



## 2020 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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The mission of Lilliput's programs is to ensure every child has an opportunity to be part of a safe, nurturing, lifelong family. In July 2020, Lilliput became part of Wayfinder Family Services. Wayfinder is a human services agency with expertise in child welfare, mental health, visual impairment and multiple disabilities. The merger of Lilliput with Wayfinder unites two organizations committed to the highest quality in child welfare programs. Together, we build healthier families and find loving homes for children and form one of the largest nonprofit providers of foster and adoption services in the state. We have a statewide adoption license with sixteen offices across the state which serve 29 counties and a strong commitment to inclusive services for *all* families, including LGBTQIA+ families.

### Who We Serve and Why

Lilliput's programs serve children and families impacted by foster care, adoption and kinship care. There are over 60,000 children in foster care in the state of California, many of whom were removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. When children are unable to safely return to their birth parents, their healthy development depends upon finding a committed and nurturing family. Every day in California, there are 2,000 children waiting to be adopted. When children linger in foster care, they are at great risk of aging out. Since 1980, Lilliput has helped over 10,000 children find loving families of their own through adoption.

The following are some of the statistics we are passionate about changing for children in foster care:

- 80% enter the system due to neglect
- 50% or less will not graduate from high school
- 25% will suffer from PTSD
- 70% of females are pregnant by the age of 21

“Resource Family” is the new term California applies to caregivers who provide out-of-home care for children in foster care. Resource families may be single or two-parent households. They may be related to the child (kinship) or have a familiar or mentoring relationship with the child, or no previous relationship with the child.

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### OUR PROGRAMS

#### **Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)**

Our kinship program supports grandparents, extended family members or close family friends who step up to raise children so they avoid the trauma of separation from their birth family. Over 600,000 grandparents in California are raising their grandchildren—the highest such statistic in the country. Kinship care fills critical gaps because the state has a shortage of resource families and many are not willing to accept siblings, which kinship caregivers are more likely to do. Our KSSP offers a range of services that includes in-home support, counseling, support groups, respite resources, advocacy, information and referrals, legal referrals, workshops on guardianship, adoption assistance, family activities, play care, mentoring and assistance with basic emergency needs.

#### **Resource Family Approval (RFA)**

This program recruits, supports and prepares families, including relatives and non-related families, to move foster children toward permanent homes. We provide people interested in becoming resource families with

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orientation, training and assistance in completing the application process. We offer parent groups, and our social workers provide support in families' homes. Also, Lilliput provides supervised visitation between the child and birth family members and adoption services. As part of the RFA program, we provide Intensive Services Foster Care for children who need intensive treatment and behavioral supports or who have specialized health care needs.

### **Adoption**

This program works with counties and state district offices to conduct assessments for families interested in adoption. We assess and reaffirm the appropriateness of adoption and prepare families for the future by providing resources and educating them about the lifelong process of adoption.

### **Post-Adoption Support Services (PAS)**

These free post adoption services in several counties provide adoptive families with a support system and reduce isolation and emotional stress. We offer support groups, classes and social events. Also, we assist families in connecting to service providers in their community who are skilled in working with adoptive families to address issues that arise over time.

### **Family Finding Services**

This program conducts an exhaustive search for relatives and other people (e.g. godparents, family friends) close to the child in foster care. We support the relative or family friend while they are approved for placement, and we help youth transition into the approved home. Even if children are not placed with important people in their lives, we strive to establish ongoing connections between the child and known adults.

### **Visitation and Coaching Services**

These services help children in out-of-home care maintain relationships with their parents or other birth family. This reduces the sense of loss and abandonment children experience when placed in foster care. Our services include safe supervision of visits, teaching and coaching parents in positive parenting skills for visits, and promoting bonding between parents and their infants and toddlers.

### **Clinical Prevention Services**

Home to Stay offers counseling and support services to families who are at high risk for child abuse and neglect in Placer County. We provide short-term counseling to enhance parenting skills, building supports and mitigating behavioral health risks to youth and families.

Promoting Safe & Stable Families in Butte County assists families that are at imminent risk of entry into foster care and families transitioning from family reunification to family maintenance and case closure. PSSF also helps parents whose children are being returned to them after they have received reunification services for a period of time.

Specialty Mental Health delivers mental health services to children and youth ages 0 to 21 and their families in Shasta County. To reduce out-of-home placements, families enhance parenting skills; increase protective factors, coping skills and resilience; and improve child and family functioning.



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