

Impact of the FASD Podcast Series:

A Foster Parent's Perspective

Meagan Duckworth, a dedicated foster parent, recently highlighted the profound impact of our podcast series on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). She and her husband faced challenges with a seven-year-old boy in their care, who exhibited behaviors initially mistaken for ADHD. Through our podcast series, Meagan gained insights into FASD, realizing that the boy's issues were more extensive.

"This series was a revelation. It helped me identify FASD in our foster child, a condition I wouldn't have recognized otherwise," Meagan shared. Her proactive research and application of the information enabled her to effectively advocate for the necessary support and resources for the

"This series was a revelation."

Currently, as the children are in a reunification plan with their biological mother, Meagan stresses the importance of a robust support network. "It's vital to provide comprehensive support for the family's successful reunification," she notes.

Meagan's experience underscores the value of educational resources in foster care and adoption, particularly in understanding and addressing complex conditions like FASD. Her story serves as a powerful reminder of how informed care can make a significant difference in the lives of foster children and their families.





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WAYS TO GIVE

- Serve 12 children for \$37.50 per month
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- Impact 20 children's lives with an annual donation of \$750.
- Sponsor a County for \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000.









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How Your Support Made a Difference for Jenny's Family

Jenny's Story

A local woman recently shared her positive experience with CarePortal. Jenny gained custody of her two nephews, aged 7 and 9, and urgently needed beds for them, as they were sleeping on air mattresses. After contacting a caseworker, she was connected with Catskill United Methodist Church through the CarePortal, who provided a bunk bed and toys for the children, even setting up the bed for her.

"kind, generous, accommodating"

She expressed immense gratitude, noting the significant impact of the church's kindness on her family. "The boys absolutely love the bunk bed. It is beautiful and well made," she said, appreciating the quality of the donation and the financial relief it provided.



Her experience exemplifies the mission of CarePortal, which she describes as a "kind, generous, accommodating" organization. She strongly recommends CarePortal to others in need, highlighting its role in providing not just physical items but also hope and comfort to families. This story underscores the profound impact of community support and the transformative role our local churches play in helping families during challenging times.

CarePortal[§]



Dear Friends,

I'm astounded by the incredible impact your prayers, generosity and faithfulness have made in the lives of the children and families we serve! Thank you, from the bottom of my heart!

Your sacrificial giving and unwavering faith allowed the light of Christ to shine into the darkness experienced by so many children and families in crisis throughout the Capital Region and beyond.

The ripple effect of your faith-in-action will be felt and realized for generations to come! May the joy of the Lord overflow in your heart today as you marvel at all He has accomplished through our ministry together in 2023!

Gratefully in partnership with you,

Jancha Llach

Sandra Flach, Founder & Executive Director



Make a Lasting Impact



A Heartwarming Appeal for Support

Imagine a world where every child sleeps comfortably in their own bed, each with bedding in their favorite color. This vision came to life in Saratoga County, where a dedicated team from The Church at Newtown Road, joined by volunteers from Pine Grove Community Church, delivered essential furniture to a deserving family in need.

This family, a courageous mother and her four children, has endured immense challenges, including PTSD, autism, and a recent MS diagnosis. They've faced hardships most of us can scarcely comprehend, such as living without proper furniture due to a pest outbreak. Yet, hope arrived on delivery day, bringing not only beds and dressers but also a symbol of a new beginning.

Kind-hearted donors like you are part of these transformative moments. Your contributions provide not just the essentials, but also items that bring unexpected joy—like a simple shower curtain that turned a child's fear into excitement.



Your donation, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. You can extend the reach of God's love and compassion, offering practical support and a message of hope to more families.

Donate today and be a beacon of light in the lives of those walking through the darkest of times. Thank you for your generosity and for being part of our community's journey to bring comfort and peace to our neighbors.



- 1,700 local children were assisted through our CarePortal program in 2023.
- **4,800 local children** have been assisted through CarePortal since 2018.
- We expanded CarePortal into **4 additional counties**: Columbia, Montgomery, Saratoga, and Warren.
- 32 new churches were added to our CarePortal network.
- 5 Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) trainings were held throughout the Capital Region.
- 24 FASD Workshops educated & equipped parents and caregivers.
- 18 families receive encouragement and training through our monthly Hope for the FASD Journey Support Group.
- Our Adoption & Foster Care Journey Podcast—a vital resource for families averaged 1,200 downloads per month.