

Pathways to Permanency:  
**FOSTERING FAMILIES**



"This year, MDCPS finalized 579 adoptions. That means 579 children who now have a place to call home, a family to call their own, and a future filled with hope... I am deeply grateful for your courage, your compassion, and your commitment to our mission. **Together, we are building stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger Mississippi** — one forever home at a time."

—Commissioner Andrea Sanders

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

- [November Support Group](#) Listings
- Make sure you're following our [Foster Parent Recruitment and Support](#) Facebook page for any additional classes or conferences that are shared with us!

**GOOD NEWS**

- Last month, we hosted special [Sibling Days](#) to give youth in care a chance to reconnect, celebrate, and share laughter and love through fun activities and tasty meals.
- Some of our county offices hosted [Trunk or Treats](#) to bring some Halloween fun for children and families across the state.
- There are now six [licensed foster care agencies](#) in addition to MDCPS.

**Faces of Foster Care:**

Stacy Barr



At the age of 52, Stacy Barr made the life-changing decision to become a foster parent to Dakota, a 14-year-old youth in need of stability and support. What began as an act of compassion quickly grew into a deep and lasting connection. Two years later, Stacy officially adopted Dakota, solidifying a bond that both describe as a perfect fit. Their journey has inspired many, as they now serve as passionate advocates for foster care and adoption. Together, Stacy and Dakota travel across the United States sharing their story, encouraging others to consider fostering or adopting teens.

They are also featured in a [national public service announcement](#) promoting the adoption of teenagers from foster care.



## Tips & Tools

November is National Adoption Month. This year's theme is "Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds" to bring attention to the need of adoptive families for teens and emphasize the value of lifelong connections.

### National Adoption Month Resources & Statistics

## Community Corner

Shout out to **Mississippi State Department of Health's** Occupant Protection team for a hands-on car seat safety training to empower our child welfare specialists with the latest standards and best practices in child passenger safety.



## Faces of Foster Care Feature

Do you want to be featured in the newsletter or give someone else a shoutout? Send us a brief, encouraging statement about someone who has positively impacted your foster care journey or a memorable moment about your own experience with foster care.

### [Faces of Foster Care Form](#)

## Updates & Reminders

- Are you involved in a church, group, or organization where we might be able to come speak about the need for foster parents? Check out our **Foster Parent Recruitment Map** for who to reach out to in your area.
- In case you missed it, there are some important changes to **[foster parent licensing](#)**. For more info on foster care licensure, email **[fprecruitment@mdcps.ms.gov](mailto:fprecruitment@mdcps.ms.gov)**.
- Foster Parent **[Bill of Rights](#)**

## Contact Us

- **[fprecruitment@mdcps.ms.gov](mailto:fprecruitment@mdcps.ms.gov)**
- **1-800-821-9157**



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Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services | 750 North State St. | Jackson, MS 39205 US

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