



Building a foundation for life.

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Community Partners and Friends,

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. It is filled with stories about our Resource Families at VTR who provide foster care. We are so grateful for their dedication to children in our community. Relational permanency is fundamental to the well-being of children and youth in foster care. Having stable, nurturing placements has positive impacts on children and youth's resilience and long-term well-being.

Blessings,

CEO

Reunification is our first goal with foster children and their biological families. You have to keep in mind to prepare for all possibilities, and make it a part of your goals.

-Keyonia Johnson

It can be discouraging and frustrating at times. I was scared I would lose him. Don't give up faith that everything works out as it should. Even a crazy journey. The positive intervention in a child's life it is worth it.

-Samantha Wolfe

I have so much empathy for all those involved on behalf of the kids and the bio families. We also have to have it for ourselves and our own family.

-Allie Hampton

## The Whole Family Jumped on Board!



Keyonia, is a single woman decided that marriage was not in the cards for her, but she always had a desire to be a mom. She saw on YouTube how single moms adopted, and that is when she contacted VTR to find out more.

When she shared with her family about her plans to move forward and go to the orientation, the whole family jumped on board! From the beginning they were a part of everything required to become a Resource Family and told their daughter it isn't just you caring for this child; it is "us", it is "we".

Thanks to a social worker at VTR, they were looking at all the child available in foster care, when they noticed a little boy that would be a perfect fit from another county (VTR can assist with foster care and adoption throughout many counties in California). He was, and Keyonia brought him home.

Keyonia wanted to emphasize that as a Resource Parent, she knows the first goal is to reunify the child with the biological family if it is possible. However, after awhile it was evident that her foster child would remain with her. After 11 months, Keyonia adopted him. Two years later, Keyonia accepted a newborn girl for foster care. In 10 months, when family reunification was not possible, Keyonia decided to adopt her too.

Keyonia is happy that she had VTR help her on this journey. She said, "VTR is always supportive".

## Broken Hearts Provide Home

When Caleb Janca was a police officer he talked to Katie about helping children. One day he told her about meeting a 12 year old girl on the train tracks, selling her body for drugs. This broke their hearts and they wanted to someday give vulnerable children a decent home life someday. Having two children of their own, Kit and Kali, they decided to pursue foster care with the hope to adopt in 2016.



Over the next three years, God did many wonderful and growing things in their lives, and they had a short term placement, but no permanent member of the family arrived. But at the end of 2018 it was finally time and they were contacted regarding a "safe surrender" of a little boy just 2 days old. The Janca's son Kyree was adopted at 11 months old.

Not long after, they began praying for another baby, and then Covid struck. By the beginning of 2021, Kimmie Meleski (VTR Social Worker) contacted Katie to ask if they were willing to take in a child with the possibility of exposure to Covid. They said yes. Later that day they received a phone call asking if they would take a non-Covid emergency placement. Katie said, "sure!," then realized she should tell Caleb. They were then told social services was bringing the baby to them within 20 minutes! They were thrilled, and the 11-day-old "Honey," as they called her after the baby in the Berenstain Bears, was added to their family as a foster child.

The Jancas tried to work with the parents for possible reunification, but the parents had continued difficulties and eventually walked away. After 23 months, the Jancas welcomed Kiri into their home as their daughter.

"VTR was amazing throughout our process," said Katie. "And our lives are better with all our children in it."

## "I See the Beauty in Reunification"

Allie grew up in a family that both foster and adopted children. It became something she wanted to do one day. After marrying Patrick, they then decided to have biological children, but this desire never left. They had three children and when they were ages 10, 7, and 4, they went to a conference put on by City Without Orphans, and decided to pursue fostering to adopt. After listening to a presentation from Foster Family Agencies, Allie and Patrick decided upon VTR. After being licensed for a few weeks, they received their first placement. A little boy that was 4 days old. After 10 months, he was placed with his biological family, his dad's parents. He was working hard to be able to eventually reunify with his child. Allie and Patrick worked with the family and the dad eventually was able to raise the child on his own.



After several more placements and evaluating their desire to foster and adopt, Allie said, "We see the beauty in reunification of families as well as adoption. I feel blessed to be a part of it and to see the parents make healthy choices in life, to make a better life for their kids".

When asked about VTR FFA, Allie said, "VTR has been incredibly supportive and helpful by offering resources, an ear to listen, and help with emotional support in caring for the foster child and families. Our Social Worker Adriana Luna has been understanding and helpful which allowed us the opportunity to take more placements!"

# Single Mom Realizes Her Dream to Foster and Adopt



Single Resource Parent, and professor at Fresno State University, Jaydene, wanted to foster and adopt from the time she was a child. In fact, as the years went by, Jaydene would check into it every couple of years. Once

when reunification with her biological family was an impossibility. Violette became her daughter within months and Jaydene developed and maintains a positive relationship with Violette's birth mother.

Jaydene and the family began building a relationship so the 10-year-old could know her sister. Eventually, it was decided the young girl would go to join her sister in the other Resource Family home.

Violette talks to her grandparents virtually on a daily basis. They continue to provide support and care, love, and gifts to other children too that have been in Jaydene's care.

Because of the wonderful bond between this little girl and the new Resource Family, time is spent together still, even on holidays and celebrations like Thanksgiving and birthdays.

she was settled in her career and owned a home, she felt the timing was right. She received her license to operate a foster home and eventually got a call for an emergency placement. The little girl arrived 40 minutes later.

Jaydene continues to foster children aged 0-12, her most recent was a 10 year old who lived with her for over 8 months and loved being in an "all girls house" and felt safe. Due to the nature of her case, she was not able to reunify with her family.

At this time, Jaydene has provided respite for other Resource Families, especially those with older foster children.

Jaydene is from Australia, so from the start reached out to a community of friends and family that supported her journey. The first placement would turn into an eventual adoption

It would be discovered later that this 10-year-old had a baby sister that was adopted by another Resource Family!

Jaydene is thankful for VTR. She said, "Adriana Luna (Social Worker for VTR) is very supportive and is always available to her. Several times on my behalf Ms. Luna was not afraid to help me navigate things that were difficult and represent me to the fullest.



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You can be such a big support to foster families through your care. Plan a visit and have a cup of coffee, provide respite, gift cards, gifts, etc.

-Katie Janca

## Over the Moon About their Son



When Samantha and Bryan Wolfe considered becoming a resource family, Samantha said, "I never thought I would have the heart to have children in our home and see them leave. So our goal became to foster and to adopt".

The suddenness of it all made Samantha a little frenzied to have everything they needed.

"We had been on an emotional roller coaster for a while, but I have to say that we were over the moon when he came to us", said Samantha. He is the best baby ever and everyone who meets him is in love with him. Their baby boy named Decker, will be 18 months soon and in July, they will be finalizing the adoption.

Samantha shared her experience with VTR and said it was amazing! She credits our Social Worker Adriana Luna with so much support. She also said, "I don't know how anyone really does this without an FFA (Family Foster Agency) to work with".

The Wolfes have 2 girls, Ryenne and James, which are their biological children. The Wolfes tried to explain the foster process to their girls, but had to be careful with some of the information in preparing them.

We waited a long time it seemed before we had a child placed with us. They were waiting for a baby boy and so it took eight to nine times before they were chosen to receive a baby boy only 4 days old. He was brought to them at 7:30 that night.



**RESOURCE FAMILY  
ORIENTATION  
SCHEDULE**

**May 16  
June 20  
July 18  
Aug. 15**

For more information or to register for orientation, please contact us at:

(559) 437-1144 or  
FFA@valleyteenranch.org

**For donations to VTR**

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