



THE TWIN FALLS OPTIMIST YOUTH HOUSE

Recognizing the Need

The Optimist Club of Twin Falls, Idaho, Inc. recognized a need within the community for individuals impacted by the foster care system who were ill-prepared for adulthood and potentially vulnerable to homelessness. The Optimists embarked on what has become a sobering and heartwarming journey- one that is still unfolding, filled with love, compassion, encouragement, hopefulness, and community-wide cooperation.

What is now known as the Twin Falls Optimist Youth House, located at 239 3rd Ave North in Twin Falls, has gone through a year's worth of extensive renovations to provide fifteen young adults and two resident advisors with a safe, inspiring, and encouraging environment to call "home".

A Place to Call Home



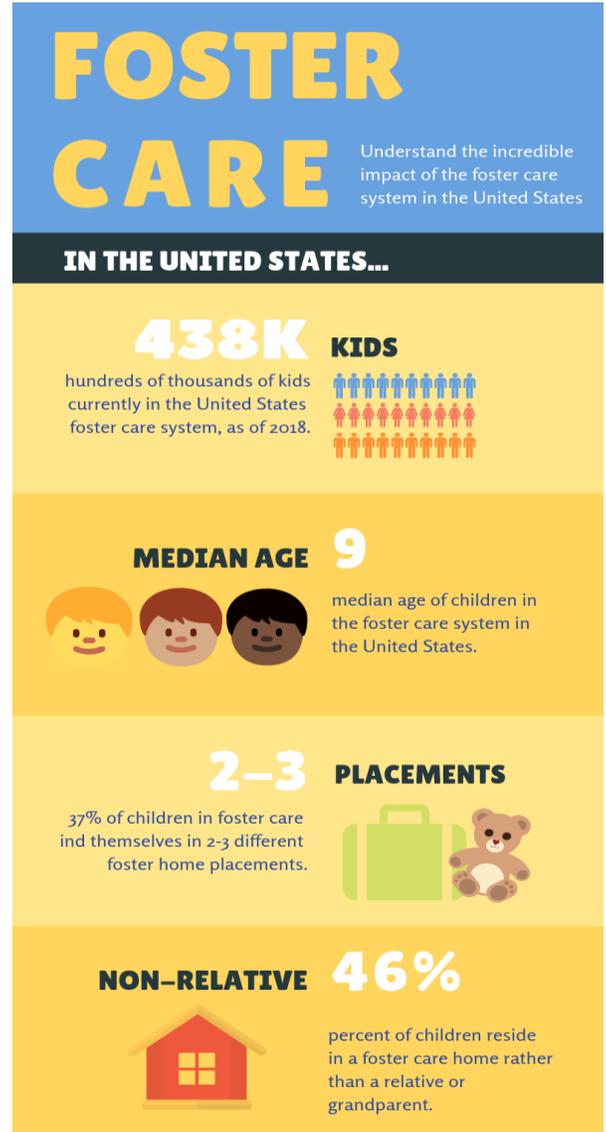
Who We Are

The Twin Falls Optimist Youth House program is maintained by a Board of fifteen local volunteers, one part time Case Manager, and two Resident Advisors.



Board of Directors: Felice Wolters, Magic Valley Youth & Adult Services (President), Kayla Smola, First Federal (Vice President), Michele Costello, Glanbia Nutritionals Representative (Secretary), Doug Lincoln, Tilley- Lincoln CPA (Treasurer), Amanda Jones, Plant Therapy Inc. Representative, Val Stotts, Safe House, Shae Mayner, Rain Guard Roofing, Nicole Gabiola, Keller-Williams, Michelle Carpenter, Westerra, Brent Reinke, Twin Falls County, Barry Knoblich, Consultant, Liz Haugee, Gordo Management & Z. Interior Design, Anna Scholes, SavMor Drug, Costco Pharmacy, & Orchard Drug, Tahna Barton, CASA, Krystal Koelling, Twin Falls School District

Foster Care in the United States



<https://www.familieshelpingfamiliesofia.org/about/facts-figures/>

Meet our Staff!

My name is Josselyn Smith and I am the part-time Case Manager for the Twin Falls Optimist Youth House. A soon to be University of Idaho alum, I am currently finishing up a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Justice Studies. My passions lie within that of serving others, especially youth, through empowerment and positive support. As Mother Teresa once said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples".



Hello, my name is Britanee Taylor. I am 22 years old I was born and raised in Twin Falls, Idaho. I left at the age of 18 to live in Boise, Idaho and I'm glad to be back in my hometown working at the Optimist Youth House. My full-time job is teaching at Lighthouse Christian School for the K-3 classroom. I have a huge heart for the foster care community so coming back home and finding this job at the optimist youth house was amazing for me. I am so excited to see these girls grow and I am so thankful that I get to be a part of this amazing organization.

I am Jared Sorenson, the male resident advisor at the Optimist Youth House. I am so excited to be a part of this special program. I am originally from Northern Utah, but found my way to Idaho where I currently teach 6th grade social studies and coach at multiple schools within the district. I received my B.S. in Organizational Management & Development from Bluefield College, and have spent most of my career in business. I will begin my master's degree in counseling this summer, and I look forward to that adventure... I think. I am the father of four amazing boys, and I love all sports and the great outdoors. The mountains and the ocean are my happiest places. I look forward to using my passion for education and working with young adults to make a difference while in this capacity.

