



Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
for Adoption®

Wendy's  
Wonderful Kids®

TEXAS

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a national nonprofit public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of children waiting in North America's foster care systems. Our signature program, Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK), is focused on achieving permanency for young people most at risk of aging out of care without a family – youth ages 9 and older, children with special needs and siblings.

## PROVEN IMPACT

A rigorous, five-year national evaluation revealed that children referred to the WWK program are **up to 3x more likely to be adopted.**

CHILDREN SERVED  
BY WWK ARE

**1.7x**

MORE LIKELY  
TO BE ADOPTED

CHILDREN AGES 9  
AND OLDER WERE

**3x**

MORE LIKELY  
TO BE ADOPTED

CHILDREN WITH MENTAL  
HEALTH ISSUES WERE  
MORE THAN

**3x**

MORE LIKELY  
TO BE ADOPTED

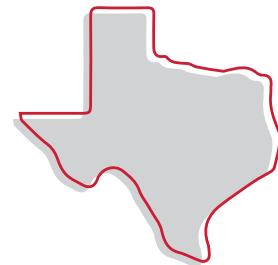
THE **OLDER** THE  
CHILD SERVED,  
THE **HIGHER THE  
LIKELIHOOD OF  
BEING ADOPTED**  
WHEN SERVED BY  
THE WWK PROGRAM

In 2017, with evidence of the model's effectiveness, the Foundation initiated an aggressive 12-year plan to scale WWK in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., in hopes of finding safe, permanent homes for every child in the program's focus population.

To date, the model has been scaled or is scaling in 20 states and provinces.

## IMPACT IN TEXAS

March 2024



**34**

RECRUITERS

**968**

CHILDREN SERVED

**253**

CHILDREN CURRENTLY  
ON CASELOADS

**653**

CHILDREN MATCHED  
WITH FAMILIES

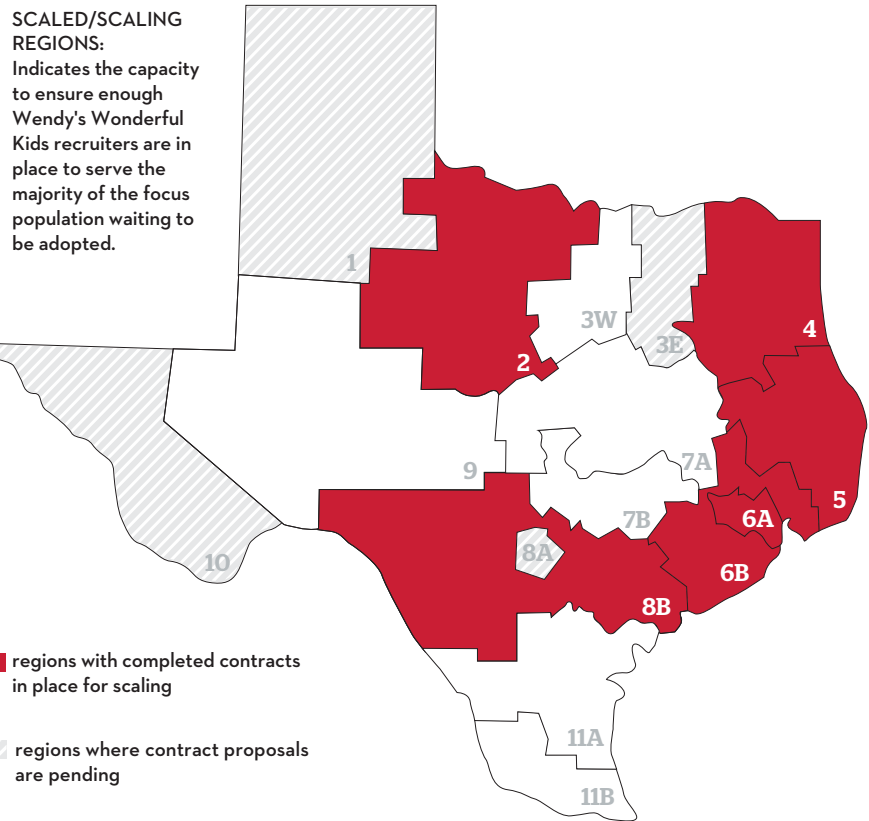
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FINALIZATIONS

## SCALING THE WWK MODEL IN TEXAS

The Foundation is partnering with the Texas Center for Child and Family Services to implement a multifaceted approach to scale the WWK program across Texas. We will start where WWK has already demonstrated success, as well as in areas operating under Community-Based Care.

The Foundation and the Center believe that by scaling the WWK program in Texas, we will see decreased time in care, increased permanency outcomes and decreased Children Without Placement.



## PARTNERING FOR PERMANENCY

- Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) regions** – DFPS regions have an opportunity to convert a portion of their existing permanency staff to implement the WWK child-focused recruitment model. These recruiters, their supervisors and regional leadership are trained and supported by the Foundation on how to utilize the child-focused recruitment model to fidelity. An example of this partnership is DFPS region six.
- Community-Based Care** – Most existing Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) have either signed an agreement with the Foundation and begun implementation or are in conversation with the Foundation to implement WWK child-focused recruitment for all of the children in the focus population in their regions. Many current SSCCs have signed multi-year agreements to date.
- Philanthropy** – The Foundation is contributing significant philanthropic funding to cover new costs related to expanding the WWK program in the near-term and to cover an ongoing amount of the cost for four additional years. The Foundation invites each region to a multi-year partnership in which it hires the number of recruiters needed to serve the focus population. Each region becomes a partner in co-investment with the goal of accepting responsibility for the full cost of the program.
- Fidelity to the model** – The Foundation will provide a robust set of support services including training, technical assistance and performance-outcome management in addition to the philanthropic funding. Training includes in-person and virtual classes, access to a learning management system, training for legal and community partners and an annual three-day summit. Each recruiter has a subject matter expert assigned to them to provide day-to-day support. Fidelity markers and outcome reporting is collected through a WWK database, and the Foundation provides regular outcome management reports to each region.