



Live 2 Give Hope



2025 Annual *Impact* Report

From crisis to connection



No Family Walks Alone

In 2025, as numerous children entered foster care during moments of deep crisis, Live 2 Give Hope stepped in to meet them in their hour of need. When families faced sudden disruption and uncertainty, our community—through the **generosity** of donors and the **dedication** of volunteers—made it possible to respond with **compassion & care**. Even after losing significant funding halfway through the year, no services were stopped or slowed; instead, Live 2 Give Hope pressed forward with even greater **passion & tenacity**. Serving families in Laclede County, across the 26th Judicial Circuit, and beyond, we remained committed to supporting those in need and refusing to turn families away. Through **immediate support & lasting networks of care**, crisis was met with **hope**—ensuring children and families were not alone and were **supported** toward a **more stable future**.



Data from the 2024 Children's Division Annual Report



"There is nothing more humbling than meeting someone in their hour of need and being able to offer hope and support. We are deeply blessed to live out this purpose and calling, made possible by a generous community that steps alongside us, helping transform lives and strengthen families every day."



Laura Gartin
 Founder & Program Director

598

Families
 Receiving
 Services

786 Training Hours
 Provided

\$531,000

Direct Client Need Support

Projects

Details

Outcome



Fostering Hope Closet

Family Resource Center

- 2371 Client Visits
- 64 Mattresses & 31 Beds
- 76 Hope for the Journey Bags
- 31 Car Seats & 5375 Diapers
- 13,500 Clothing Items



Kids' Night Out

Monthly Respite Program

- 913 Client Visits
- 240 Children in 83 Families



Paving the Way

Summer Youth Program

- 400 Training Hours
 - Driving & Vehicle Care
 - Financial Fundamentals
 - Career Readiness
 - Culinary & Life Skills



Hope Reunited

Family Advocacy Program

- 23 Children in 7 Families
- 189 Client Meetings
- 25 FSTs & 12 Court Hearings
- **1 Family Reunification with 4 Children!**



Safe MO Kids

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention & Victim Support

- 131 Individuals Trained
- 786 Training Hours Provided

A Story of Redemption and Reunification

On July 19, 2024, Jose Torres was released from jail, ready to start a new chapter—but he faced heartbreaking news: his four children had been placed in foster care. Both Jose and his estranged wife, Natalie, had struggled with substance use for years, and suddenly their family was separated, facing an overwhelming challenge.

While in jail, Jose met with jail ministry volunteers, including John Angst, founder of Live 2 Give Hope. The **seeds planted** during those visits took root, and Jose gave his life to Jesus, sparking a profound transformation. Leaning on his faith, determination, and commitment to rebuild his family, he began the difficult journey of **recovery & reunification**. Natalie also embraced faith and focused on her own recovery, understanding that sobriety was the essential first step toward restoring her family.

While their children were in foster care, Jose and Natalie achieved sobriety, participated in parenting programs, secured stable employment, and restored their marriage. Their **transformation** was extraordinary—not only in overcoming addiction, but in becoming parents capable of providing a stable, nurturing home, with a deep ongoing commitment to recovery.



On July 31, 2025—just 12 months after their children were removed, far ahead of the local average 39.5-month timeline—they were joyfully reunited. Live 2 Give Hope **celebrated** this milestone with a reunion event, and through Hope Reunited, the family will continue to receive **support** for two years beyond reunification to ensure long-term success.

On January 1, 2026, the Torres family moved, of their own accord for the first time in their lives, into a home of their own. This created a **safe, loving environment** for all six members. With sobriety, steady employment, reliable transportation, **love**, and renewed **hope**, they are thriving together.

This incredible transformation was made possible by **God's grace** and a community that rallied around them—including Live 2 Give Hope, Lane Change, Harvest Church, Celebrate Recovery, and countless others. Their story is a powerful testament to healing, hope, and the **life-changing impact** of faith and community.



Scan to Watch
the Torres
Family Story

Hope Reunited

Keeping Children Safe on Every Journey: Child Passenger Safety



Funded in Part By:



The safety of children extends far beyond our program walls. For foster, kinship, guardianship, and adoptive families, safe transportation is often an immediate and critical need. Through a grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation, Live 2 Give Hope now has a Child Passenger Safety Technician on staff at the Fostering Hope Closet, strengthening our ability to protect children every time they ride.

Car seats are essential—but often misunderstood. Many families face barriers such as cost, limited access, or uncertainty about proper installation. For children entering care, transportation needs can be urgent, and incorrect car seat use places children at serious risk.



Having a CPST on staff ensures:

- Car seats are the right type and size for each child
- Seats are installed and used correctly
- Caregivers receive hands-on education and confidence
- Children are protected during daily travel and emergency transitions



What This Means for Families

- Immediate access to car seat checks and installations
- Education tailored to foster, kinship, guardianship, and adoptive caregivers
- Reduced stress during placements, transitions, and reunification
- Greater confidence transporting children safely



The Impact

- Improved child safety outcomes
- Reduced risk of injury
- Faster, safer placements
- Empowered caregivers with lasting knowledge

With support from MoDOT, Live 2 Give Hope is addressing a critical safety gap—ensuring every child we serve is not only welcomed into a home, but protected on every journey.



Keynote Speakers



State Representative
Melissa Schmidt



Former State Representative
Hannah Kelly

On September 13, 2025, Live 2 Give Hope brought together an extraordinary group of foster parents, kinship and adoptive families, child welfare professionals, faith leaders, and community partners for the Foster the Future Summit—a powerful day centered on **hope, healing,** and the **future of children** in care. Hosted at LifePoint Church in Lebanon, the Summit featured local speakers with lived experience in foster care—both former youth in care and foster parents—who shared their stories to **encourage,** **equip,** and **empower** others walking this journey.

The Summit served as both a time of learning and renewal. Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations around **trauma-informed** care, prevention, reunification, and **long-term stability** for children and families. Through training sessions, shared experiences, and collaborative dialogue, participants gained practical tools while being reminded they are not walking this path alone. Church leaders received guidance on supporting families in their congregations who foster, adopt, or care for children under guardianship.

More than anything, the Foster the Future Summit reinforced that lasting change happens when a community comes together. Participants left **encouraged, connected, and re-energized** to serve children and families with compassion and excellence.

Over a dozen community partners joined the Summit to share resources and opportunities to **support children and families,** including Children’s Division, KVC Missouri, BACA, and CASA among others. The Summit was made possible by **generous sponsors** including Premier Property Group, Pillar Insurance, Show Me Door, KJEL, Freedom Home Crafters, Well To Do Somatic Therapy, KFBD, Gary & Betty Robinson, LebanonNOW, KVC Missouri, Ts Tees, and Guild Mortgage.

We are **deeply grateful** to our sponsors, speakers, partners, volunteers, and attendees who made this event possible. The impact of the Foster the Future Summit extends far beyond a single day—it strengthens families, supports reunification, helps prevent future trauma, and builds a more hopeful future for children across our communities. **Together, we are not just responding to crisis—we are fostering the future.**

Scan the QR codes below to watch videos from the Foster the Future Summit sessions and be inspired and empowered!



Welcome & Keynote



Relationships That Restore



Faith & Foster Care



Protecting Childhood



Surviving the Unexpected



Mobilizing Community Solutions



TRUE CHARITY

Real compassion. Real results.



Live 2 Give Hope Becomes a True Charity Network Partner

Live 2 Give Hope is excited to announce our partnership with the True Charity Network, a national movement committed to restoring dignity, accountability, and lasting transformation through relational, not transactional, charity. This partnership reflects our belief that true change happens through relationships, not handouts, and it aligns deeply with our mission to walk alongside families toward healing, stability, and self-sufficiency.

Important note: Children in foster care and the families directly supporting them will continue to receive all services at no cost and with no volunteer requirements, as these children face circumstances beyond their control and caregivers are already stepping up to meet a crisis they did not create. This new approach applies to programs where relational engagement can help clients grow, learn, and move toward independence, while maintaining full support for those most vulnerable.



Why We Joined the True Charity Network

- Move beyond short-term relief to address root causes of crisis
- Strengthen relationships with the families we serve
- Promote personal responsibility, dignity, and long-term growth



What This Partnership Means

- Shift from “doing for” to walking alongside families
- Focus on mentorship, accountability, and goal-setting
- Create opportunities for clients to grow and give back



Why It Matters

- Relational support prevents dependency and builds resilience
- Families experience deeper healing when truly seen and known
- Stronger communities form when everyone has a role and purpose



The Impact We Anticipate

- More consistent, meaningful engagement with clients
- Growth in life skills and personal development
- Clients empowered to serve others, fostering healing and stability

By becoming a True Charity Network partner, Live 2 Give Hope is taking an intentional step toward lasting transformation—helping families not just survive crisis, but move toward wholeness, dignity, & hope.

Today & Beyond

Our Vision for the Future

Goals & Accomplishments

Improve Outcomes by Enhancing Client Services and Operational Efficiency

- Purchasing our Facility
- Renovating our Space
- Expanding our Facility

Equip More Youth With Essential Life Skills Through Paving the Way

- Lake Area in 2026

Strengthen Families Through Prevention and Ongoing Support

- Conduct New Client Intake
- Assessments
- Develop Family Strengthening Courses
- Implement Regular Follow-Ups



Join the Journey
Updates, Stories & More



Scan to Sign
Up for
Monthly
Newsletter
Updates

Scan the QR code or visit
<https://live2givehope.org/get-involved/> to stay
informed on our latest updates and opportunities!

Growing Hope

We invite you to join us in this life-changing work of strengthening families and protecting children. Your generosity makes growing hope possible.

Become a Monthly Donor

Monthly giving provides steady support, allowing our programs to respond to urgent needs and walk alongside families year-round.

Make a Qualifying NAP Donation

Eligible gifts may receive a 70% Missouri NAP tax credit, maximizing your impact while investing in children's futures.

Whether through monthly support or a NAP-qualified gift, your partnership creates safety, healing, and lasting change. Donors may also leave a lasting legacy with recognition on our Garden of Hope Donor Wall—a symbol of security, renewal, and hope for generations to come.

Garden of Hope Donor Wall

- Seeds of Support – \$250
- Pathway of Progress – \$500
- Archway of Advocacy – \$1000
- Fountain of Generosity – \$2,500
- Keystone of Kindness – \$5,000
- Bridge of Stability – \$10,000
- Arbor of Opportunity – \$25,000
- Pillar of Change – \$50,000
- Gateway to Growth – \$100,000+



Grow With Us

Invest in a Future of Hope



Scan to Make
a Donation

Scan the QR code or visit <https://live2givehope.org/donations/> to build a lasting legacy of hope & transformation!

We would like to thank all our donors for their *generous support*

Acknowledgements



The ability to purchase, renovate, and expand our facility is made possible by generous donors through the Missouri Department of Economic Development Neighborhood




Assistance Program, offering **70% tax credits** to eligible donors. Contact us to learn more and be part of our legacy of hope!

Expansion of our Paving the Way program and on staff CPST made possible through grants from the Missouri Department of Transportation.



A generous grant through Lebanon Area Foundation's Community Cares in 2025 funded our Kids' Night Out program to support enrichment activities for families.



 **JUSTSERVE** JustServe provided consistent support, encouragement, essential supplies, and volunteers at numerous events throughout 2025.

We wish we could name them all individually, but countless businesses, churches, individuals, and organizations generously donated their time, talent, and treasure to support the foster care community, and we could not be more appreciative for their support.