

# FAMILY VISIT MODEL

Older children, ages 9 to 18, are considered hard-to-place. Prospective adoptive parents often look to adopt babies rather than teens and preteens, so the pool of interested families for older kids is small. Older kids have opinions, their personalities are shaped, and many have experienced significant trauma. Working to find families for these youth is time-consuming and challenging. Consequently, a large proportion exit the child welfare system without the safety net of a family or a mentoring relationship. Without the support of caring adults, the odds are against system-involved youth graduating from high school or college, finding a good job, or having the example of a successful family life from which to build their own.

Kidsave's goal is to demonstrate and create change. Our Family Visit Model gives kids in foster care and orphanages, ages 7 through 18, short-term visits with families during school vacations and weekends. The model is unique in child welfare because it:

- welcomes people without home studies to meet kids without excessive paperwork;
- enables people to host children without committing to adopt them;
- introduces kids to others who might be open to adoption;
- provides interactive events that give children and adults a safe space to become acquainted and
- gives kids a choice in adults with whom they might want to be connected.

