesogether.com) or phone 314-938-5707.



## Spotlight on our Resource Families

Meet James Livengood and Mary Gillam, a relative provider / adoptive parents and a foster family!

We would like to recognize a couple who went above and beyond in their role as foster parents in the month of May, James Livengood and Mary Gillam!

James and Mary were located through a family search for a child. They are distance relatives but stepped up to care for the child in need. While they worked with the team and began the long road to permanency for the child, they became interested in traditional foster care.

They completed all requirements and began caring for children as a traditional family. Their relative placement has some special needs, including being mostly non-verbal. The entire family

has been involved in his care and are learning sign language in order to improve communication with him.

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### Finding family to meet unique special needs!

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They have advocated for additional services through First Steps and the school district and are committed to meeting his needs. They have also remained in contact with his former foster parents to help him continue his important connections and attachments.

Becoming relative providers came as a surprise for this family, but they have accepted every challenge with grace and a little gusto!

They are patient, nurturing, and always willing to learn and educate not only themselves, but their children and extended family on how to help a child in their care.

James and Mary were able to adopt the child on March 30th and were able to celebrate his birthday and adoption with their family and friends!

Thank you, James and Mary, for all you have done and all you continue to do!

### Interested in becoming a resource provider?

We always need more foster parents and respite providers for all ages - especially for teens!

Please call our foster inquiry line: 314-938-5690.





## Sup's Corner: Helping kids adjust

I think we can all agree that there are so many overwhelming obstacles that our kids are facing in today's world. If I'm being honest, sometimes it's hard for us as adults to keep track of everything. Due to this, helping a child adjust into a new environment can be challenging, and you may see some difficult behaviors.

If you find yourself in this situation, here are just a few tips to help them feel safe while they are adjusting to their new environment.

### 1. Make Them Feel

**Welcome:** Something as simple as giving them a tour of the home to get a feel for the physical environment. Invite them to engage in family activities and encourage them to share activities they enjoy that you can participate in with them.

**2. Create a schedule / routine:** Having a consistent routine will provide a sense of safety when a child knows what to expect. The uncertainty of not knowing can be overwhelming.

**3. Call on your community:** Utilize your natural supports and the supports of other foster parents. Engaging in a foster parent support group can be beneficial when sharing with others who know what you are going through. Some of the best advice I've received has been from foster parents I've worked with.

**4. Be patient with yourself and with them:** Knowing that our children have likely experienced trauma and have been removed from the family and homes they are familiar with can cause stress

for them, as well as you. Show compassion and open yourself to new learning experiences.

If you find yourself in a situation with some challenging behaviors and would like some additional training on managing potential crisis, please reach out to your licensing worker about additional trainings. Bringing Families Together offers a **Safe Crisis Management training** that covers several parenting tools that can be of assistance. The next session is virtual and is scheduled for July 30, 2022. For more information, please contact me at [KellyM@BringingFamiliesTogether.com](mailto:KellyM@BringingFamiliesTogether.com),

~Kelly Martinez, *Case Management Supervisor*

### Call to Action

## How you can help PARTNERS

We are always looking for more foster families, especially for older children, sibling groups and children from hard places.

Our current foster parents are some of our best avenues for assisting with this project.

You can help in many ways.

- Share your story
- Host a virtual or in-person informational session
- Join our Foster Parent Advisory Board
- Refer your interested friends to our recruitment line 314-938-5706.

Please let us know about any clubs, groups, activities that you already participate in (such as work, church, social groups) and talk with your licensing worker about becoming a guest speaker to inform your group about foster care, abuse and neglect, or another topic they might be interested in.

Your experiences likely make you an excellent foster parent recruiter!

Thank you for all you do!



## Upcoming Events

- **Bringing Families Together**

To find all the great events offered by BFT, including our twice a month Parent Cafes (virtual) and our monthly Foster, Adoption & Mentoring Info Sessions (alternates virtual and in person), please visit <http://www.bringingfamiliesaltogether.com/news-and-events/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BringingFamiliesTogetherSTL/events>

- **Lutheran Child & Family Services**

To find all the great events offered by LCFS, including our monthly post-adoption support group, please visit <https://lfcsmo.org/about/events/> or <https://www.facebook.com/LFCSMO/events>

- **Good Shepherd Children & Family Services**

To find all the great events offered by GSCFS, including monthly Foster Parent Informational Sessions, please visit <https://goodshepherdstl.org/event-landing-page/> or <https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdstl/events/>.

- **Our Little Haven**

To find all the great events offered by OLH, including our Golf Tournament on Oct. 17, please visit <https://www.ourlittlehaven.org/events-calendar/> or <https://www.facebook.com/OurLittleHaven/events>

## S.T.A.R.S. Training Starts July 12!

Virtual Foster Care training starts July 12, 6-9 p.m., on Tuesdays! Know anyone interested? Have them call Kim Brown ASAP at 314-938-5704. & Check out <https://www.facebook.com/events/1542443722866423>.

Saint Louis PARTNERS June 2022



Saint Louis Partners  
4316 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108  
314-531-3183, ext. 23  
[www.saintlouispartners.org](http://www.saintlouispartners.org)



All agencies are accredited by Council on Accreditation

For nearly fifteen years, Saint Louis PARTNERS (Permanency: Achieving Results Through Networking, Education, Resources and Services) has been investing in the strength and stability of family through compassionate, comprehensive foster care and adoptive services. Our primary goal for each child is to create a bridge home to permanence, anchoring a child in the rich and trusted love of family. Our primary partner in this effort is you, the foster parent.

Saint Louis PARTNERS unites a partnership of four strong agencies:

