

Desi came into our lives after a long journey of infertility, and a deep longing to become parents. We found Angels through a friend and thought the program was incredible. We were asked to meet a little girl at the Polinsky Center. She was 13 months old and had been there for over 70 days. She was the youngest of 5 siblings already in the foster system.



Desi's Story

*"We met her in the lobby
and that was that.
We never looked back."*

We had a fairly typical 2-year term of fostering, before the county court system made it possible for us to adopt her, and it was absolutely worth it. Angels made the entire process smooth and were supportive every step of the way.

Desi is such a precious gift to our lives. She makes every day so special. She is thriving in school, gymnastics, and swimming and has the gift of touching every heart she meets. Our hope for anyone considering fostering a child is that you will open your hearts and accept the gift that a very special child will give you for all eternity.

*–Jennifer and David Abney,
Angels Foster Parents*



*"The love and compassion
this agency has for children
is truly exceptional."*

*– The Cooper Family,
Angels Foster Parents*



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Angels

foster family network

www.angelsfoster.org

The Problem

There are currently more than 4,500 children in the San Diego County foster care system, more than one-third of whom are under the age of three.

Due to a severe shortage of available foster families, these children are frequently placed in overcrowded homes. In addition, placements in traditional foster homes are often temporary – the average foster baby under the age of 12 months will live in three different locations in the first year of foster care.

The transient nature of more traditional foster home placements creates a high risk for a child to develop Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). When early attachments are broken, the development of trust and empathy is hindered, putting children at much greater risk of entering the criminal justice system later in life. In fact 80% of prisoners nationwide have spent time in foster care.



When the bough breaks, our wings are their cradle.

The Angels Solution

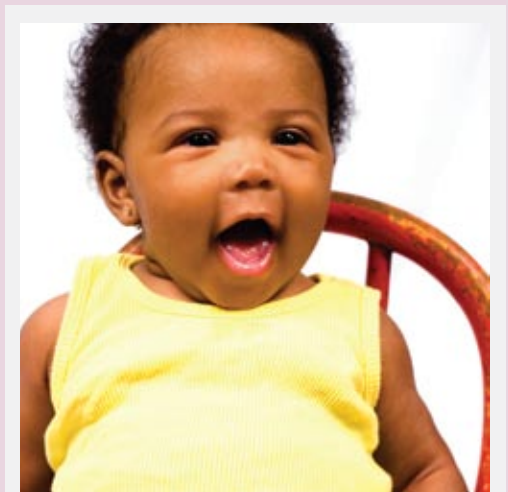
The distinctive Angels Program is the only San Diego County licensed foster agency that focuses on and exclusively meets the critical need for babies from newborn to 24 months old to bond and attach to one set of caregivers.

Angels screens, trains and matches each baby with loving parents who commit to care for them until the court orders family reunification or adoption.

Each Angels Family:

- Fosters only one child (or sibling group) at a time, ensuring individual attention to each child's special needs
- Has at least one stay-home parent for babies under 18 months
- Commits to caring for a child until the court makes its final placement decision of reunification or adoption
- Undergoes extensive screening
- Attends 24 hours of specialized training
- Receives active support from an Angels social worker

Change a life - become an Angel!



Earn Your Wings

We invite you to join the Angels “family” and earn your wings!

When you support Angels you help to:

- Provide for the care and nurturing of San Diego's foster babies in a way that is not being addressed by any other public or private San Diego agency
- Teach young children to bond and trust
- Prevent a child from facing life in the criminal justice system at an annual cost of \$49,000 for a youth in the California Youth Authority
- Give a child an opportunity to break the cycle of abuse and neglect

Through your gift, you will positively impact the lives of the most vulnerable of all foster children - the babies.