

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE



April 2024

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PERSONNEL

We have stability of leadership with the same three founders comprising our executive team since founding Bringing Families Together in 1999.

BFT greatly reduced turnover in 2023. We had turnover of only seven of 49 staff for a 14% turnover rate. Agencies throughout our region in similar fields have been experiencing unprecedented turnover. Our goal is to continue retain staff, thus improving outcomes for families.

MAJOR 2023 BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- COA reaccreditation
- Expansion of 20 FCCM cases - absorbing some of OLH work
- Expand into Franklin County for RD
- Renovation of the Hazelwood Office to better align workspaces and improve team functioning

BFT LEADERSHIP



**BRINGING FAMILIES
TOGETHER**
IT'S YOUR JOURNEY

BFT TEAM



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OUR 2023 NUMBERS

Bringing Families Together by the numbers

TOTAL SERVED

617 families

FCCM-RD

220 families
415 individuals

FCCM-CM

192 youth
113 Families
209 parents

INTENSIVE IN HOME SERVICES

75 families

PRIVATE ADOPTION

12 families

HOME VISITATION

187 families

PARENT AIDE

8 families
23 individuals

TLSS

12 youth

MENTORING

2 youth
9 adults



FCCM – RESOURCE

415 unique clients were served in the licensing process in 2023.

2023 saw an unmatched need with challenging teens and few homes. This led to teens staying in the office when placement was not located and families stretching to meet the need.

We conducted monthly in person and virtual informational sessions.

We added the following families:

- 16 new foster families were licensed in 2023, 80% of the goal of 20.
- 21 new relative families were licensed in 2023.

Near the end of 2023, we added an additional Family Development Specialist and began serving the Franklin County area. This staff person is located in Union, MO and brings a wealth of experience to the team.

The resource team was trained in the new MOCARES foster parent curriculum that will replace STARS in 2024.

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FCCM – RESOURCE CONT.

We were able to successfully utilize social media to promote our events and also to assist with difficult emergency placements.

FCCM – FOSTER CARE

We served 192 children and youth and 209 of the known parents.

We met the outcomes of Child Safety (no substantiated hotlines), less than 2% Re-entry, and Low Residential Utilization. Though our Permanency did not meet the outcome of 32%.

Our staffing has leveled out with a reduction in staff turnover, and we have great staff on our team.

PRIVATE ADOPTION

12 clients were served in the program in 2023 with one adoption finalized. We also completed three adoption assessments, three adoption updates and no guardianship assessments. These numbers are lower than previous years.

One of the newly assessed families has been matched through another agency. There were two birth parents who discussed making an adoption plan and then did not follow through. One post placement supervision was completed with that adoption being finalized also. This match was also through another agency, Abrazo, in Texas.

INTENSIVE IN-HOME SERVICES (IIS)

Intensive In-home Services provided services to 75 families in 2023.

64 were enrolled in Intensive In-home (IIS) and nine families completed Family Reunification Services (FRS).

90% of our families in 2023 have remained successfully intact. Since 2012 when the program started, we have maintained a 90% or higher success rate.

Staff continue to offer exceptional services to families to prevent further abuse/neglect and out-of-home placement. Families routinely express their satisfaction with services designed to help them succeed.



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HOME VISITATION

Home Visitation provided services to 187 families in 2023. Home Visitation provides services in five Regions and 24 counties in Missouri.

Home Visitation offered 12 Parent Cafes in 2023. A total of 28 parents attended those cafes.

Home Visitation staff completed Nurturing Parenting training, Trauma Trainings and Parent Café training in 2023. Home Visitation staff attended the Conference on the Young Years in 2023.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING SERVICES

12 youth were served in 2023. Two youth successfully aged out with supportive services in place. There are currently seven youth for which TLSS is providing services.

PARENT AIDE

23 clients (eight families) were served in the parent aide program in 2023. Also in 2023, one family was able to reunify successfully through the program. Three families are making great progress toward reunification. One of the families working toward reunification is nearing unsupervised visits because the parents are doing so well.

Parent Aide services expanded in 2023 to 1.5 FTE from .5.

MENTORING

The Mentoring program provided services to nine approved mentors and two mentees. Four mentors inquired and were approved this year. Five mentors remained approved. Five mentee referrals were received, and two mentees were matched.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

BFT continues to transform and accelerate engagement and reach across digital platforms - [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [YouTube](#). We have two growing Facebook parent support groups: [Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group](#) and [LGBTQ+ Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group](#).

Digital engagement dramatically increased again in 2023, paying huge dividends by helping us find critical emergency placements for youths and support for our programs. Examples of 2023 increases: Facebook followers 463% ↑; Facebook reach 71% ↑ (reach = 78,500); Instagram reach 60% ↑; Facebook page visits 309% ↑.

We hired a consultant to create BFT's new website, which will launch in 2024 - a robust resource for our community stakeholders - coming soon: bringingfamiliesaltogether.com.

**Thank you to our
BFT team and families!**



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