



INTENTIONAL GIVING. RELATIONSHIP BUILDING. MENTORSHIP.

### **May is National Foster Care Month. Raise Awareness with Spokane Angels.**

Every May, National Foster Care Month is observed in the United States to bring attention to the over 400,000 children and youth experiencing foster care. It is a time to recognize the hard work of foster parents, social workers, and other professionals who work tirelessly towards providing stability and support for this community.

In Washington state alone, there are 8,894<sup>1</sup> children and youth currently in foster care, and approximately one in four will experience homelessness after aging out.<sup>2</sup> Spokane Angels is dedicated to changing the statistics. Raising awareness and sharing stories are two of the many tools to bring about change.

Our programs utilize a trauma-informed, wrap-around service model that strengthens relationships. Our Love Box® program provides foster families with connections and support not traditionally offered through the child welfare system. Volunteers work to build relationships with the whole family through quality time together and creating personal care packages based on their current basic needs. The heart of our Dare to Dream™ program is to walk alongside youth as they navigate through life's challenges. The simple act of telling a youth "I believe in you," "You are special," and "You are going to do great things" can change their path completely. This mentorship program is designed with life-long relationships in mind.

Findings have shown our services and programming alleviate caregiver stress, which helped caregivers continue to provide a stable home for youth and improve caregiver retention.<sup>3</sup>



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For interviews, please contact [board@spokaneangels.org](mailto:board@spokaneangels.org). Spokane Angels is inviting the press to interview Board President Krystal Theis and Board Vice President Kristina Lattin. Additionally, Cierra Loux, board member and 2.5 year-long Dare to Dream mentor is available for interviews, along with a quote from her mentee.

A media kit is available at [spokaneangels.org/media-kit.html](http://spokaneangels.org/media-kit.html).

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Spokane Angels is a regional chapter of [National Angels](#), a nationwide network of chapters united in their mission to care for this community. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to walking alongside children and youth in the foster care system, as well as their caretakers, by offering consistent support through intentional giving, relationship building, and mentorship.

1. Source: <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/pdf/washington.html>
2. Source: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/rda/reports/research-7-106.pdf>
3. Source: <https://www.spokaneangels.org/research--outcomes.html>