



CHILDREN'S  
HOME SOCIETY  
*of Washington*

## Press Release

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### ***5-Year Research Proves Wendy's Wonderful Kids Works*** *National adoption program is offered by Children's Home Society of Washington*

**King and Pierce Counties – November 10, 2011** – Just in time for National Adoption Awareness Month in November, a recent study has revealed that **children in foster care served by the Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) recruitment program are 1.7 times more likely to be adopted than those not served by WWK.** The study, entitled *The Impact of Child-focused Recruitment on Foster Care Adoption: A Five-year Evaluation of Wendy's Wonderful Kids*, was conducted by Child Trends in October 2011.

Seattle-based Children's Home Society of Washington was selected as the WWK agency in 2001 and is the sole organization operating the program in Washington State. Since 2001, 400 children in King and Pierce Counties have received permanent homes through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program.

"We are thrilled that this research confirms the success we have had in finding stable and loving homes for children," says Sharon Osborne, President/CEO of Children's Home Society. "The child-centered recruitment model of Wendy's Wonderful Kids allows us to find a family that meets the unique needs of each child."

#### **Quick Facts:**

- The impact of WWK's child-focused recruitment model is greatest among children who are older or those who have mental health disorders, children who are often considered "unadoptable."
- The research shows that WWK's dedicated recruiters, who focus exclusively and diligently on finding adoptive families based on the specific needs of each child they serve, are instrumental in WWK's success.
- WWK recruiters carry a small caseload (12-15 children at a time) so they can aggressively recruit the right family for each child they serve.
- Wendy's Wonderful Kids is funded by The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

#### About Children's Home Society of Washington

Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) is Washington's largest statewide non-profit children's organization, serving over 39,000 children and their families through early learning,

adoption, foster care, family support, child and family counseling, and advocacy programs. CHSW's mission is to develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities, and speak and advocate for children. To learn more, visit [childrenshomesociety.org](http://childrenshomesociety.org).

#### About the Dave Thomas Foundation

The Dave Thomas Foundation awards grants to public and private adoption agencies to hire adoption professionals who execute aggressive, child-focused recruitment strategies targeted exclusively on moving children from foster care into adoptive families. WWK has 122 sites with dedicated recruiters working for children throughout the U.S. and Canada.