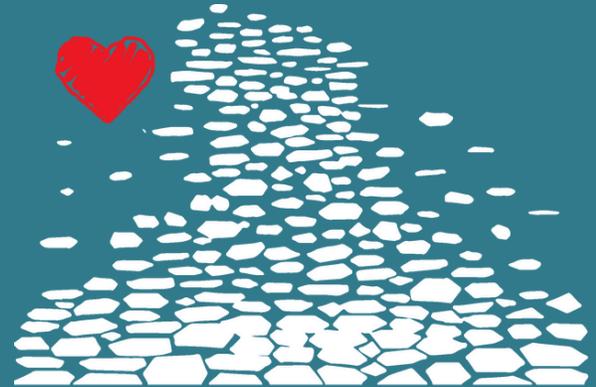


/Bringing positive childhood experiences and enriching opportunities to children in foster and kinship care

Impact Story

Presented by:

XXX



COBBLED STREETS

Date:

September, 2025

/The Challenge

Parenting is challenging, like traversing through a field - some things are in your way, but you can see what generally lies ahead



Foster & kinship parenting brings many more challenges; children come in with unknown trauma, having had responsibilities beyond their age – like parenting themselves or siblings – and little experience being a kid. For foster parents, it feels like traversing through a rainforest – you can't see what is ahead of you.



/The Challenge

When it comes to supporting children in foster and kinship care, we need to look at the whole ecosystem of challenges, the children, their families, and their community.



Children in Care

80% of children in foster & kinship care have significant mental health challenges from trauma

Caregivers

Nearly half of foster parents quit in their first year of fostering

Community

Caregivers say lack of support, poor communication, insufficient training, and lack of say in the child's well-being are the biggest stressors



/The Challenge

At Cobbled Streets, we look at the holistic network surrounding children in foster and kinship care; supporting them, their caregivers, and their community by filling in gaps in the system.



Children in Care

Need opportunities to be a kid and explore their own needs and interests



Caregivers

Need experiences to bond with their children in care and help them work through trauma



Community

Families need to build a community of support that understands the challenges

/Who we are

Our Mission & Vision

Cobbled Streets provides children in foster and kinship care with the positive childhood experiences and relationships they need to thrive. By offering individualized experiences and enriching opportunities, we help mitigate the long-term impacts of trauma and adversity. These experiences allow foster youth to begin to heal, create positive connections, and have a meaningful path to success.

Our vision is to inspire a more compassionate, trauma-informed foster care experience and eliminate the pipeline from foster care to homelessness.



/Who we are

Shari Shink, Esq.

Founder & Executive Director

Shari is the Founder and President Emeritus of the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center of Colorado, where she spent almost three decades as Executive Director. During this time, **she represented thousands of abused and neglected children, developed innovative programs, and raised millions of dollars to pursue the goals of the organization.**

As a result of her experience, Shari founded Cobbled Streets--aiming to fill in the gaps she saw in the foster and kinship system. The organization helps struggling families and their children with immediate needs while building a community of support around them.



/Who we are



Supportive

Cobbled Streets interviews each family to determine their child(ren)'s biggest needs for support, strengths, and passions.



Forward-thinking

The team helps parents brainstorm ways to support these needs, finding experiences that create bonds, build trust, and work through trauma



Genuine

Cobbled Streets staff have lived experience in the foster care system, allowing them to better understand families' needs.

"They're [Cobbled Streets] helping evolve a human. They are looking at children as individuals and what can we do for that individual child? It's not a one size fits all, it's looking at what can we do to help the whole child?"

"Cobbled Streets is really trying to fill in the gaps and find areas where there isn't that support right now within the system. That helps lighten the load of the system by providing experiences for families or kinship families."



/Who we are

Cobbled Streets in numbers

5-18

The age range of children we serve

69%

The children we serve that identify as BIPOC

3,199

The number of experiences we provided children in 2024

6

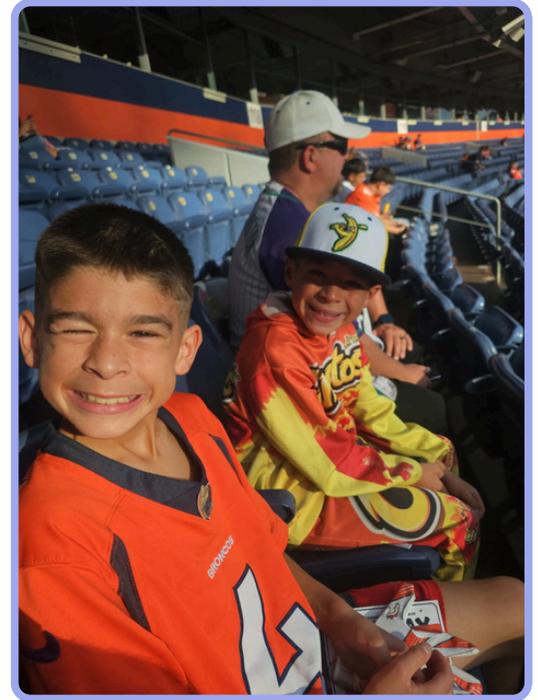
Staff members dedicated to our mission

140

Volunteers that serve annually

87%

Families who would not be able to access these experiences



COBBLED STREETS

/Who we are

“[without Cobbled Streets] I don't think I would be fostering, to be honest with you.

I don't think I'd be sitting across from you saying that we're nine years deep. I think the isolation of not having an outlet is probably one of the most stressful things I can experience. Feeling like I'm on an island by myself and nobody understands me.”



/Our Programs



1

**Unique
Experiences**



2

**Extended
Experiences**



3

**Community
Experiences**



/Unique Experiences

These individualized experiences—like receiving an item, attending a show, or hosting a birthday celebration—support the specific needs and interests of the children and their family.



What caregivers say:

"They come from some pretty traumatic backgrounds, and they've been through a lot more than most kids should have to go through. I think just happy memories to keep their minds busy and active so they're not focused on the past or what's going to happen in the future, and it brings them to the present."

"For her to see [theater], and there's no way I could have gone without Cobbled Streets, people that looked like her doing something she thought was out of her bubble, was amazing."

"If we're doing something fun, and they're all sitting there laughing together..., it takes away from, I don't want to say the stress, but... it takes down their walls. It brings them into this neutral ground so emotionally they can connect with one another. It brings the tension in my house down; for weeks my kids talked about it."

/Unique Experiences

Impacting Children in Foster & Kinship Care

- Allows children to explore **choice and ownership**
- Helps them **see new opportunities** of what they can do with their lives
- Gives them tools that **help with day-to-day struggles**

Impacting Caregivers

- Helps the parents **build trust** with their children through conversations about their needs and providing things that are important to them
- **Reduces the stress of money** when having to decide what opportunities are most important
- Helps them **create shared memories** on important days, like birthdays or adoption days
- Provides **positive experiences for the entire family** to share

255

Unique experiences provided in 2024

100%

Agree their child(ren)'s Cobbled Streets experiences helped them bond with them and their family

100%

Agree their child(ren)'s Cobbled Streets experiences helped them build positive childhood memories



/Unique Experiences

When a bike is more than a bike



"What happens is when a child gets to pick their own things, it becomes theirs. And what happens in my home, when they have things that they value, that are just theirs, and they see me honoring that and taking care of those things, it connects them to my house."

*-Kara, a foster parent**

**name changed for anonymity*

They've never owned a thing.

Cobbled Streets suggests bikes for the kids to stay active and provide a family activity

Choosing a bike of their own

This creates an opportunity for Kara to discuss the kids' interests and get to know them better

Creating Memories

Now they can take family rides and ride with other kids on the block

Lessons in ownership

This helps Kara teach the kids about taking care of something that is only theirs



/Extended Experiences

These, often weekly, music or sports lessons, tutoring, equine therapy, or camps support foster youth through consistent, long-term learning.



What caregivers say:

"It also has boosted their self esteem to be able to achieve something again, this is not something they'd probably be able to do in their home setting. I think these opportunities allow them to become, more individualized within their self."

"The driver's ed class was super important for the kid, for me, because I want them to be as prepared as they can when they are ready to get on the road... Now she can just drive to our house and stop by and see us."

"To be in a group and doing something fun, they feel like they're just a normal family, and when the kids are in foster care, they don't have a lot of chances to just feel normal.."

/Extended Experiences

Impacting Foster Youth's Growth

- Allows children to **explore and learn about their own interests**
- Helps them **gain needed functional and emotional skills**
- **Supports their self-confidence** through accomplishment
- Helps them learn to **regulate their emotions**

Impacting Foster Youth's Relationships

- Provides opportunities to **explore and develop friendships**
- Allows them to **feel like a normal kid**

287

Extended experiences provided in 2024

95 %

Agree their child(ren)'s Cobbled Streets experiences helped them connect with trusted adults outside our family

100 %

Agree their child(ren)'s Cobbled Streets experiences helped them build confidence



/Extended Experiences

What a rec center membership means to a struggling kid



*"It gives them the opportunity to take a first step to befriend somebody and it's not forced. You're being partnered up on a team. It gives them the opportunity to determine what they're comfortable with." - Randy's foster parent**

**name changed for anonymity*

Struggling Socially

Randy was struggling more than his siblings at their new foster home

A long-term membership

Cobbled Streets offered a year long rec center membership for the entire family, giving them time to try things out

Time for family bonding

The membership allowed Randy to do fun things with the family as well as on his own - building bonds while growing

A separate space

The rec center helped Randy let go and meet new kids without the weight of being labeled a 'foster kid'



COBBLED STREETS

/Community Experiences

Our family-focused events and the Ambassador Project—a year-round, community-based initiative—support shared learning, connection, and community building.



What caregivers say:

"They put on a workshop and it changed my thinking of how I dealt with some of the issues that my granddaughter had. None of her background I knew about, but they helped me to see things like how kids who deal with trauma are different."

"To not have programs where I can be heard, can be recognized, can be honored, and my kids to feel the same way. I think it would be damaging... The secondary trauma that I experience, and then the trauma that the kids are going through would be amplified if we didn't have outlets."

"They[Cobbled Streets] facilitate the conversations that we have, pulling tidbits out of the conversations and diving deeper into different ideas. It's a growth experience all the way around."

/Community Experiences

Impacting a Caregiver's Community

- These experiences allow them to **connect with other caregivers like them**, to share their stories and discuss new ways to address challenges they face
- Cobbled Streets facilitates conversations, allowing caregivers to open up and **share their struggles**
- Being in a space of all foster and kinship families gives everyone the space to **be free of judgment** and just have fun

Impacting Caregiver's Perspective

- Both Cobbled Streets and other families offer **support and new ways of thinking about** the complex challenges foster & kinship families face

123

Ambassador Project
monthly gatherings, group
& partner events in 2024

96%

Agree Cobbled Streets is
an important part of their
support network as a
foster, kinship, or adoptive
parent

100%

Agree their Cobbled
Streets experiences
expanded their ability to
continue as a foster,
kinship, or adoptive parent
without burning out



/Community Experiences

How an aligned community supports each other



*"It's an amazing space to be in because sometimes, when you are with kids that have experienced trauma and they're out in social settings, their behaviors can be really perplexing to others... When you go to an Ambassador Program, you absolutely don't do any of that because every single person in that room understands ... I can't even get that in my own kids' schools."
- Grace, a foster mom of 2**

**name changed for anonymity*

Others don't understand

Caregivers report that even family members don't understand the challenges they face

Finding a local community

The Ambassador Project brings together foster & kinship families within their own districts

Learning from each other

Caregivers share and learn from each other's common experiences

A safe space

At these events, caregivers don't worry about tantrums or awkward questions because people get it



/How our families feel

"My kids are experiencing a world where they see themselves as successful community members and **strive to be better than what they thought was possible.**"

-Caregiver

My favorite part of the experience was "getting to **make new friends.**"

-Foster Youth

"It has been an absolute blessing having the support of Cobbled Streets, **I couldn't have done it alone** as a grandma."

-Caregiver

My favorite part of the experience was "**family** and the cake and jumping!"

-Foster Youth

"It's impressive and humbling to receive experiences from Cobbled Streets. **The personal relationships built are invaluable** and the efforts to improve lives are appreciated. It's always a great interaction where Cobbled Streets is involved."

-Caregiver

"It was **the best day of my life!**"

-Foster Youth



/How You Can Help



We ask you to **understand** the challenges kids and caregivers face and what they are up against. To **hear** their voices and to truly **see** them.

Recognize the urgency and the power of our bold, outside-the-box approach—and **invest** now in changing the day-to-day experience and long-term outcomes for children in care, unlocking the potential they bring to the world with the support and care we offer today.

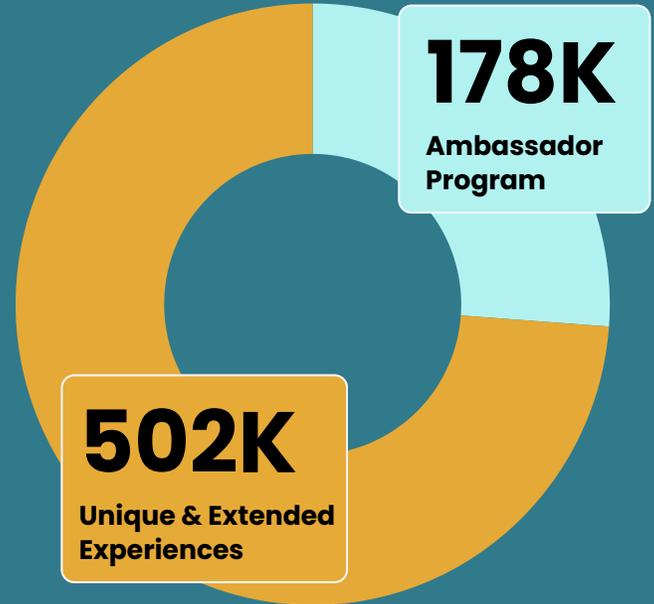


/How You Can Help

We're seeking investment to:

- **Increase the number of kids served** statewide.
- **Reach all ~3,700 children** in foster care across Colorado.
- **Deepen experiences and relationships** with families and caregivers.
- **Ensure multiple experiences per child each year** so joy and growth aren't one-and-done.
- **Provide more extended experiences** (lessons, camps, tutoring)—our most impactful and most resource-intensive offerings.
- **Expand the Ambassador Project** to new judicial districts and strengthen existing ones.

Your gift fuels belonging, confidence, and connection—for every child, all year long—improving outcomes for children in care.

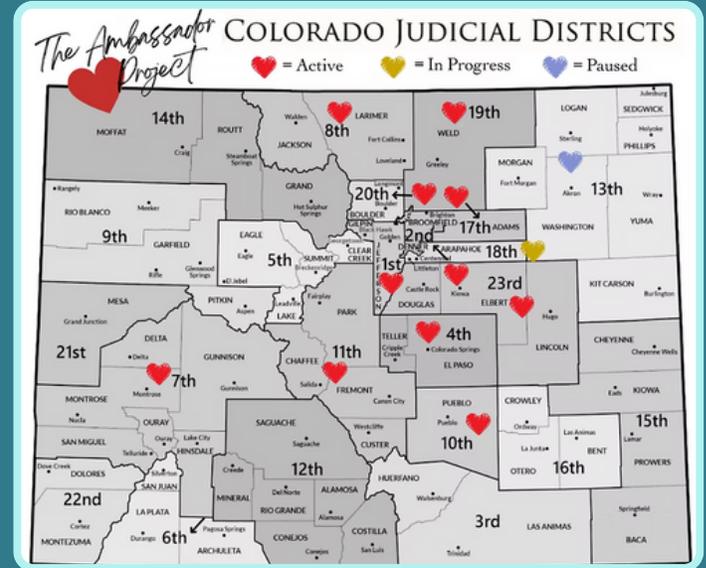


/Sustain the Ambassador Project in Your Community

Fund a district for a year: \$12,000

What your sponsorship covers:

- Monthly **family gatherings** with kid-centered activities
- **Caregiver connection & support** (peer community, stress relief)
- **Resource navigation** and warm handoffs to local partners
- **Mini-grants & supplies** for children's individualized experiences
- **Ambassador stipend & training** to lead consistent, trauma-aware events
- **Facilities, food, child care, and materials** that make gatherings welcoming
- **Basic evaluation & outreach** to keep improving and growing participation



Interested in sustaining this program where you live? Let's talk about sponsoring your district—or adopting a new one.

/Bringing positive childhood experiences and enriching opportunities to children in foster and kinship care

Thank You



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