

# Isaiah117<sup>®</sup>

changing the way foster care begins

## Welcome!





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## Introductions





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## Lynchburg









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## Rockingham









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## Russell









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## Washington









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## Wise









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## The Why: Jenny Butcher

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- When a child is removed from their home, they must wait for placement at the Department of Social Services.
- Children often spend a few hours to a few days waiting for placement with no place to sleep or bathe.
- They are often hungry, dirty, exhausted, and have little to no possessions.





what **i**f there was a **h**ome?





# Our Mission

## Change the Way Foster Care Begins:

- Reduce Trauma
- Lighten the Load
- Ease the Transition



# Reduce Trauma

- Create a safe and loving environment with certified volunteers to provide meals, baths, clothing, etc. for a child awaiting placement





# Lighten the Load

- Create a fully equipped working environment for DSS Caseworkers
- Provide loving emotional support to DSS Caseworkers



# Ease the Transition

- Support Foster families and children by supplying them with a week of new outfits, twin beds, car seats, formula, diapers, meals, etc.
- Make it easier for Foster families to say yes



Not Our Kids,  
Not Our Community!



# Fast Facts

- Established in 2017
- 60 locations, 37 open homes, across 13 states
- Cared for over 10,000 children



# Scope of Service

- Removal Day Support
- Clothing, Car Seats, Twin Beds, Personal Care Items, Etc.
- Snacks, Coffee, and Meals
- Monthly DSS Appreciation for Foster Care and CPS Workers





# Statistics

- There are 5,711 children in care in Virginia
- 81% of children are incarcerated, homeless, addicted, or dead within two years of aging out of the foster care system
- In my area, 85 – 95% of removals are due to substance abuse
- 32.38% of removals happen due to parental substance abuse
- 3.52% of removals happen due to children's substance abuse
- These statistics do not include alternate living arrangements in which a formal removal has not taken place.
- Even though every case is not directly affected by opioid addiction, it is an overarching contributing factor in the foster care system.

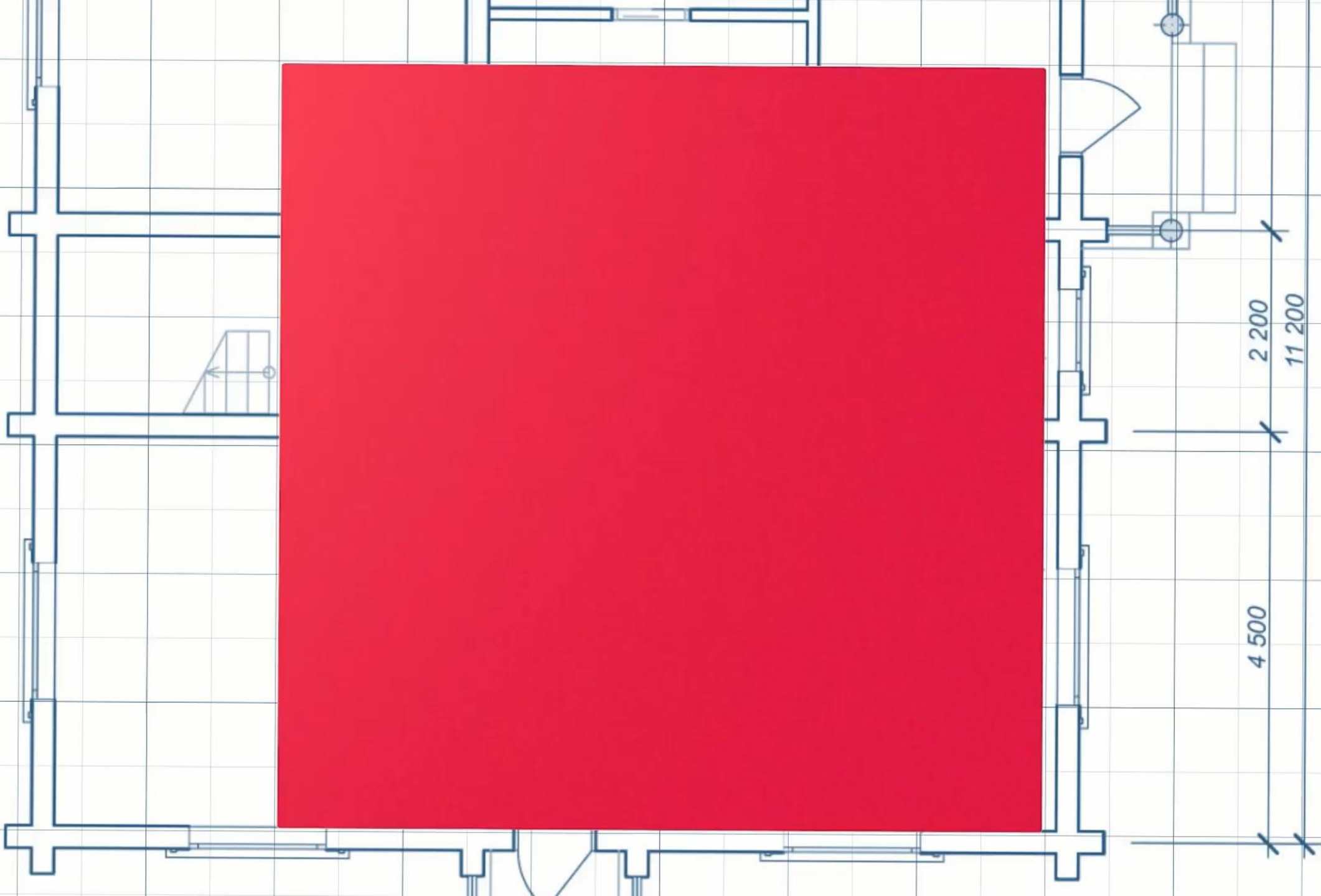
# Home Design



- Child friendly & safe space
- Bedroom Layout
- Giving Room
- Visitation Space
- Office for Employees and DSS







# Forming Relationships with DSS



Part of our three-pronged mission is to lighten the load for caseworkers. We accomplish this in various ways:

- Appreciation gifts
- Luncheons
- Hosting meetings
- Providing Caregivers to assist when kids are present
- Assisting with event planning
- A listening ear

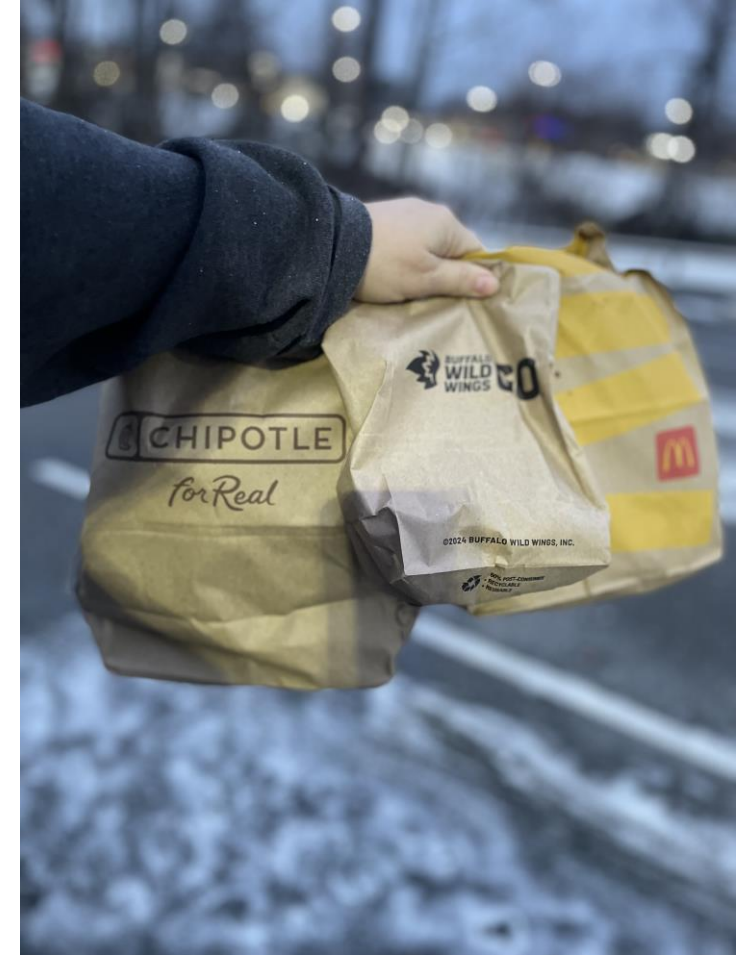




# e Red Door Guest Experience



Working to  
Remove  
the Trauma  
from  
Removal  
Day



# Stories from an Open



## Home

Two little toddlers entered through our red door on what must have been a very hard day. Their caseworker asked if we would give the girls a bath as they had been living in a tent for quite some time.



# Stories from an Open



## Home

Can you imagine entering foster care on your birthday? It happens more than we imagined it would.

If a guest comes to the house on their birthday, we are ready to celebrate!

# Stories from an Open

## Home

When a removal story makes local headlines for a sibling group of five.

We try to create some normalcy during an unpredictable time.





# Training Process for Caregivers & Supporters

- Application
- Background Check
  - References
  - Check through local Social Services
  - Check through private system
- Three-part training includes Trauma Informed Care



# Prevention

- Trauma can significantly affect brain development in children, leading to impulse control problems and poor emotional regulation.
- Children exposed to trauma are 2-3 times more likely to develop mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety.
- The integration of trauma-informed care into the foster care system is not only beneficial but essential for addressing the complex needs of children who have experienced trauma.
- The evidence supports that these interventions lead to better outcomes, making trauma-informed care a critical component of effective foster care practices.



# Lasting Impact

- Isaiah 117 House seeks to change the way foster care begins for all children in Virginia and provide resources for the vulnerable children in our community.
- Our desire is to be the beginning link in a chain that will help break the cycles of family trauma and addiction by providing children with care and support on their hardest day.
- We believe that the impact of showing children, “Love, you’re not alone,” can reach beyond those first days in foster care by creating a supportive community that wraps around those of us who are in difficult situations.

# Yearly Budget & Support Structure





# SOCK BUDDIES

You can receive a pair of Isaiah 117 House socks by becoming a monthly donor!

\$300/month =  1 guest helped per month

\$50/month =  2 guests helped per year

\$25/month =  1 guest helped per year

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# Opioid Abatement Authority Letter of Approval





# Ways to Help

- Learn more about Isaiah 117 House & help spread the word
- Sign up for a monthly newsletter
- Get involved through volunteer opportunities
- Incorporate Isaiah 117 House into your best practices / standard operating procedures
- Follow us on Social Media
- Share with us places that we can speak / spread awareness
- Become a Bin Buddy / Sock Buddy



# How to Bring Isaiah 117 House to Your Area

- New Expansion requests can be sent to our State Director, Damoria Walker at [damoria.walker@isaiah117house.com](mailto:damoria.walker@isaiah117house.com)
- She can explain more about the onboarding process and help you learn the next steps!





# Get in Touch with Us!

State Director, Damoria Walker at [damoria.walker@isaiah117house.com](mailto:damoria.walker@isaiah117house.com)  
Lynchburg – Terry Wecker – [terry.wecker@isaiah117house.com](mailto:terry.wecker@isaiah117house.com)  
Rockingham – Jenny Butcher – [jenny.butcher@isaiah117house.com](mailto:jenny.butcher@isaiah117house.com)  
Russell – Acacia Nunley – [acacia.nunley@isaiah117house.com](mailto:acacia.nunley@isaiah117house.com)  
Washington – Savannah Harrison – [savannah.harrison@isaiah117house.com](mailto:savannah.harrison@isaiah117house.com)  
Wise – Brandy Martin – [brandy.martin@isaiah117house.com](mailto:brandy.martin@isaiah117house.com)



# Questions?





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