

# What Role Will You Play?

## 5 Areas of Need in Foster Care and Adoption



### Family Preservation

- Over 70% of children in care will return to their biological families
- After ensuring safety, the State's top priority is to return children to their families
- Biological families need more support than State requirements to break cycles of abuse, poverty, addiction, etc
- Most children in foster care have parents who were also in foster care



### Foster Care

- 1400 kids in foster care in Travis, Williamson, Hays Counties
- Foster homes are most needed for children age 6 and over
- Children in care can move on average 6 times not due to the system, but because the foster family is not prepared to care for the child
- Moving and inconsistent care can cause more trauma in a child than the original abusive environment



### Adoption

- Minority ethnic group children over 2 years old have a greater risk of aging out of the system than being adopted
- An estimated 250 children are available for adoption– many are sibling groups or teens
- Adoption from the foster care system costs little to nothing
- All children will have trauma, but they can reach dramatic levels of healing with trauma-informed parenting



### Supporting Roles

- There are many opportunities to serve foster and adoptive families including CASA, meals, mentoring, prayer, babysitting certification, financial support for camps or sports, backpack drives, compassion for foster/adoption families, etc
- Isolation is often a family's first and most problematic response when they are in crisis with a child



### Aged-out Teens

- Teens are given the choice at 18 to extend their time in foster care until 21 or they can leave
- 40% of those who age-out are homeless in the first year
- 66% are in incarcerated in the first year
- 70% are pregnant by their 21st birthday
- Long-term relationships are required to change the future of aged-out teens

