



THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT

Until *every* child
in Houston
has a loving & stable
home.



THE RIVER

“Imagine three friends come upon a raging river. They see children in the water rushing down the rapids toward a waterfall. One friend immediately jumps into the river and begins pulling as many children out as he can. Knowing there’s a waterfall downstream, the second friend runs down river and tries to catch as many children as he can before they fall over the cliff. The third friend, however, wonders why these children are in the river in the first place. He runs upstream to find out how he can put a stop to it. All three friends are running in three different directions, each addressing different yet equally important points of the problem—there are kids in the water and we need to get them out.”

Jason Johnson

National Director of Church Ministry Initiatives,
Christian Alliance for Orphans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Our Mission

The Riverside Project is a collaborative initiative to inform and mobilize Houston's churches to respond strategically to the foster care crisis.

Who We Are: The Riverside Project (TRP) is an initiative by Fostering Family, a nonprofit committed to strengthening foster/kinship families and the communities that surround them through training and collaboration. As Founder and Executive Director, Amber Knowles will oversee the development of TRP with the help of the Fostering Family staff. However, in order to address the crisis comprehensively, Fostering Family will also mobilize its growing network of collaborative partners (DFPS, agencies, churches, and other nonprofits).

What We Do: We equip and mobilize churches to work together to meet the needs of the foster care system in their respective areas, until every child in Houston has a loving and stable home.



Marketing Highlights: Fostering Family is a "Bridge Network," a non-competing entity that serves as a liaison between churches and other public and private organizations. As a neutral organization, we are uniquely positioned to achieve precisely what we envision.

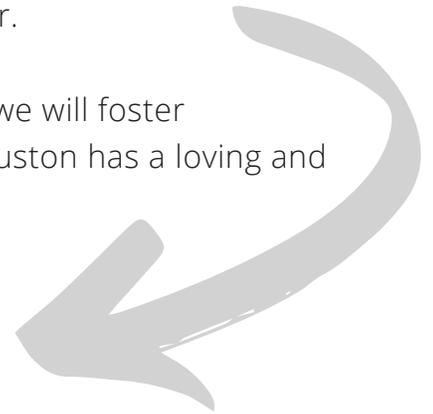
Financial Plan Highlights: We value fiscal sustainability, so TRP is an inexpensive program by design. We do not compete with agencies for state funding; we rely upon individual and organization donors, foundation grants, and corporate sponsorships.

KEY TERMS

- Foster Care: temporary homes for children separated from their birth parents
- Adoption: permanently welcoming children into a family
- Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS or CPS): child welfare agency tasked with protecting children, the elderly, and those with disabilities
- Residential Treatment Center (RTC) or Group Residential Organization (GRO): residential child care facilities for children in foster care but without a foster family; RTCs and GROs house 13+ children at any given time

SERVICE PLAN

- 1** We have divided Harris County into 12 sectors (see next page), and we are looking for leaders from within the church community who can foster collaboration within their respective sectors.
- 2** Through collaborative workshops, ongoing coaching, and connections to upstream and downstream partners, we will equip and mobilize churches to support the foster care needs within their respective sectors. We want to see **various churches engaged at various points along the river**, working alongside one another to meet every need in their sector.
- 3** In addition to fostering collaboration *within* the sectors, we will foster collaboration *between* the sectors, until every child in Houston has a loving and stable home.



PREVENTION UPSTREAM

Public Schools
Crisis Pregnancy
Addiction Recovery
Family Development

INTERVENTION MIDSTREAM

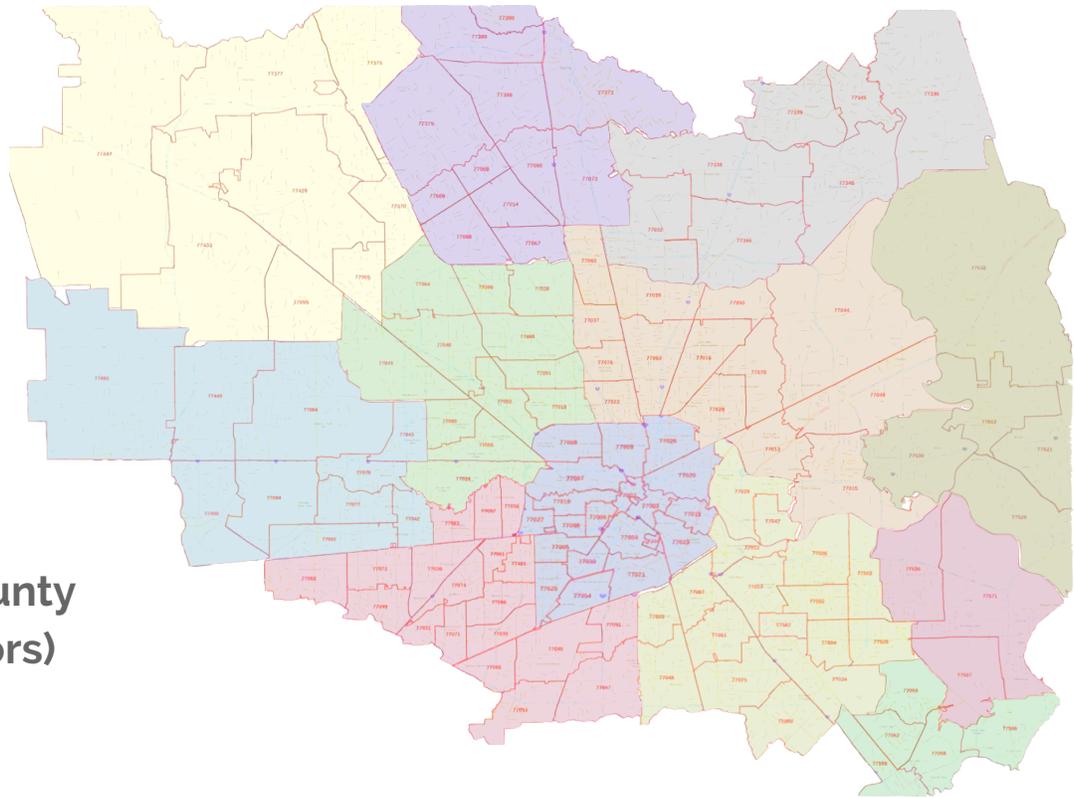
Foster Care
Adoption
Supporting Families
Mentoring Teens & Parents

RESTORATION DOWNSTREAM

Prison Ministries
Homeless Ministries
Anti-Human Trafficking
Education



THE RIVERSIDE
PROJECT



Harris County (12 Sectors)

OUR GOALS

- First and foremost, we want a loving and stable home for every child in Houston. We want to recruit until Houston achieves a surplus of 500+ foster homes (500+ more homes than children in need of homes).
- We want to see at least 5 actively participating churches per sector. Ideally, these 5+ churches can coordinate with one another to achieve each of the following goals:
 - Each and every CPS office sponsored/adopted by at least one church.
 - Each and every Residential Treatment Center (RTC) sponsored/ adopted by at least one church.
 - At least one quarterly foster/kinship parent's night out (PNO) in every sector.
 - Foster/kinship parent support groups in every sector.
 - Trauma-informed counseling centers in every sector.



FOSTERING
FAMILY

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