

Kidsave Weekend Miracles

March 23, 2021

The Goal

Kidsave's Weekend Miracles Program finds adoptive families and lasting connections for older youth growing up in the foster care system.



Meet Clay and LaRhonda



Why it Works

- Kids who may be ambivalent about adoption only need to be **open to connection** with an adult
- Kids have a voice and a choice, 100% voluntary
- Creates organic connections, which makes it less intimidating for the kids
- Hosts are volunteers
- Kids and adults participate in activities at events virtually and in person
- Empowers kids
- Shines a light on every child
- Builds community
- Paper doesn't have a personality



Hosting is Great for the Youth

- They set the pace
- They learn there are adults they can trust and depend on
- Helps them find their spark
- Builds social capital
- Builds self esteem
- Helps them find permanency



Who Are the Youth Being Referred

- Ages 9-17 (average age 14)
- Average 7 placements, 6 years in care
- Family reunification terminated
- Where other efforts have not worked
- 41% in residential care, 59% foster family



What Does it Mean to Have a Host?

- Child's champion
- Positive role model
- Builds trust with adults
- Support academics, life skills and transitions
- Introduce youth to networks
- Advocate to find adoptive families
- Bridge for youth being adopted
- **Some adopt, foster or become lasting connection**



What is the Process for Families?

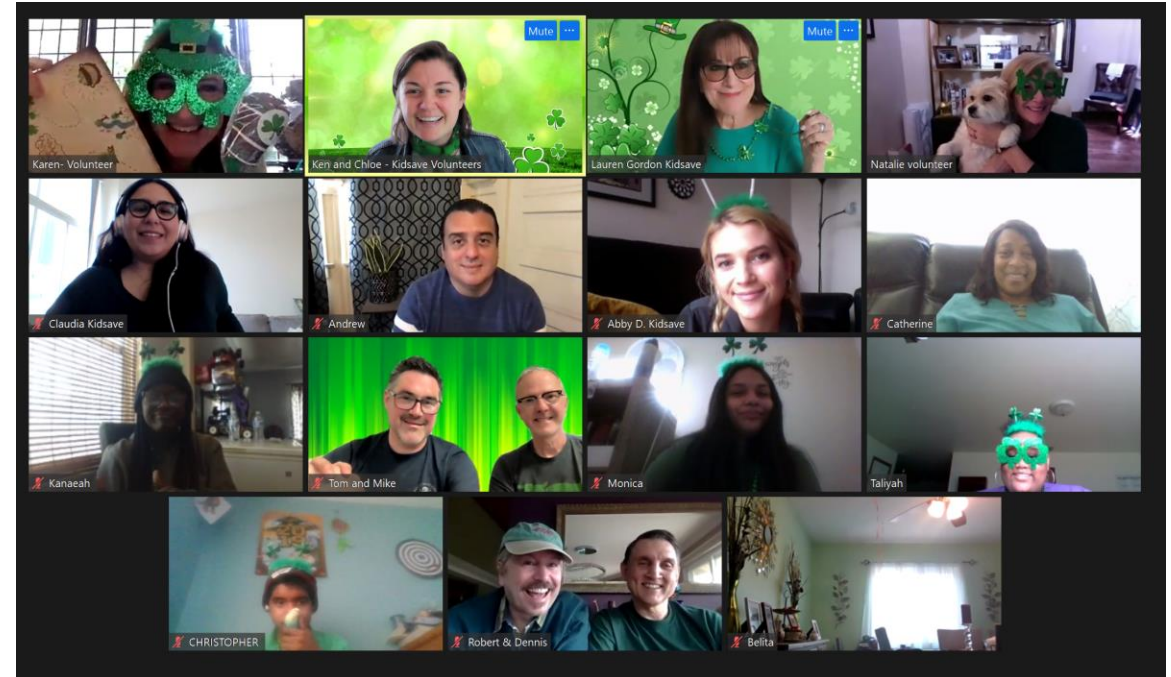


- Orientation
- 15 hours of training
- Application
- Clearances
- CPR/First Aid certification
- In-home assessment by DCFS social worker

Events

- Where connections occur
- Youth centered, interactive, fun and engaging activities
- Kids interact with prospective hosts and adoptive families

WEEKEND MIRACLES



Referring the Youth

Has an Adoption Social Worker (in RFSPD)

- Discuss with the worker to ensure the child has been referred

No Adoption Social Worker

- Complete the referral form in consultation with services worker
- Send the form to Christina Delight at biermc@dcfs.lacounty.gov

- If appropriate, the child is referred to Kidsave
- Kidsave invites the child to program orientation
- You may be asked to drive the child to the first event

Who Can Be Referred



WEEKEND MIRACLES

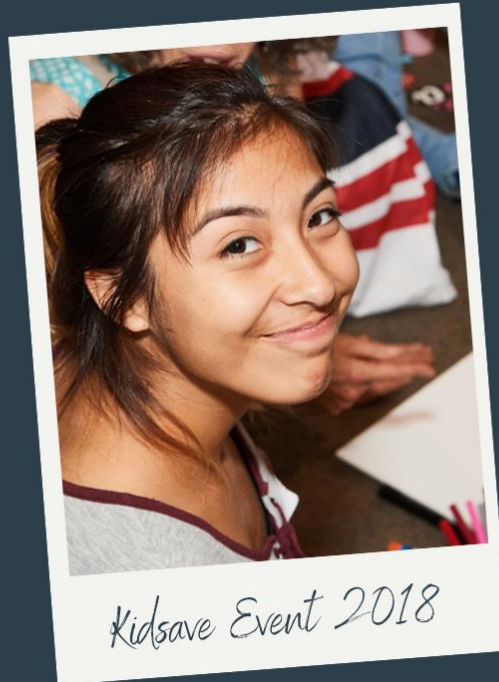
- Kids 9-17
- Family reunification terminated
- Open to adoption or connection to an adult
- Willing to participate in the program/give it a try
- Have enough emotional stability to attend events

Outcomes to Date

- 77% youth connected
- 53% moved to legal permanency
- 7% moved in with NREFM
- 51% matched for hosting
 - 58% are in hosting 2+ years
- 47% moved to lower level of care



Questions?



Contact Us

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