



# THE ANGEL FUND

**LFS is now the largest private foster care provider in the state of Colorado.**

**Denver:**

**115 children**

**54 foster homes**

**Colorado Springs:**

**63 children**

**45 foster homes**

**Fort Collins:**

**85 children**

**50 homes**

*"Unto us a child is born... unto us a Son is given!"* The joyous song from Handel's Messiah rings out across the world's most elegant cathedrals and simple country churches as we celebrate the birth of a Savior. But the birth of an infant is not always a joyous occasion and not all children are welcomed with loving arms. Life is difficult and fragile for many of them. Their lives are a gift of immeasurable worth, but can be terribly altered or broken within seconds.

We have all been touched by death, loss, abandonment, moves, and other life changes. Imagine as a child having experienced all of these at the same time, over and over and over again; changing schools, friends, beds, lifestyle and parents not once but multiple times. This is far too often the life that a foster child experiences.

Stephanie was four years old when she first became a foster child. Her father had come to the United States through an arranged marriage. He and his wife had four girls. When the oldest girl was eight, the father was convicted and sent to jail for molesting a young neighbor girl. Stephanie, 4, and her sisters, aged 2, 6 and 8, were left with a mother who was suicidal, homicidal and clinically depressed. They were living in a car in Boulder. When the eight year old was found wandering the streets by a police officer, all four girls were placed in foster care. Eventually three of the children found permanent homes. Stephanie was left traumatized and emotionally shattered, and moved through five foster homes over the next seven years, coupled with a failed adoption attempt.

When children don't know where their next meal is coming from, when they don't know if they will have a place to sleep, when love is conditional or non-existent, they will shut down, act out or do anything they can to have control over their lives. When she first came to her LFS family, Stephanie was completely withdrawn. Trust was not something that came easily or quickly to her. She would express her stress by compulsively cleaning her room.

But after years of heart break and disappointment, Stephanie was lifted out of foster care by a loving family and today we find Stephanie in her forever home! She has been with her adoptive family for 2-1/2 years and with their love and support, she has blossomed into the person she was always too afraid to be. Now her mom knows Stephanie is doing okay when her room is a mess!

LFS is daily blessed to see children who have blossomed just like Stephanie has. When they can trust that every day they will have a home that is consistent, that is stable, that has boundaries, where they will be fed, where they will be safe; then these children's lives are forever changed. The process is difficult, and sometimes it is long.

In partnership with our dedicated foster families, LFS now provides services that make a difference in the lives of more than 260 children every night. You too can help us make a difference. Please consider making help and hope possible for vulnerable children by making a gift to LFS today. Help us continue reaching and helping these children, one at a time, day after day. Even though sometimes it feels as though life is too hard, that the stress of life is too overwhelming, that making a real difference is just impossible, Stephanie shows us that we can make a difference and we must!

Sincerely,

*P.S. At LFS we also are proud to provide adoption and pregnancy counseling services, care management for older adults, parent education classes, refugee and asylee resettlement services, disaster response services and legal immigration counseling services.*



**LUTHERAN  
FAMILY SERVICES**  
of Colorado