

Cover Story:

- Maintaining our Mission through a Pandemic

Also:

- Get Attached
- Support Young Adults on Their Path to Independence
- What Does Foster Care Mean To Me?



Maintaining our Mission through a Pandemic

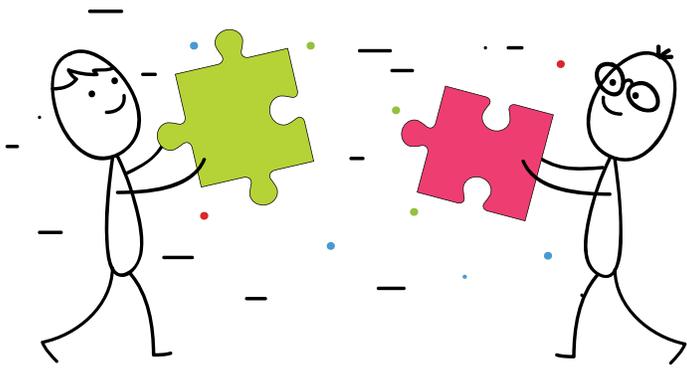
We wanted to share with you the ways that Adriel has continued to meet the needs of children and families in our community during this public health crisis.* Over the past few years, Adriel has been committed to upgrading our technology systems. Because of the progress made, we were able to pivot our services to meet the needs of our clients while also keeping staff, clients, and consumers safe and healthy. Adriel has utilized telehealth to provide therapy services to youth over video conferences to insure that they receive the emotional and mental health support they need. Adriel has converted all pre-service and in-service trainings to live, interactive, online classes. Continuation of training has insured that all currently licensed homes maintain their status and has allowed Adriel to continue to license new homes. We have even seen a growth in the number of foster youth in our care thanks to the commitment of our foster care staff and families willing to open their homes to children in need. Staff have created videos to share on social media and participated in our first Live Facebook events - hosting Q&A sessions for those wanting to learn more about foster care.

During this time of economic uncertainty, Adriel has taken every step to protect our staff. We have had no layoffs during this time. In fact, we have even hired an additional staff member as our numbers continue to grow. When virtual meetings are not possible, staff are taking every precaution to insure their own safety as well as the safety of those individuals that they will be meeting with. Staff are equipped with masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant.

We are so grateful for the support of generous supporters like you that have allowed Adriel to thrive even during this time of uncertainty.



**We recognize that practices and procedures are ever-changing during this time. This information represents Adriel's progress as of the time of publication.*



Get Attached

Adriel's Board of Directors officially decreed May 2020 as Adriel Foster Care Month. Adriel's theme for foster care month this year was Get Attached.

One of the reasons that many families express hesitation about caring for a foster youth is that they are afraid to get too attached to that child. Adriel foster parent, Melaney Lloyd, responds, "Let's get too attached." Melaney and her husband have been foster parents for almost 2 years and she was the person that was afraid to get attached. She explains that anyone going into it will have that fear. But that's the idea: you have to get attached. Adriel foster parent Katie Krabill adds, "Wouldn't you want someone to get attached to your biological child if they were in that situation? You would want someone to treat them as their own - to love them and fight for them." Katie and her husband have fostered around 15 children in 3 years. Katie admits that it is hard to let go; but you do it knowing that you are giving that child exactly what they need at that time.

Throughout their foster care journey, the Lloyd's expected to get attached to their foster children but an unexpected attachment has been made to the biological parents as well. They have realized that a huge part of why God led them on this path was not just to help children in need, but so that they could help biological parents along the way.

The situation that led the Lloyd's to Adriel was unique. They began the process of becoming licensed through a county agency but were referred to Adriel at the end of the process. Melaney says, "We didn't choose Adriel; Adriel chose us." The Lloyd's have become attached to Adriel's faith-based mission and to the support of their consultants. Melaney compares Adriel to other agencies; "When we get a referral, it is okay if we ask to take time to pray about it." She says that wouldn't happen anywhere else. Katie Krabill also explains that it is through her family's belief in Adriel's mission and their bond with Adriel consultants that they have become attached to Adriel.

Attachment is exactly what a child needs to thrive. They need a family to get attached to; A family to show them love and care. They need community members to attach themselves to the foster care system; to provide resources, not only to meet their basic needs, but to fill their lives with excitement and enrichment. Adriel needs you to get attached to our mission to provide the youth that we serve with quality care and homes filled with love. We challenge each of you to get attached to foster care in a new way.

"Getting attached is the best part of it. That's the reason we do it."

--Ebany Hammons, Adriel Foster Parent

"Let's get too attached!"

--Melaney Lloyd, Adriel Foster Parent

"That is what will make you a great one."

--Rachel Parrish, Adriel Foster Parent





Support Young Adults on their Path to Independence

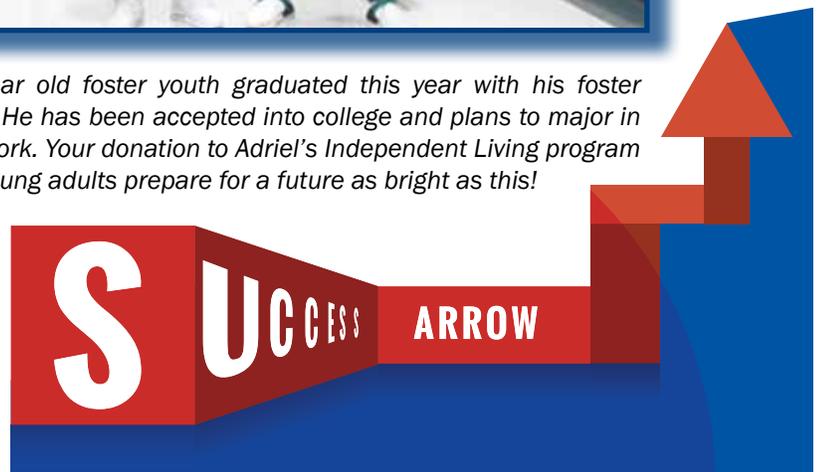
Adriel's Independent Living Fund supports programs to help older youth gain valuable skills they will need as young adults who successfully live on their own. At the age of 16, Adriel youth can begin to work on various activities to increase these skills. These young adults earn "Adriel Bucks" as they achieve their personalized goals. As they prepare to emancipate from foster care and move out of their foster home, the youth can use their "Adriel Bucks" to choose items from Adriel's Independent Living Catalog. This catalog contains essential items that the young adults might need including: cleaning supplies, household decorations, appliances, health and beauty products, and more!

One 17-year-old currently enrolled in the program explains that the motivation systems of the Independent Living program keep her active. Through activities, including her favorite yard work, she has been able to use her Adriel Bucks to obtain items that she believes will be useful as she prepares to move out on her own, enroll in the Bridges program, and take college courses online. She has earned a few big ticket appliances, including a vacuum and a microwave. Another young adult still has some time left in high school but she looks forward to starting to take STNA classes soon, going to college, and ultimately helping people and saving lives by becoming a nurse. She explains that the Independent Living program has helped her to practice the life skills that she has learned. Her hands-on approach, including installing a bathroom toilet, putting together an outdoor grill, and mowing the lawn, has given her the ability to start stocking up on items that she will need as she looks toward her future after high school. So far she has earned a safe, an Amazon gift card, hair waver, waffle maker, health and beauty products, and more! Another 16-year-old participating in the program plans to go to college to become a corrections officer. Through Adriel's Independent Living program, she has been able to volunteer at a therapeutic riding center and her foster mom has seen an eagerness in her desire to learn. Her favorite item earned so far? A Kindle Fire.

Adriel's Independent Living program seems especially important in light of the current pandemic. Many of these young adults have missed out on momentous life experiences. Graduating seniors may not be able to walk across a stage, high school students will not get to go to prom, student athletes have missed out on their spring season. These youth have already missed out on so much, your donation can provide the resources they need to experience the milestone of moving into a space of their own.

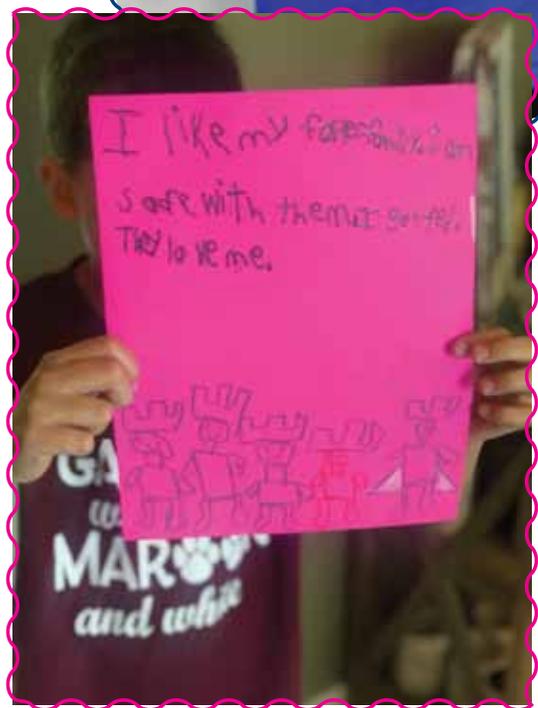
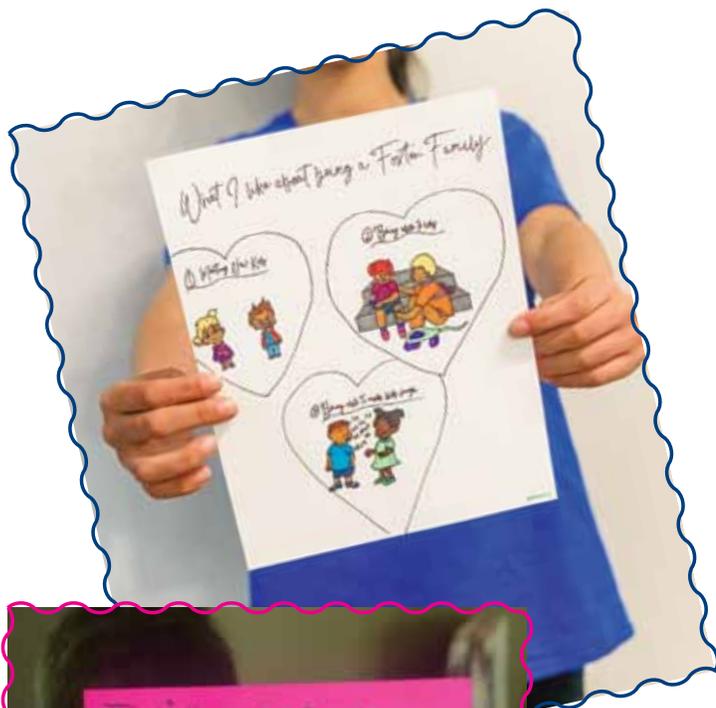


A 17 year old foster youth graduated this year with his foster brother. He has been accepted into college and plans to major in social work. Your donation to Adriel's Independent Living program helps young adults prepare for a future as bright as this!



WHAT DOES FOSTER CARE MEAN TO ME?

We asked youth to share what foster care means to them. These drawings represent the perspective of youth who are still in foster care, those who have been adopted, and children who live in a home with foster siblings.



Adriel serves 44 counties throughout Ohio.

Visit our website at <https://www.adriel.org> and keep up to date with us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Adriel.Inc.

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