



Communities for Children

Executive Summary

Thanks to the vision of Communities for Children and the generosity of community members, churches and corporate donors, many foster children have experienced a genuine sense of caring and dignity from our programs.

At any given time, thousands of children are in foster care – either because they were abused, neglected or mistreated, or because their families were unable to care for them at the time. While waiting to be reunited with their families, these children deserve as normal a life as possible. While we are unable to serve all children, Communities for Children can do *something* – and this is why the organization was formed. The non-profit was started in Georgia where its directors are based, and we hope to eventually grow it nationwide.

With the commitment and dedication of volunteers, individual donors and corporate sponsors, these programs are possible:

One of the most successful Communities for Children endeavors has been the **Bicycle Campaign**. Individual donors and corporate sponsors are asked to provide a bicycle for a child in foster care who requested one just their size. In the week before Christmas, volunteer members of Communities for Children load a large truck with brand new bikes – from tricycles to mountain bikes – and play the part of Santa Claus by delivering the bicycles to community organizations for distribution.

Communities for Children has also sponsored the **Smooth Moves Luggage Campaign**. Since foster parents are granted only a small amount of money per day for children in their care, this does not leave any extra for “luxury” items such as luggage. Through donations, Communities for Children has been able to donate luggage to local family and children services offices for children entering foster care. Our belief is that no child should have to carry their belongings from place to place in a garbage bag.



Through the **Send-a-Bear to Foster Care Campaign**, Communities for Children makes sure teddy bears make their way into the arms of foster children in need of a furry friend. Each bear carries the message: *“It’s my birthday and more than anything else I wanted to be with YOU!”*

These programs depend on the support of individuals, organizations and companies. We hope to build on them each year to ensure that foster and newly-adopted children have a sense of dignity and experience some of the most basic, simple pleasures of childhood.