

# 2019 Impact Report



**Vikki Finley**  
President and CEO

*"It has been such a privilege to serve as the President and CEO of this incredible organization."*



# FULFILLING FAMILIES

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Post Permanency Services





# A Letter From The President and CEO and Board Chair

Dear Arms Wide Adoption Services family and friends,

It is bittersweet for our Board Chair, Riz Amanullah, and I to share with you my decision to retire on April 13, after 22 wonderful years with Arms Wide Adoption Services. I started planning for this transition so long ago I can hardly believe the time has arrived.

Despite this announcement being in the works for months, it is extremely difficult for me to share this news among the global pandemic of COVID-19 and current economic uncertainty. But my decision was made easier knowing there is a skilled and knowledgeable successor taking my place, an experienced and strong leadership team, a dedicated and passionate staff, and a Board of Directors firmly focused on the future of Arms Wide Adoption Services.

It has been such a privilege to serve as the President and CEO of this incredible organization. Throughout my tenure, it has been a goal to serve with integrity, transparency, and humility. With your help, that was accomplished, and our mission to transform the lives of children in need of safe and nurturing, permanent families continues.

You have made it possible for me to retire knowing the agency is positioned for growth and the future is very bright. I will continue to lead the agency until April 13, when my successor, whom we look forward to introducing soon, begins the next chapter of our history. Transition and continuity will be the focus, given the current challenging circumstances, and I will assist with the transition in whatever role the Board chooses.

Thank you so much for the opportunity you have given me, the confidence you have shown me, and the support you have provided me with over the years. I am excited for this next chapter in my own life, and I look forward to hearing about and celebrating the continued successes at Arms Wide Adoption Services – all made possible because of your support.

With gratitude,

  
Vikki Finley

  
Riz Amanullah

# Celebrating Families Fulfilled.



February 2019



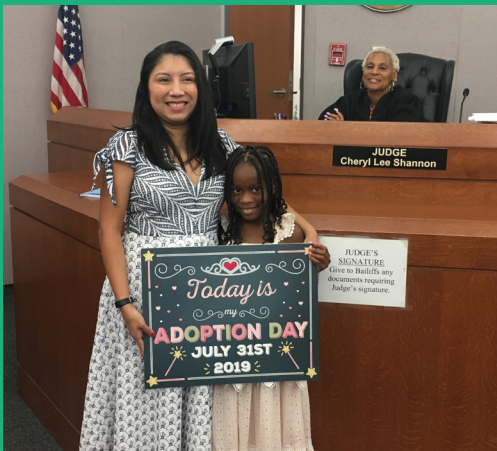
April 2019



May 2019



May 2019



July 2019



September 2019

# The Zoy Family

## "Hardest, Best Thing"



Cimalie Zoy always knew she wanted to be a mom. After two years of fertility treatments to become pregnant, Cimalie's doctor said there was only a six percent chance she would conceive. Despite her devastation, Cimalie knew this would not stop her from becoming a mom. She researched other options and decided foster care adoption was the best fit for her.

*"From the beginning, everyone at Arms Wide Adoption Services was so welcoming and supportive," Zoy said. "They held my hand every step of the way."*

Being a single parent, Cimalie oftentimes became frustrated with the process. Despite Cimalie having a lot of love to give, traditional, two-parent households were receiving placements while she continued to wait. When she was finally selected, she only spent a short amount of time with a sibling group of two before a judge decided not to terminate parental rights. It was an overwhelming loss for Cimalie, but she persevered.

Cimalie's friend, Beth, was an attorney ad-litem for a sibling group of four. Separated in foster care, their parental rights were already terminated. Beth reached out to Cimalie about the older siblings. At this point, Cimalie was still grieving the loss of the siblings who returned to their biological home. She was not ready to take on another placement. She referred Beth to Arms Wide Adoption Services who had another family in mind: The Caffreys.

A month later, Beth came to Cimalie about the younger twin siblings. Still mourning, Cimalie was hesitant to meet Heather and Christopher, but agreed to meet them a few days later. Within 10 minutes of meeting them, she knew the twins belonged with her. Less than a week after their first meeting, Heather and Christopher moved in with Cimalie. Cimalie says this day, along with adoption day six months later, were her two favorite parts in the adoption journey.

*"It's the hardest, best thing I've ever done," Zoy said.*

Today, Cimalie describes her family as "nontraditional." Another Arms Wide Adoption Services' family, The Caffreys, adopted Heather and Christopher's older sisters. Now, Heather and Christopher know their sisters' parents as Uncle Leo and Aunt CC. The Caffreys and Cimalie were not family before the adoption process, but they are now. Both families have embraced one another. They spend a lot of time together so the children can all continue to connect.

More than a year after adoption day, Cimalie remains an advocate for the foster care adoption process. She shares her journey willingly in hopes more people consider adoption. She encourages future adoptive parents to be patient and flexible. Cimalie says it's an emotional process, but extremely worth it.

*"Many say my kids are lucky to have me," Zoy said. "I say I'm the lucky one."*

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If you are interested in learning how you can become a foster or adoptive parent, please call 713-681-6991 for more information.

# 2019 Program Outcomes

2

Largest placement was 2 siblings

17

Oldest child was 17 years old

2

Youngest child was 2 days old



## Foster Care

The Foster Care program provided through our Houston office supports our mission by providing a safe haven home for abused or neglected children who have been removed from their birth homes and placed in the protective custody of the State of Texas.

In 2019, Arms Wide's Foster Care Program:

- Provided **10,113 days of care for 57 children** in the Greater Houston area
- Facilitated the adoption of **17 children** who were adopted by their foster parents
- Maintained a superior success rate in which 100% of children were safe in care

3

Largest placement was 3 siblings

17

Oldest child was 17 years old

11

Youngest child was 11 months old



## Special Needs Adoption

Adoption services are provided through our Houston and South Texas offices which serve 32 counties in Texas. The Special Needs Adoption Program consists of several components: recruitment, training, placement, and finalization. These services are offered free of charge to families, eliminating significant financial barriers for prospective parents.

In 2019, the Special Needs Adoption Program:

- Placed **27 children** in permanent families
- Finalized **23 adoptions** where children officially became part of their forever families
- Maintained a superior success rate in which **88%** of placements became finalized adoptions



99%

Enabled 99% of the children served by the Post Adoption program to remain with their adoptive families

546

Provided post adoption services to 546 children

3,288

Provided 3,288 hours of case management services



### Post Adoption

Post Adoption services are provided through our Houston and South Texas offices. Our Post Adoption program began in 1988 to provide on-going support to children who were adopted from the Texas foster care system and their adoptive families. The program is designed to protect, strengthen and preserve the new adoptive families so that they may remain together.

In 2019, the Post Adoption Program provided:

- 1,159 hours of therapy
- 877 days of respite services
- A therapeutic weekend retreat to 12 families in need

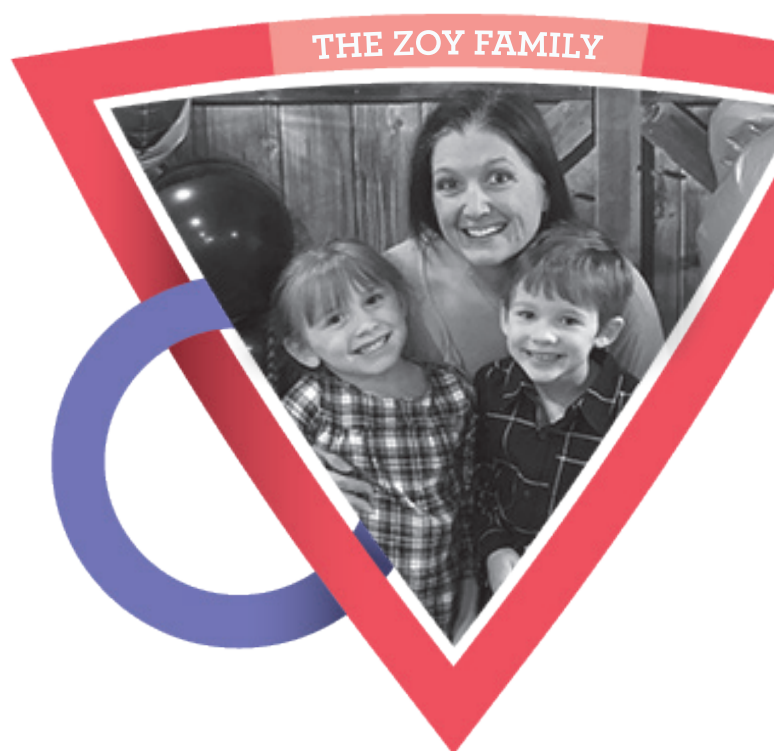


### Post Permanency

Post Permanency services are provided through our Houston and South Texas offices. Our Post Permanency program began in 2017 to provide on-going support to children who were placed in a Permanent Managing Conservatorship, where a judge appoints a person to be legally responsible for a child without adopting the child. Currently, Arms Wide Adoption Services is the only agency contracted by the state to provide these services to families and children in need.

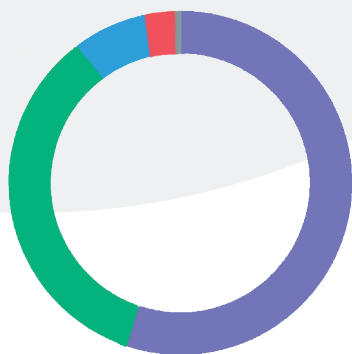
In 2019, the Post Permanency Program provided:

- Services to 173 children
- 1,359 hours of case management services
- 282 days of respite services



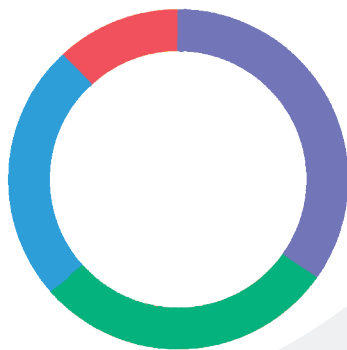
# 2019

## Revenue & Expenses



### Revenue

55%	Government Service Fees	\$1,448,220
34%	Contributions	901,862
7%	United Way	186,215
3%	Investment Income	77,591
<1%	Program Service Fees	6,800
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>		<b>\$2,620,688</b>



### Expenses

34%	Post Adoption / Post Permanency	\$949,477
29%	Foster Care	784,396
25%	Adoption	675,391
12%	Management and General Costs	327,981
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,737,245</b>



## Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors who made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2019:

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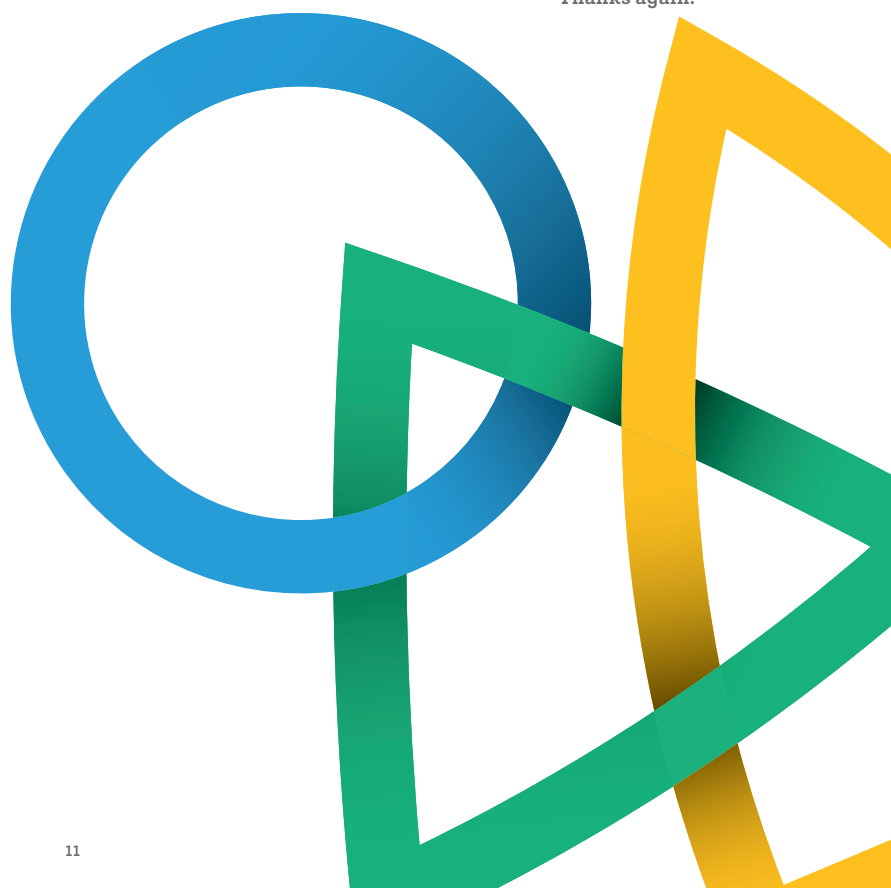
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**Thanks again!**







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“Adopting from foster care is a challenge, but having someone on your side is essential to making it a success. I truly believe Arms Wide Adoption Services wants the best for each family. It’s not just a job for them, and you can tell by every action they make.”

*- Rebecca Wright, Arms Wide Adoption Services Adoptive Mom  
Finalized May 2019*

