



# Dave Thomas Foundation *for Adoption*®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care



**"BEFORE I WAS ADOPTED"**  
**A TV PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

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## DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a national nonprofit public charity dedicated to finding permanent homes for the more than 120,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States. Created by Wendy's® founder Dave Thomas, who was adopted, the Foundation implements evidence-based, results-driven national service programs, foster care adoption awareness campaigns and innovative grantmaking.

To learn more, visit [davethomasfoundation.org](http://davethomasfoundation.org).



*There are more than*  
**420,000**  
**CHILDREN**  
*in the foster  
care system in the  
United States.*

## Learn more about the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

ABOUT



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Dear Public Service Director,

Right now, more than 120,000 children, through no fault of their own, are waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States — [a 20% increase since 2012](#).

Our nation's child welfare system is being stretched far beyond its capacity as families are devastated by the opioid crisis and other issues. Unresolved through policy and evidence-based, innovative practices, this problem has far-reaching impacts. Last year, more than 20,000 teens turned 18 or 21 and aged out of care without a permanent home. With nowhere to turn for support, many are at a higher risk of negative outcomes, such as homelessness, unemployment and early, unplanned parenting, which can happen to a child who can't go home and simply say, "I need some help."

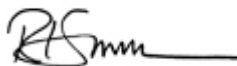
Created in 1992 by Wendy's® founder Dave Thomas, who was adopted, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is the only public nonprofit charity in the United States focused exclusively on foster care adoption.

Through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids(R) program, the Foundation provides funding and establishes innovative co-investment partnerships with states to support the hiring of recruiters who implement an evidence-based, child-focused recruitment model. This model has been proven to be up to three times more effective at finding adoptive homes for children who have been lingering in foster care the longest.

With support from the Foundation's generous donors, the Foundation has helped find forever families for more than 9,500 children across the United States. But there is more work to be done to serve children still waiting to be adopted who need our help the most.

On behalf of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, thank you for supporting this public service campaign and for sharing our message.

All good wishes,



Rita L. Soronen  
President & CEO  
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

## Before I Was Adopted

Please inform your audience about the importance of foster care adoption by airing the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's new PSA campaign, "**Before I Was Adopted**" (:60, :30, or :15).

The PSAs encourage viewers to visit [davethomasfoundation.org](http://davethomasfoundation.org) to learn more.

We hope you will air this campaign, **which has no end date for use**, as soon and as often as possible. Together, we will achieve the vision that every child has a permanent home and a loving family.

If you have any questions, please contact the Foundation's distribution representative:

Shaliza Thomas  
Connect360 Multimedia  
212-624-9187  
[sthomas@c360m.com](mailto:sthomas@c360m.com)



<b>"Before I Was Adopted" (:60)</b>	
<p>1.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> "Before I was adopted..." Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	<p><b><u>MUSIC UP AND UNDER</u></b></p> <p><b><u>ELLIE V/O:</u></b> <i>I felt like</i></p>
<p>2. Shots of Ellie speaking.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> Ellie, 20 Adopted at 19</p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	<p><b><u>ELLIE O/C:</u></b> nobody wanted me, um. I was just, felt like my life was already over.</p>
<p>3. Shots of Ariana speaking.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> Ariana, 16 Adopted at 10</p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	<p><b><u>ARIANA O/C:</u></b> I had nightmares every single day at my, my birth mom's house. It was just really scary for me living there.</p>
<p>4. Shot of Xavier speaking.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> Xavier, 26 Adopted at 18</p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	<p><b><u>XAVIER O/C:</u></b> My biggest fear was that I was going to age out and not know how to be sufficient on my own.</p>
<p>5. Shot of Maya speaking.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> Maya, 16 Adopted at 14</p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	<p><b><u>MAYA O/C:</u></b> At a certain age, like they don't want you. You're troubled and stuff. But, like inside I knew like, I'm not a troubled kid, I know what I'm in for, like why I'm here.</p>

<b>"Before I Was Adopted" (:60) Continued</b>	
<p>6. Shots of Maci speaking.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> Maci, 20 Adopted at 17</p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	<p><b><u>MACI O/C:</u></b> I was scared, I was lost and I felt hopeless. Even if I wanted to be adopted, who would adopt a 17 year old?</p>
<p>7. Shots of Dee and CJ speaking.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> CJ, 16 Adopted at 9</p> <p>Dee CJ's Mom</p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	<p><b><u>DEE O/C:</u></b> He deserves to feel happy.</p> <p><b><u>CJ O/C:</u></b> Yeah.</p> <p><b><u>DEE V/O:</u></b> <i>To feel loved.</i></p> <p><b><u>DEE O/C:</u></b> And I just wish I had gotten him sooner.</p>
<p>8.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> Every day, more than 50 teens age out of foster care without a permanent family. You can help.</p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p>	
<p>9.</p> <p><b><u>GRAPHIC:</u></b> Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption® logo</p> <p>Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care</p> <p>davethomasfoundation.org</p>	<p><b><u>FADE SOUND AND PICTURE OUT</u></b></p>

## AVAILABLE FOR DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

These PSAs are available for digital download below:

<http://www.c360m.com/PSAConnect/dt/>

**This PSA campaign has no end date for use.**

"Before I Was Adopted" (:60, :30, :15)

Please let us know your preferences on receiving PSAs by contacting Shaliza Thomas via e-mail at [stthomas@c360m.com](mailto:stthomas@c360m.com) or by phone at (212) 624-9187.



## 501(c)(3) Certificate:

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: APR 22 1997

Employer Identification Number:  
31-1356151

DLN:  
17053089881007

DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION  
C/O RON MUSICK  
PO BOX 256  
DUBLIN, OH 43017-0256

Contact Person:  
D. A. DOWNING  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(513) 241-5199  
Our Letter Dated:  
December, 1992  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

This modifies our letter of the above date in which we stated that you would be treated as an organization that is not a private foundation until the expiration of your advance ruling period.

Your exempt status under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is still in effect. Based on the information you submitted, we have determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are an organization of the type described in section 509(a)(2).

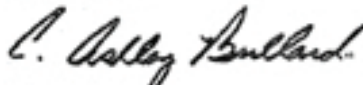
Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(2) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(2) organization.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your private foundation status, please keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown above.

Sincerely yours,



District Director



Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
*for Adoption*®

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[davethomasfoundation.org](http://davethomasfoundation.org)