

My name is Katherine Boise, resident of New Haven, VT and I have been a Post Permanency Service Provider with Lund since 2012. This is a request to please increase base funding for Post Permanency Services programs by \$300,000. My reason for asking for this support for PPSP comes from a place of a deep spiritual mission for me in this work; helping Vermont's most vulnerable population, adoptive and guardianship children and families. Adoptive and guardianship families are not your traditional/conventional families, their experiences and their journey is unique in that the children these adoptive and guardianship caregivers are raising have experienced tremendous inherent losses of their birth families, broken homes, and even communities worlds apart from what they were born into and identified with. While adoption and permanency through guardianship are celebrations for many families to secure their "Forever Family," adoptees have also, lost a part of their life and identity that will never be gained back. These children are put in a position to adjust/adapt to a new life, new family, new home, new community, and ultimately a new identity that is forever life changing. As a result of these losses and traumas from childhood for these children, both they and their new forever families are impacted for a lifetime, it is a lifelong journey healing from those adversities. Therefore, adoptive and guardianship families have to learn new skills, training, education on how to adjust to therapeutic parenting from that of traditional/conventional parenting.

My own life journey directed me to this unique profession at Lund. I had been a foster care youth myself as an adolescent, due to abuse and neglect. I benefited from special therapeutic services, that aided me in my own healing to experience normalcy with my education, social enrichment activities, this included volunteering for my community of residence Rescue Squad/EMS stabilizing patients until we got them to the hospital. What I learned is that this was a short-term medical crisis service, but I had always wondered and wanted to help those patients, knowing their journey didn't end at the hospital. I wanted to do something deeply meaningful to be there for humanity in way that was much more "in it for the long haul." This passion ultimately fostered my opportunity to obtain a full four-year scholarship for my undergraduate studies. I became a social worker. My political science professor once told me I could have been a circuit court family judge and obtain my degree from Yale. However, I chose social work to see people through their traumas too, and empower them to build a prosperous and meaningful life for themselves; no matter our stations in life, we can rise above, have victory and claim our truth, sharing this truth with others. This is what I've dedicated my life to and I found my home at Lund, in helping other families through their journeys. Adoption and Forever Families' journeys don't just end on their adoption day or permanency day in court, it's only the beginning to a lifelong journey of healing and building resiliency. Lund Post Permanency Services support families with the education, training, skills, resources, teams, and advocacy to establish their sense of security in their permanency as a family. I used my scholarship to pursue something greater than myself, and I cannot think of anything more I could be blessed with. It is my hope that you seek within your hearts and souls, the deeper purpose of how special the Post Permanency Services Program is, that exists in your own state, communities and probably even families surrounding you, you never knew, that have had Lund's loving and touching hand. Please increase base funding for Post Permanency Services programs by \$300,000.

My sincerest heartfelt gratitude for your special work on behalf of Vermont's most vulnerable families,

Katherine Boise