



Wayfinder

FAMILY SERVICES

We understand the unique challenges facing some of our state's most vulnerable children, youth and families. Those in foster care, those without a home of their own, those who have been abused and many, many more.

We believe in the amazing potential in, and for, each and every one of them.

Join us to make a collective impact and together, we will turn that potential into reality. Together, we will change the future.

OUR IMPACT

17,849
children adopted
since 1980



10,000+ 
foster, adoptive and kinship
care families served annually

CA 
statewide
programs and services

WHAT WE DO



LIFELONG FAMILIES

Family finding and family-based services that ensure children will be part of a safe, nurturing, lifelong family.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Early intervention, prevention and in-home support that build parenting skills, strengthen family relationships and prevent child abuse.



Changing
the
Future
Together



THRIVING CHILDREN

Support services that promote healing, resiliency and a child's success at home

STRONGER FAMILIES

Programs for birth, foster and adoptive families that keep families safe and intact.



KEY SERVICES

Resource Family Approval (RFA)

This program recruits, supports and prepares families, including relatives and non-related families, to move children in foster care toward a permanent family of their own.

Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

Our kinship program supports grandparents, extended family members or close family friends who step up to raise children so they avoid the trauma of separation from their birth family.

Adoption

This program works with counties and state district offices to conduct assessments for families interested in adoption.

Post-Adoption Support Services (PAS)

These free post adoption services provide adoptive families with a support system and reduce isolation and emotional stress.

Support us today and together, we can change the future

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Wayfinder Moment: We Are 100% In



Elizabeth was in Nebraska for work when she got the call. “We have a baby in the hospital,” said Monica, a Wayfinder social worker. “Can you pick her up tonight?”

This was the moment Elizabeth and her husband, Bryan, had longed for. They were going to become parents. After struggling with fertility, they decided to foster a child with the intention of adopting. They became certified through Wayfinder.

Elizabeth arranged to pick up Dovie the next morning, then boarded the first flight to California. “Bryan picked me up at the airport,” Elizabeth recalls, “and we went directly to the hospital to get Dovie.”

Initially, the county wanted to reunify Dovie with her birth mother. “It was hard for Elizabeth and Bryan, but they were willing to help with reunification,” says Monica. “They really embraced Dovie as part of their family from the beginning.”

The couple learned that Dovie had been removed at birth from her mother, who could not care for a baby. “The birth mom was very kind,” says Elizabeth. “She seemed to want to do better for Dovie.”

Elizabeth and Bryan took Dovie for regular visits with her birth mom, who revealed that she had been in foster

care herself. “She told us, ‘I wish I had a foster family like you,’” Elizabeth remembers. Later, as the birth mother thought she might not be able to fulfill the requirements for reunification, she asked, “Would you be okay with keeping Dovie?” Bryan told her, “Yes, we are 100 percent in.”

Then the birth mother asked Elizabeth and Bryan to adopt Dovie. Because the request had evolved over time, “It didn’t feel like we were taking Dovie from her birth mom,” says Elizabeth. They send monthly updates to Dovie’s birth mom, and Elizabeth is assembling a life book with photos of Dovie’s birth family.

Elizabeth, Bryan and Dovie went to court to finalize the adoption during the pandemic. “Dovie was very excited,” Elizabeth recalls. “She was running up and down the hallways.” More than a dozen family members joined a Zoom call to witness the joyous event.

When the judge announced that Dovie’s adoption was official, everyone cheered and clapped. Dovie said, “Hooray, hooray!”

“Wayfinder supported us in creating a family,” says Elizabeth. Bryan adds, “Wayfinder has been amazing to work with. Dovie is a wonderful daughter. In every sense of the word, we’re lucky.” ●



One name. Infinite potential. In 2020, we merged with Lilliput Families and as of 2023 will be known as Wayfinder Family Services. We are so proud of Lilliput’s history and even more excited about our future as Wayfinder Family Services! Our goal remains unchanged: do whatever it takes to give children the opportunity to be part of a safe, nurturing, lifelong family.

What’s a #WayfinderMoment? Small moments that tell a bigger story about our work

If you are inspired by our families, this is your Wayfinder Moment. Join us!

Contact Vanessa Botshekan for ways to get involved or make a gift today:

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