

Child & Family

Caring for our Rhode Island Community since 1866

For many years there had been a void in our life and in 2019 we decided to start our journey of parenting. We received our license on August 23, 2019, with the assistance from C&F and quickly became parents to a 6-year-old little boy. It was not an easy transition from having no children to being full-time parents. We leaned heavily on the supports of C&F. They provided a case manager that answered our many questions, helped us navigate the confusing foster system and would take the time to understand what our family needed. They were advocates with providing the educational, behavioral, psychosocial and mental health services our child needed. C&F assisted numerous times with communication lapses of other entities. We had our first foster child for over two years and he was successfully reunited with his biological family. We believe that the time he was able to be with us changed his and our life for the better.

For eight weeks we had a beautiful, 2.5-year-old, little boy. C&F provided supplies and needed equipment like car seats. Child care is very expensive and difficult to find. C&F thankfully was able to offer child care at their convenient Newport location so we could continue to work. They also provided peer support groups to network with even during Covid-19. They were also able to provide educational sessions during the pandemic on child welfare subjects that were interesting and needed. As quick as our 2.5-year-old was in our life, he was back with his biological family.

March 15, 2022, my husband and I met a little, 5 year, almost 6 y/o boy, named Xavier at C&F in Providence. Holding the caseworker's hand and probably wondering why he was meeting these strangers, this shy boy sat down to play chutes and ladders. He quickly moved in with us and we have found through experience that the first 2 months are the transitional months. Expectations are made and broken; emotions are confusing and this is when our family needed support. I receive daily phone calls from his school in Providence that the classroom had to be cleared as Xavier became out of control again, making it unsafe for his peers. I had the fear that his anger and behaviors would continue and he would be labeled as the "troubled kid", youth, and then adult. He was in kindergarten and his days were 10 hours long with the commute. We reached out to our C&F case worker who helped us advocate for Xavier and get him transferred to our neighborhood school. They helped us find mental health services and assisted with communication and efficiently got things moving in the right direction.

In a very short couple of months Xavier made a huge turn around. With the help of C&F, daily structure and love, Xavier has changed on so many levels. He now excels in school, reading, math, sports and making friends. We receive praising remarks from the teachers. His DCYF caseworker states that she has never seen him so happy. The opportunity to have an open adoption presented itself and we took it. C&F was there with us and able to provide clinical support in key areas such as permanency and referral sources like legal aid. He calls us Mom and Dad and on December 16, 2022, our wish of becoming forever parents came true. The adoption was finalized, and we can't be happier.