Fatina Wilson ([10:51:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MzG19P8Z9g67g6UwrB_9OJlWQx6kggyriC0_es1zfW178-j57E0r9BfCALsIvujCdMyW_hQRDwez6bns20crFmqxr1k?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=0.03)):

Fatina, F-A-T-I-N-A. Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N.

Preston ([10:52:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0375hAdTKEmsDfziccJ59zkJA1KtrGOU93v4jr5jzfGB-pUV2eoeq4nKK6sfyXgSOA9JVCad3cdijAoJierm0vy8PWQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=7.47)):

Great. And just tell me a little bit about your home, who do you ... And I know we don't want to use names, but just if you want to just give me a synopsis of you got a happy, healthy, energetic home.

Fatina Wilson ([10:52:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_lvudkkcZGCmnj9SfLnqqZYDbiNORk-iKorhLawFJqu-fEqVKFVzr3yfNBz7MP766aDogGnl788N3HC_RT2idwKhy5s?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=17.79)):

I have a, yes, a very happy, energetic home. I have a total of six kids, five girls, one boy. And then actually you could add in an extra girl, because we have a dog.

Preston ([10:52:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/d0W09XUXpX7tMyLJvekRESPrRnWAivSh2IRoVQM58RzG2uDH0vcAgfXvyntEvCLjAbEA2QssCEueLQA-TiWBBN0uiiQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=30.81)):

And you're just going to keep looking right at me. If you wouldn't mind, just tell me a little bit about what is it like to be a foster parent? I'd love to just hear a little bit from your perspective.

Fatina Wilson ([10:52:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/owFxGX5pr6IVzbA3YPNZknoQY9mHOBIuTNYFop7b5cE57GKTbPKLyUl5xQ0LSNszoDWG9PHcRL4ncQms4rA8QvPRl7g?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=42.24)):

From my perspective, being a foster parent, I think I first started off just thinking I'm going to be here taking care kids while they're going through a rough patch in their life. Through my transitions of being here of different kids coming in and out of the home, I realized it was more than just that. It was literally being a parent. It was literally showing love, teaching them love in a different format that they're used to. But most importantly, helping them get through some healing process that they were having a hard time understanding. For me, as a foster parent, I think I'm more of the voice that they have but are afraid to use. And at the same time, just introducing them to another bigger family so they know that they have family out there that still loves them.

Preston ([10:53:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0PXENuEaHCy4u4WVmwwnH3afNS7qyTawYawdJfsDEKDlXvzzEbAIxmN-rk7fymtMqWltv2N4x93ZNBwd9cEkx2nSR5Q?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=90.78)):

In a lot of ways you're probably their biggest advocate.

Fatina Wilson ([10:53:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/IoGeVfnIlvuAKfvGXv5NXx8B70bBraw0rDBaCWYDmAkA7Fi79nfCi197__KUsR1qLxkWHF-XbviJw8U-5OivlLFFnRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=94.11)):

Yes, you have to, as a foster parent you have to be the biggest advocate, because we're here for the kids, it's for them first. And so, the advocate means education, health-wise, counseling, any services that you feel that the kids need that's going to help them live what we consider a normal life. We don't want them to feel like they have this title over their head as a foster kid. But to feel like they're normal. They're just at home with their regular mom or dad. And so being an advocate means that I have to speak on things that make others uncomfortable, and sometimes we have to be uncomfortable to be comfortable.

Preston ([10:54:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/uVBZlmmxUgsS1ELEjYpIROtuuXRaKlwPqLc2VcPPRMyjfhoKS0m3bGypOWnS_QKpce18_VTq4FgUi6MICoBiDVWlvqI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=134.76)):

What's your favorite part about foster parents?

Fatina Wilson ([10:54:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ymCVWED9mqVSu1YxQRYc6bHv8Eadvgiab6hesmqIV1hSI-UMX-jxZTYsmpB165Zg162QAMwcSjCvcfmKjywbqO96ZWw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=139.38)):

What is my favorite part? I've never had nobody ask me that one. I think my favorite part, I will say is being able to include my family into this. Because they have been my biggest supporter throughout these seven years of being a foster parent, that they have taken every kid that I've had in my home and embraced them. So all the kids have always called my mom, grandma, my sister, T.T, aunts, cousins, and being able just to say, we have this huge extended family.

Preston ([10:54:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/yPh6l-hrwr3D4Jv4g1eF7mXtH6-NkU3Qb6Eg2f_XY76K-ZhCTO-l8eFkPF_Lg726SAhYFzBQZRhkL8NuUICP6akoZqI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=172.71)):

Yeah. I would love to know just a little bit more about what is it like for your family to ... As you're bringing new kids in and kids are leaving and just the integration process of bringing them into a family?

Fatina Wilson ([10:55:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EJD2OM6hzHDEWcjaQe-5XjznTkpYb5JacTMGklnbxvn0KujOzcITulSGvSb-squsO2LAuu7AXl0zcijJRFNlytUN6jU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=186.45)):

I think the first initial shock is, "Oh boy, this is a lot of kids." You went from having no kids to now six kids. But after that initial shock is they want to generally get to know the kids. Like, "What's your name? What's your favorite color? What do you like? And I'm T.T., and don't have me have to come over there and get on you." It's that type of feel. And even those that have left my home, my family continues to ask about them. We see them regularly because there are sibling visits that goes on or I just check in with them. They become part of the family. They are at every family function. They are at every birthday party, Christmas, everything. And so, we include them as if they generally were born biologically into this family. So, it is fun to see my mom get excited to say she has grandkids and say how many grandkids she has. It's fun to see my little cousins grow up with more cousins to play with and build these memories that they probably didn't even think they will ever have.

Preston ([10:56:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/VIDPZ9GXMuj-PYh5AdkxQpa88gBlriQcELtDz5oHK4vFUNBUJhxVTxPlOy1F3Z--FkjC1Lapfk9PQ5IJE5_TAzapcik?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=254.01)):

Yeah, tell me a little bit about the bonding process of your kids with the other kids in your family, and I would just love to hear a little bit more about that?

Fatina Wilson ([10:56:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/YYQmN1LNFUfSSYpQoMPdG66aP2gd32BMRfYTghy91bBbhdFn7pYs60MgpJxL_JnLN-JdBgcPCXF2pK1tcdAH5aGM_Tg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=262.98)):

What we do is, my family gets together almost every month for something. And so when we go over to a family member house, I immediately introduced my kids into the family by saying, "This is your cousin, this is your aunt, this is your uncle." I don't give that, "This is Mrs. Sam. No, this is T.T. Sam." That way they automatically feel like they belong. And so I think when kids start feeling like they belong to something, it's easier for them to adjust. And so now they looking around going, "Oh, that's cousin Jeremy. Oh, that's cousin Bryan." And they get excited when they see them, because they remembered that that was the cousin that they met that first time and took them in and played with them and didn't make them feel like they were an outcast. And so they bond pretty well. They play video games together. They're outside flipping together, throwing the ball together. They're watching out for each other.

Fatina Wilson ([10:57:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ErwEZw2ve6muvFO7Ev3EcKbDllY6vukXbyOjFStF_OeKj8VQMgRgIjbIIp1hIGbfoIxukOEH8LT764TwuU020tUy6bY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=318.84)):

And that's what I love to see, that they actually help protect my kids when I'm not around. If they're outside playing and some new person come around and they go, "Wait, that's my cousin." It feel good to know that I have family that looks out for them just as much as I do.

Preston ([10:57:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/zPL4W7JzxBmsgnehLb315pfYIYnjoyM6GNZyXrdFngCZdp11FjBrBrIekU2bRkUdatIhaTPTRSxKNFrHVj15cNS3dFY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=338.25)):

You refer to them as your kids. I'd love to, just tell me from your perspective as, I mean you're there, you are providing for them. And you were their mother. Just tell me a little bit about them coming in and they don't know you at first, but you build those relationships and the bond and then they actually feel like your kids?

Fatina Wilson ([10:57:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/AnFRBvUVmuOxTlIUtW6p5Z8TfZDmfrf0rzyqPwujUmWaN5oQp8mY56aVDYVNH_LSDVEpezwEWKjP-4C_iF09vjI8aqQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=355.65)):

Yes. When I get kids first in my home, of course I introduce myself as Ms. Tina. I don't force a kid to call me mom or call me T.T. That's to their comfort level. My name is Ms. Tina. When they come in, I introduce them into whoever else is already here in the home. I give them a tour of the home, show them where their living space is. We talk about the expectation and rules in the home. I find out what their favorite colors things is. So we could together, decorate their rooms. I want them to feel like they have some ownership of their own room. And from that we go into, "This is a family. I don't separate no kid. This may not be your biological sister, but guess what, in this house, this is your sister. Because when we walk out this house no one knows that this is a blended family." All they see is that, "Hey, that's the woman with a lot of kids." And so I treat everybody that we're all one big family.

Fatina Wilson ([10:58:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UjcphCL7dTibEoLG4TGx-rIrGuRPGF8MnlZ179DRbPTrSzAbuNufFn3CdYEfQAuqIXWorjozX66gkdQyNYPu6eRXZ30?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=413.4)):

And over time the kids get comfortable and they start asking, "Can I call you mommy? Can I call you T.T.?" And I tell them, "If you're comfortable with that, I'm comfortable with that. But you don't have to." And so I think every kid that I've had in my house over these seven years has called me mom. So yeah, they're my kids.

Preston ([10:59:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/5P2-NOAoNVxUeypeLESR13n3SUunOhnqO7ddlBpRvEnbSJDhTTvCcELp08MnbEvsAuJKVHmr_VpxunYhMvik-pl_lcg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=432.78)):

You've touched on just some of the challenges with identity and the sense of belonging that a lot of children in the foster system face at a young age. Can you just speak a little bit to the general challenges that children who are in this situation are facing in terms of their sense of belonging or community or family?

Fatina Wilson ([10:59:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jHITTvcCtehfAXweuZ8nLW-lO4msuTKmIP4AU4gZxD7lYk1mvpIXJYP8UunlXwNUoU0SGnAEeYU72R1m6xkzvzhvJYs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=450.39)):

I think they face it, because one, first of all, they're ripped from what they know. And then they're placed in that unknown environment. They don't know who's going to be there, how many people's going to be there, how they're going to treat them. And then sometimes they have to be rooted to a new school. So, now there's another challenge of being the new person and not feeling like everybody's going to look at you and know that you are in foster care and you don't want them to know you're in foster care. That challenge they have for just trying to maintain their own identity. But at the same time trying to fit in that people don't recognize that they're in foster care.

Fatina Wilson ([11:00:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/aNmsN2uwBpjiKERJjmjkHn6gDMmCz64FMMMyzH2hJ0a1aGnPmVCcqa0s53_lnidYaJcaiZUPJWitTxFFvMIYlrU-sNc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=486.75)):

I think one of the biggest things that I try to do with my kids to remind them of, "You're just as normal as that person next to you. Because you never know, that person next to you may also be in foster care." But to remind them that don't look at this as a sad time. Look at this as a time where you are healing. Your mom and dad are healing and we're all working together just to make sure you get back to a safe place." And so with that we use ... Well, I try to use it as a means for them to understand that it's okay to feel the feelings that you feel. But let's talk about it. And so when we talk about it, we can identify who you are more and connect you into these pieces of the puzzle that fits best for you.

Preston ([11:00:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ONqFXL2s2XNWm6BrJwcbdhuCHdoWnO5AmncrkuyFu20DQZoq_5cFhn9QoDy16yx1dRC65y0u5-x0yLMzrXYLfBNfg8c?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=533.1)):

I would love to just know, and you've already touched on a lot of it, but I'd love to just talk about it again. But your philosophy in terms of when you bring children into the home, what are you really ultimately trying to provide for them in terms of care as a mother?

Fatina Wilson ([11:01:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/8vK3CVzutkMJZqQ0KEb2cfRjNnGI8o-vr2GgInXKopqtpBFqKBQP9jvLLtxUwjifSSuYPpNvWt2cikd_7yWx9lfYguY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=548.04)):

For me, I think I'm trying to provide for them a different aspect of what loves look like. Because apparently they're in foster care because something wasn't connecting. And the love that they got was in political, scientific, and whatever I say, see it through, wasn't the right love. And so I want them to be able to see what love truly looks like. That love does not have to hurt. Love does not have to make you feel ashamed. It does not have to make you feel like you can't voice your opinion. I try to just make sure that they understand what safe love looks like. And that way if they're ever in another position where they feel unsafe, they feel strong enough to say something to someone before it gets too far. I try to just make sure that my kids understand that my goal is not only to just love you, but to make sure you're safe. But I'm also here to listen. I want to hear what you have to say. Because as an adult I can learn too.

Fatina Wilson ([11:02:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/VwQy2jgDdR4FGzVo1CUirFHDgt32pjTlk-TlS5oog4356VSO8bm7umU01-PjN1kZgmqDA6gvtWLDMcmuQjF4uNUYIs8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=616.86)):

And I've been teaching my kids that too that sometimes as adults we make mistakes, and it's okay, but we learn from our mistakes and we go back and we correct those mistakes. I make it a habit of not only showing them love, but showing them that I can make mistakes and I can apologize to them as well.

Preston ([11:02:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MGweP1YcY1P3q1a1FwThivAfs5wKAs7kBlJ8W_Z9hhjrqh5B58bQ3hoXeq0a0lElcR9eR_J_dZNxijdzc6um7OBA2CM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=633.75)):

How important do you think structure is to the children? They might be coming in from a place of not having anything and you are providing love, but you're providing love with discipline in all of those things. What have you seen in terms of transformation with kids and running them in a way that's giving them structure?

Fatina Wilson ([11:02:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/3kuF77y8FiQin7iU2uoy450KFclp6h0hwiZ0aFdSTUAUWw06vuL4dHm-_1pkKWZ0tdDlM2E2eAi6KPzp9s1tfhro3mI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=653.64)):

I've seen kids do some turnarounds. I had a teenager in my home who, I'll be honest, I was like, "I do not want this teenager because of the behaviors that she has already had." But everybody kept saying, "You could do it. You could do it. You'll be the one, because you do have a structured home." She came in during that pandemic, so everything was still on lockdown, kind of sort of. And they were still on homeschool. She came in with a GPA freshman year, high school, straight F's. Thought she was going to continue to roam the streets. And I was like, "Hey, in this house I lock up at this time we have a bedtime. We get up at this time, we eat breakfast and we're off to school."

Fatina Wilson ([11:03:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/PVhnYqxZpyzF0dhlkgdthW4f497jnRTBjtJy_aOTTtBo4PvDZSmLFzOs7v2h5jNs1A3vIeKDFLs4SfPuov2kpu8WC6E?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=702.06)):

Providing her with that structure, I saw her change. She was not sneaking out of my house. She was being respectful. She asked to go out with friends. I gave her a curfew, she got back on time. She got up every day for class and went from F's to straight A's and started enjoying school. And I saw that change in her and everybody else saw that change because of the structure that I provided for her. It was something new, but it was also something she still struggled with. Because being a teenager, she was used to, "I get to do what I want."

Fatina Wilson ([11:04:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/dMSW7oraK6vB9FPxudUhzRKyBreQiP5UdAGatgUhcMt_0GIw0umI4ww2yj2RgWvTCuYqplcmdctRHS9zuxRmWgDk6ck?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=735.12)):

And so that was hard for her. At times we struggled, but we had conversations. But I knew that eventually it was going to break her, that she was like, "I got to get out," because that's what she was used to. But I feel good to know there was a piece of me and that time span that she was here that she took hold to. That the last time I heard about it, something mom said that she said, "You know what? Miss Tina was the best foster parent that I did have."

Preston ([11:04:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0YJReOdxbvEz2igcXZQEE6diwgqplpY-sH583tI0q3X3ntovo4PWGbQtBVlNkod4wnCxkQjzHBr3QWPlCMpfEEqfIOc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=764.01)):

I would love to just know the emotions that you feel as a foster parent when you start to bond with these children and they become your kids, right? And knowing that you're working towards permanency, but the goal is reunification or adoption through permanency. But permanency through adoption. But can you just speak to some of the difficult emotions that as a foster parent you face?

Fatina Wilson ([11:05:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/KwtttltUV-GVmUiRVixgzH21z8do4ZMO7GjwDHVLi-ca4_LYxPNJt5o2Sczo8GgwoUMjEv2pj-bRax7JP5d0USRLLLc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=791.1)):

As a foster parent you go through a lot of emotions. You go through those happy moments, those sad moments, some angry moments, those frustration moments, those nervous moments. You hit pretty much every emotion. Bonding with the kids, of course, your heart warms up. Those are the best emotions. When you're creating memories and you're seeing that they're growing. And they're taking hold of some lessons that you taught them, those are the best memories. But then you have those emotions that make you go, "Why am I doing this? How can I continue to do this?" Because of the frustration or the ease of feeling like someone's on your back looking for you to do something wrong. I think throughout all the emotions, to sum it all up, it's still positive. Because at the end of the day you're looking at kids that whether they get to go back home reunification with their parents or permanency through adoption, you did something right.

Fatina Wilson ([11:06:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/OWmTnxL9Aaet0CGFfCzLhWDpE5GVO8w1tULMXGQZ6_5UYACaBqxeSH6jAcrY_7ce1Z68xkGXDJwS7dxC7iLIVxjryxg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=853.89)):

That they're in a place that they're going to be safe and they're going to be loved. And if you have that strong enough bond, you're going to forever be part of their lives. And so for me, I think the emotions that I'm always feeling is blessed, is blessed. I went through a period of time in my life where I didn't think I'll ever be a mom. And it took my aunt to say to me, "You're going to be a mom one day. You're going to have so many kids that you ain't going to believe." But she said she never thought in this capacity. And so, to be able to now say that I have many kids, I'm blessed, just blessed.

Preston ([11:06:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/5LLFHJJhGzb00B-HhG4H5gdgf8xbd6Pe1il1s21FDEf3hZ4nGFWXZLCWHuH84xkcMDpDyJEVsdTZ7DkRkSCdb4P90eA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=893.76)):

I would love to just know to whatever degree you're willing to share just the story behind why you wanted to become a foster parent. Why was this something that you wanted? It's hard work, you just said it.

Fatina Wilson ([11:07:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/mtW0e0Eloem8Yqk3INOrKH7NHcjtpz-9tbVKGrukJT_tRUAdFEH3zye44LCQY-zZNg5SdQ9pdGkYvhYtSHTqJp45UOo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=903.24)):

Yes.

Preston ([11:07:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/d5zc3cfVPezKmGbR9ayVtmBS97MgTzeH71_U-3x5e5cYsEh3mvftla5fGmx4iYTKacSSNHbwkRT4p4iCEnLP5jeUpc8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=905.31)):

How did you get into it or why did you become interested?

Fatina Wilson ([11:07:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/PD-LUv4ixi0CFFN4mUi9Ta1vs5ejVx8TIOHZJySoA-zya3d0hDBu09w4eXkw_P7rYkDIaD7OfvoQWX_XpyW_lKW1894?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=909.93)):

After I got married, of course, you get married, you decide to start a family. I knew it was going to be difficulty, so I went through infertility, got pregnant, was so excited. Water broke at 15, 16 weeks, lost my daughter right after birth. So, we started again and again and again and again. Had several pregnancies and miscarriages that I was like, "I need a break. It's time for a break. This is emotional and physically draining." I went back to work, threw myself back into work, but still had that urge to, "I want to be a mother." So, we looked into, someone did say foster, and I was like, "I don't want to do that. I just lost a child. How can I foster a kid and then I got to give it back? I don't think that's for me."

Fatina Wilson ([11:07:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/6JtF8ub8X34UA7OATvvhAIiBbbS1u0WrIHBrDLH138c14r7G9qvgYVALvkGluBIwDRIZNgqZKJYYj5IlE16AZX-4oVc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=960.93)):

So, we looked into adoption. Did not know adoption was going to cost you $40,000 and up to adopt a baby. And I was like, "But y'all keep saying there's all these babies to adopt, I got to pay you?" And so did it go for me. Tried to raise money for it, and I was just like, "You know what? Let's try again." Did fertility again, and it just didn't work. And so in 2011 I had a full hysterectomy. And so I was like, "Okay, what now, God?" Was working at Le Cordon Bleu, and we were closing. I was like, "What do I want to do?" And it hit me, and it was foster. At that same time didn't know my husband at the time was thinking the same thing. And he ran across the ad on Facebook about SOS and fostering, and I was like, "This can't be true." I called, looked it up, and it was true. And it led me right here. Seven years later I'm still here.

Preston ([11:08:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/VFT1cHQSxwb0GgwIAGx8bKpb_nV2UqDKk872GQTgDsCW5Unz5I8T0AO4rz31zS28SM3eqWLaNC_OSYKMf4K_JpqXovo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1019.67)):

And so you had the thought, "This can't be true." Tell me a little bit about SOS and that one family. And what is unique about the model and what did you see and what just felt unreal about it? Hold on one second, just we'll let the rumble of the train.

Speaker 3 ([11:09:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/YqqOtO6vdNAPpaZZeKBuzQ83nQjInsQh7n7s08FN-kasnQWkU3Q9f2u-1Wfc7tdlV_pPOwixIUNCTI0nREJKrQUpDFQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1039.95)):

Okay.

Preston ([11:09:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-INh22PeegW8pPvYAEKkS4oxRyLaMmjt_7dPzv1l50NAfVrk0MnWcBlUMYmDnzSXwB1LYFSxIefmwqzGEj_NJp5vLuQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1040.13)):

Okay. So what was unbelievable about SOS/ One Family [inaudible 11:09:22]?

Fatina Wilson ([11:09:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/j20iHHn7oLWaLED_7XRz7vejpOKEbe54s8rN57fZmsnp8S-jysk6LDUVuAkOZ7d3bqKMCNF-MiCMdA1jvsek33eTtCk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1044.69)):

What was unbelievable was the ad, it said, take up to six kids, live in a house rent-free, no bills, drive a van, no bills for that, get paid benefits. And I was like, "How? Who's doing that?" But as I researched and looked at it in myself and realized the model was taking six kids was keeping siblings together. I come from a family that is huge. And I was raised with my siblings and I know how much fun we had together. And I couldn't imagine having to be separated from my siblings. And so that for me was the seal deal. Like we're keeping the kids together, that's good. Not only are we keeping them together, but we're providing them home where they still feel like they're in a family unit was important.

Fatina Wilson ([11:10:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/YQ5-Y75QQHV2ADe-NMxxgAFaF6yvNjjbB9EzqEhvYMXh0pvIMmkO0v2p-ojOmh77-GSU3gbiq-EvPKfdV8MttgTtjfA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1096.59)):

And so for me, I just think One Family does a big deal of making sure that doing the hardest time of these kids' life, we at least try to keep them together. Whether they're in the same home or in the same village, but they're still connected. Because as siblings they know what each other are going through. They can relate to each other better than me as the foster parent can relate to. And so, after doing the research and going, "Okay, I think I can do this, I can go from no kids to six kids," and knowing that I have the support right here on the village, but then the support of my family, it was an easy decision to make.

Preston ([11:10:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Ts2mzhFlyq_qHz3t2KA-wX0gBEnptUyFZdOa_0M2Fp-uKPhTpUIw4rinRiNVMhw5n6EyzKLTg4pxsdlO0TbVaydgubw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1141.92)):

And based on the experiences that you've had with the children in your home, how have you seen the impact of having siblings together play out? Have you actually seen that really produce real solid evidence that it helps them get through some of the mental health challenges that they might face?

Fatina Wilson ([11:11:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Ii3xJm3U3Z6rZ-BwyTfuv8QG0NSwYezpKb-GWvpwf1Sfh_SnI8r_gmzii9GTTrzIkJvDmJMDe7_7pdLgVsTZFZVBG0s?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1158.69)):

Yes, absolutely. Again, because they know their story, they know it better than we know it. We may not even ever know the entire story. But to have somebody that they can talk to that knows that story directly to get them through some of those rough nights, especially when they first get here, sleeping in an unknown territory, I think it helps them. Of course, siblings, you have your bickering, that's what we do. But to be able to still say, "You know what? I don't care. I just got into an argument with my sister, but if someone comes along and say something to them, I'm still going to defend my sister." It feels good to see that they stay connected and know that they have that one person from their family they were ripped from still with them, somebody. "Because mom and dad may not show up today, but at least I still have my sibling here that can give me that hug to just let me know that everything is still going to be okay."

Preston ([11:12:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/CnXr8PiOaQtRH432qv9cMmFzCsK-mMcq-7ksjv4hZ0FZFuSbf8PecHlvK6EwoPZwYM5imclWZraRx-ep4Rk9zU-OQLs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1218.06)):

How do you feel like, and just keeping the word that you've said blessed and you really want to teach them love. Keeping those things in mind, how do you feel like you've seen that your hard work has translated into changing a child's life or at least the trajectory of their life?

Fatina Wilson ([11:12:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/dzFmiaeU1hgt0WkA3nyvVVZlas7KAXtkXczbuj2pywPLsNRm_E1NyKOp7j-6WTAMPnzo_8dEkpobf7mMdE1VLLWimNo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1238.79)):

I don't do it alone. I can't. It's not me that's doing it, it really isn't. I have some hard days and I have to rely on my strength from the Lord and my faith. And so for me, I teach that too within my kids. I have to be their role model. I can't tell them one thing and doing something else. So, I make sure whatever it is that I'm teaching my kids, they see me doing it. If I'm praying, then they know, "Okay, it's okay to pray." If they see me give someone a hug, they know it's okay to give them hugs. So for me, I have to remind myself that I have little ones watching me at all times. And so I try to put on the best that I can. And when I do make that mistake, I admit to it and I tell them, "Hey, mom just made a mistake. I apologize, so this is what I need to do." And I think that's what that keeps me going and keep me grounded to keep pushing the way that I keep pushing.

Preston ([11:13:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/DvuC7JAN73cLK3e3sWtCctp74AKYHVwha3W0SDHi91KU1mRVOlaSNrOA-aGpSk-5F2TVdIJR9r39e6gigtAWl8lkF0c?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1301.67)):

Yesterday when we were talking to you when we stopped in for a minute, you had mentioned that when you want to take the kids outside to play, you have to drive to a park that's far away, and there's many other areas around here that you don't want them walking to alone or whatever. Tell me a little bit about this community and just the need for a safe place for the kids to play?

Fatina Wilson ([11:14:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/eoM57KPL4gsVMOwfMgi11r4QQdc9-WAaouUUSMlYHWokOF4huh2UxPNTNGm8lo82j607eviDYOZVlT6DC95FnOIR2kc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1323.12)):

In this community, we're in an area of Auburn Gresham that's outside of Englewood. So the streets are not the safest. We're safe here in our little cul-de-sac. We're hidden off here in the back, so a lot of people don't know we're here, so it's safe for the kids just to play right here in the cul-de-sac. But we do know they get bored and they want to venture out. But being in the environment that we're in is not the easiest thing to let them venture out into. Because you have the people out that are either driving recklessly, or you have the gunshots. And so, for us to be able to have somewhere safe for our kids to play where we're right here with them, and we don't have to worry about them venturing out of their community and out of their neighborhood, it's a big thing. It shows the kids that we do want something better for them. It shows them that we do really care that they have something that they can feel like belongs to them.

Fatina Wilson ([11:15:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/H1qe1bWP010a0wS8lX7T1YJfDGmOcYAB6k6KnQ73JS7FLR_VccfaDWApsDtrExQaUWEVjL_-h8uDRcUq5EJrFy07qMU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1389.78)):

To see them outside all day. And they're pretty much doing the same thing, just riding up and down the block on their bike, or just standing in the street taking a walk. Just to have them have something to do, it means the world from me.

Speaker 3 ([11:15:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/lQ9p8qL2HtWG7MnOwpx6KXS0cmd1qdqK--CFjvHzJG0MsDXlsW8Q0Q8QVqKZ1K83X-LRbGJ6HOV9PFV3X2wm6i50qxs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1405.17)):

Start that one again.

Fatina Wilson ([11:15:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4_ZiODXuqRIuaJq3Z42MLa4TC31r7bQmIJCXfaF0nWZui_YdCt6CMVgHmzT5C9bViztD8dFl4lEyZ56krvRgS1DpK1U?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1411.23)):

Yeah, that's that guy across the street, I think.

Preston ([11:15:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/udxnaDpxXvkgo0nlolKDfSxRW7Ks6avFeSMSLqOaYn1W2tnIEe5Yrn4O-tvE3vJW-VNRJI4jr4zimvOE7F9e07n6TMA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1414.71)):

Oh, okay. I wasn't sure what it was.

Fatina Wilson ([11:15:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jHFffIQQLgbXnsl3efn5xBr4WG0402b976kb7IcJzOJv4whw4fkzHKeMrGaO9hwSUyfVYbQ0Nq4jw3MlIWizZ5RgJek?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1424.16)):

Yeah, that's all he does. He's just going to drive around. Yep.

Preston ([11:15:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Rcs40ojm3ismgz4oRraWIDBjYYHfrr88zzAQIh2-JBNSgjOnni-mQUdNqFIUNx6lQ_YVu-oNrPlbOSvNDRFayZZa2SI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1426.26)):

He's gone. So yeah, do you mind just giving that answer again. We don't need to do the whole thing, but if you just want to kind of give us an idea of why the place to play would be important.

Fatina Wilson ([11:15:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/D8mUHY5yPVb_Fw-apMGtp0eexQVJm6bV7arzNO5qKnrUAOQ5ohg3pqGXBrY3NLaDqBtpuOzcqt_uJm22coVhRZjJUV0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1440.03)):

It's important just for them to-

Preston ([11:16:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jxBWi3vFc_3b3myQxmh_VRIRS2P4l1Fr6HiRHOEhjusU5a6jMytF6E8D-xaQOM1F8avHS0EtrmzqU07HpXUC-B_Z9Kk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1444.35)):

Wait for this guy.

Fatina Wilson ([11:16:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/LrjIWU30cER5m3GqGA7olweFkWaOpiux6m5_A4P_z6aAo7facotEvXNvs4TbKbKiM6ZTGecG77Zjuv-vWkfIznkQjsc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1444.35)):

Oh, he's back?

Preston ([11:16:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/XUPw_CkDfjGwu4B4rfTpJOBZDwINPygZD_YN7SwjcUHLLDYfiX9CkFeb4S1dvxXsU2mWG8vXKHz0pknltPFtNMZjhQ4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1444.35)):

I thought he had left. He still got that.

Fatina Wilson ([11:16:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/5PlNJqdyGid4-V1SkixL7bonjOrR8o1DVqCbupWXzg-U8iRV3IFG-Bw-98Ugk1T2mEUId5hA1Yrnw-d_QfLMbHfit04?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1448.7)):

Yeah. He's down a block in the alley parking.

Speaker 3 ([11:16:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/IAn3IsgNncjR1ZVUaqy9Jp4mZ50_77wB-_zOWEYodvO8KNBZp2Tzpk7IvkOaGIRRiIUmSmW7X-Ilp3d2hIGsBC1XuUY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1451.79)):

He'll park, right? Stop.

Fatina Wilson ([11:16:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/OHo9I7vmsUYaW9D1oc8o1f8xz8Y_TmrqHKllEKAAV-w8xo4z9CqH05ezhRaKZwkH8arS-i2ogEFL4mclstYNXt8drLU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1452.81)):

He may.

Speaker 3 ([11:16:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/BM81sVWU9zoju7VAd7e4QnSTbfOUo8e_BkQFZllVzVOlDV00ooaCklrbJRlXh9sZ-tlAWK3r_4dQeI0tPcTEc35ugqI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1465.53)):

Sounds good, okay.

Preston ([11:16:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/sRXQX0DjAoNzMw7xrv6L_IoKn7QORij12ZKSHxc91xNFRCE1G0NsMQWB3xVHLflCAYx3Yao5-3ntyfPCaYyKCm8Z4h4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1467)):

Yeah. Thank you. Yeah, if you just wrap up that thought about the safe place to play right here.

Fatina Wilson ([11:16:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qIHW5m3Nfd-QUdZaa9nDv3CTqSaI1_WIyob4M5gsIssssuOlvogYxiYEO10wyixWUftlM_M8tf4fisTIm_0FIKj5_Dc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1476.9)):

It just gives them not only just a safe place to play, but it gives them a feeling that they have something that belongs to them that's right here with them. And not having to venture out into the neighborhood where it's not too safe there. But to be able to feel like, "You know what? Someone listened to us and they finally got it right to make us feel like, 'Hey, our voices was heard as kids.'"

Preston ([11:16:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/5ahY4OkRzvkHqKbj1abI_ACYHKBoexiZ9PPZc4KvaQIat9bCClcVihtZ0OdkArd-PqKwQreS5jfUxIHhm8mI6ekx-C4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1500.81)):

I imagine, and we've heard a little bit about this yesterday too that these children sometimes come in feeling like they have no voice, they haven't been paid attention to or listened to. But how important is it for your kids to know that somebody is there and sees them and hears them and cares about what's going on in their lives?

Fatina Wilson ([11:17:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/OKLQp00mJLEpywzuzUgJMlKXTT0kY5NMSpRhAjzx0ouo2dbsxWCUWDTY3s7o9pApsvDTLYriOIgbQV_LWoIQzYEPJ7o?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1520.64)):

For me, it's very important. I teach that to my kids, because I remind them, "I'm not going to be with you all the time. When you're at school I'm not there with you, so I need you to be comfortable enough to use your voice. It's important for you to know that your voice matters, because your emotions matter, your feelings matter. We can't keep asking you how you feel and we don't take it in consideration. So, I think the kids really love when they know that someone's actually listening. And not only just listening, but taking what they said and actually trying to make some changes. Actually trying to help them figure things out. And so, I always remind them, "Use your voice, because again, mommy's not going to always be there with you, and I want you to be strong enough to know that it's okay for you to speak up. It's okay for you to express how you feel. You can do it respectfully and be heard. And when you're doing it respectfully, trust me, someone's going to stop and listen."

Preston ([11:18:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/vq-qkON0Ii8hy-CkhXUijJXy0ijDlPRQ30VJVz7GWOmlur5XIRGvMQYwl8AD8tW7UGp8gf4Y2w57TK1gFHcvFvML9Is?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1580.22)):

Another part of what makes One Family unique is the in-house clinical therapist.

Fatina Wilson ([11:18:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/y_bqgfCAqqvt7lKc2kU6jxizhNAbQtSPnhrewlezny30kqz6BamkzkO87UkuH5r11yUagRcLASlxEoDsaSg6-5YUmNQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1584.87)):

Yes.

Preston ([11:18:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/W3o77XroHxIiz03E9EPyEiNWoqPDCJyduVVnpX2cMPH27cW3geXNO0lj4AaOF8VgPvGhoTwvjjrU1Dc5ERIopl3_E8w?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1585.65)):

Tell me a little bit about that service and maybe how you found it helpful and helpful for these kids for healing?

Fatina Wilson ([11:18:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JP-iM8fbaCI4A44VfPPmkTiPAKTB23MTPqf7_8zL99Vycpu6gdc-be5qo6IuYKtbu-dY201B1MhggP3t9fEoybgxNS4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1593.81)):

Having clinical right here is very important, because you never know when a crisis may happen. You never know what may trigger an emotion for a kid that may be negative. And having someone that you can call right on the spot to say, "Hey, this is what's going on. How do I de-escalate this? Or how do I get them to express a little bit more about what they're feeling so we can understand what type of help that they need." I love it. I've never had a moment where I wasn't able to reach one of our clinical teams to assist. There was moments where I literally had to call clinical like, "Hey, I got this, but I think I'm becoming overwhelmed now, so how do I turn it off?"

Fatina Wilson ([11:19:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/6jC6aGUpBHBdMnLnvCn2PVFZGoI_MSulq9XzV3SdJqMvqmfC_VWzY7HFt5sVBJAdQub77xoyMftmUhuozJ5vv30HV_o?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1641.18)):

I had a kid, she came in and she just started letting loose of everything and I was just like, "Whoa, this is a lot. And as a six-year-old you've been holding this?" And so for me and as an adult going, that's a lot. And it was too heavy for me to be able to pick up the clinical team for me was helpful to say, "Okay, this is what I need you to do for you so that way now you can turn and help her." I think having clinical right at our fingertips works best. And I think it works best too, because it allows the kids to build a better rapport with their therapist. Someone that they can see on a regular basis, even if they're not having session, but to see somebody that they begin to trust. And that really comes down and say, "Hey, how your day was?" I think that's important.

Preston ([11:20:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Ij5ke8uN0smupWKardS-8PNoZq-qzFa8-FkIvkwxgSZDw8ov5AV3dsaj5FU7JHNTNll4Wq2DutzHP5BRDl9LI8eEs6c?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1692.51)):

Great. Pause just one second for me.

Speaker 3 ([11:20:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/KgUip0KahsBU2MylNRAKAb0PmURwvXCCaCeDsw36z4926g61iPN82YgdhV8Lsni69AFUSNGheOMLBUmbJUijGt-9so8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1693.68)):

Get about 10 minutes on this battery. We can always, if we need to.

Preston ([11:20:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EkUOx0lJpWOFg4-zZ1czrqx5wTofKGQ9pYlQi5JVECIDfu6blCeT9Z7RWKoDKzM0gsoD0EWGWuSVbtRkygP2-Y_QVK8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1702.89)):

Go over.

Speaker 3 ([11:20:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/nKSMIpMJfNtpKO0QkATOPiHh2Ho0Ji_IyGHXP15UKEhkKD2rJY3F5FmJpfjwME5HLs3U5HqnNiRQioJgos7GbVsvFBc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1703.07)):

If we need to go over that, I can pull the battery off the monitor if Peggy's okay with giving it up.

Preston ([11:20:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/eUmjibDb1CzzznI9baocg6qExvnribr5N5MXjuJdXUZix6Sf_CppDhlsXhlvdSqx6JskFcb_gCBLzyOnu3Uf0RXt4_Q?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1709.67)):

Let's just go ahead and keep going for right now. What is the word family? I mean, you've talked about your family and it's clear what family means to you. But just explain to me what family does mean to you? The word family.

Fatina Wilson ([11:20:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/gWTGHSCejG9h3tnF_joLza4PBf4mZxuZKHim8baLZGXAjZctqiGOqACoPBjqdt8Ngx69nhJSzW8rpSa99kPmYngIfaw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1721.04)):

The word family means to me support, love, unconditional love, non-judgment. Just someone that you know in your darkest times they see it without you even saying anything, and they're there right on the spot to help out.

Preston ([11:21:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/76pf4-ymlFy0cg5Y7g6dAj3imTOwQZI6HuNz8SRS757I3PLntTgKxGRncyum3tc_wyFQTaLWp1bs985bMBcwxL-40sM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1743.33)):

And I mean, how does it make you feel to know that you're bringing these children in and you're giving them that sense of family, which is so incredibly important to what they need?

Fatina Wilson ([11:21:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4QVa1UAnFkbi2bJR6B3idPpQLvhJhr1tMaraHR24ZDw3tbKp2aUESCKZwy62stXTLG_HChkgfmROAnXteIsP2K5G7zg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1755.54)):

It makes me feel that I take in the lessons that my mom, my aunt, my grandmother, my great-aunts have taught us. I watched the women of my family take in people into their homes and provide homes and care for them. And so, I think I've finally fallen into the fold of my family that we are general carers. We want to care for someone, we want to make sure someone's okay. And so for me, I feel like I'm doing what was passed down what I was taught to do.

Preston ([11:24:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/WJ8WfAJKPCkf4uBr85N3XtdrVczo8tVohmALLn2KjVk3i7HZkaaxDCU6InhRjvAJiJFEZ0kn_Y0YzXXZqZ-4vLWRX6A?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1795.44)):

Again, let's talk a little bit about more about community. We're just coming off your answer about you saw this growing up with your mom and women in your life. And so this is just something that you feel called to do and you're passing it on. That community though is, I mean these children are coming in from situations where they feel completely alone. So, now they can be with their siblings. They're part of this immediate home and this community. Tell me about how important that sense of community here at One Family is with all those layers of protection and people that care?

Fatina Wilson ([11:24:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/9W5BgiLx8Uu1HVcwUOZrnVV2E0k6ftbEQIqVPWaU0eslr-WgyJYOONlvT30yz77sHkajGM1__E0H_UCWQlVytr4LYAs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1829.55)):

I think that that sense of community is important. Because we want our kids to feel like they belong to something, that they're not just isolated. That they still have this big support around them. Because they're coming into an unknown environment and in this unknown environment, they may have already come from an unknown environment that wasn't great. And so we're trying to change their mind that foster care looks differently. It can be a positive effect, it could be a loving effect. It could be some great memories that you're going to one day share with your children. The community that we have here from our caseworkers to our therapists to our administrative assistant is great. Because everybody knows the kids. We truly get to know all the kids on our village and in our community. But I love the fact that we're not just isolated as a village that just consists of foster care.

Fatina Wilson ([11:25:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/o0NE0Qww0i7zOmvl0DlJyFzpZNXqYiW10AT-c315KOTDxFrDt9erhoYViqOlyJSYvgrqeWyHsibmrB25xWtyjZRxuck?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1891.5)):

We're within the community with other residents. So, the kids get the sense of just being in a neighborhood and not feeling like they're being pointed out to be in foster care. And they get to play with other kids that lived at home with mom and dad just as well as they live at home with the mom and dad.

Preston ([11:26:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/xbJJ7G6mjUMXS_TqGFGLGfvS2x-KysufItS28Tnd1CO6uxGL-ziUs66W6z7XZUsPnf_WdqNJuZRKGv4KZNp-xq-l4-k?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1910.73)):

Excuse me. Let's talk a little bit about the playground coming in. So sorry, lost my voice all of a sudden. The need for them to have a spot that they can play outside. Tell me a little bit about how important that's going to be? I mean, we've touched on it a little bit, but how excited are the kids and how's that going to really make a difference for these kids here in this community?

Fatina Wilson ([11:26:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/dF199vappYq9qSqMiOYlet8I0SJD9eT6te87VmJFGkSxBYgYUJ3FqcZIIysNI-2PWzz4afg8H6-b48s_JOZQiRNlr0I?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1935.84)):

I think the kids are more excited the fact that not only they're getting a playground, but they were asked to help design it. That they actually had an input to what they playground could look like. Because it allows them to go, "Oh my God, we helped did this. We helped do this." I think it's important for them to feel like they finally have their own space. They have of course their rooms in their home, but a playground as a kid, you felt like that was your place. That's my spot. You run. And I'm definitely, that's my swing. I'm getting all the other swing. That's the swing. I think it is so excited for them to be excited about something new. But more excited because they had a part in it. They felt like, "Hey, we got to draw up and say this is what we want. This is type of swing. We want to do this or do that." And again, it finally gives them a point to say, "Hey, guess what? That's our place. That's our spot right there."

Preston ([11:27:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/mGbIc8nM7f8ucpLjm9YlLddd3fRgeS2CFnwzBwP4_QZcDykQ65nnvED-FtF4RyOoqjg7Q606nD8aEhhbwtjjd1YSVSw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1997.61)):

On the 19th we're going to see a whole community of people come in.

Fatina Wilson ([11:27:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/PEJlbBTqMBZE9Uam5D9Uxech5RKr-pxAYMuSjnxlcNiKQEUe2sMINn1hnnomVkznlEn9jLhtBAw670R-NmDDaBi7UjM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2000.49)):

Yes.

Preston ([11:27:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cYwEcDmaowoRvoQnkP7Z5zIXA2WIjmdbN_LeSxWNiXbIQKoRSILuG-yhGv513kjNTSbbPQGLKqoGNVpA2fUUT8T6v1w?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2001.42)):

Travelers is the sponsor for the playground. Can you just speak to why it's important for Travelers and other companies like Travelers to partner with One Family, to show that these kids, that there is a community of adults that care for them?

Fatina Wilson ([11:27:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/tLYNiQWLunSpzyyguv05JPOuEQE76xtJcwYve_hNy-qK7Qguo_Kt3zetkW0OWGoNT-jAEfr7p7CCS6TP44_-ELMFmh8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2015.79)):

I think it's important, because we can't do it alone. There's no handbook of caring for any kid, whether it's your biological kid or not. There's no handbook. And as many hands that you can have to help out, it really works. It's important that we partner together, because there's so many kids that are in the system that get lost in the system. That don't get the chance to be reunified with their parents. Or get the chance to have permanency through adoption. They age out of the system and they get lost and sometimes they get forgotten about. I think it's important that we pull together more to focus on not just the kids that One Family has, but all kids that are in the system. And show that people do care. There's someone that actually does care. That we are genuinely interested in making sure that you understand just because you had a difficult patch in your life does not determine that the rest of your life is going to be that way.

Preston ([11:28:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/M5TCKgUsjIEKtPdVDJgibUpg33VH_6n365TsT1Qkin-DB4InS-vo2oCchboFmo1oDc41ye5fWxbZ49oC1drLRP_cTRg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2082.27)):

And with the name of the organization being One Family, I mean, do you kind of see all of these adults and people coming in to help these kids is just showing them yet another layer of having family and people that care?

Fatina Wilson ([11:29:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QSmc0MKR8gMIl8MRGb_gdvd7Bom5mc-fqtd2MAKZUR-AXA72GdFQl-CIFa8aOeo6tHB1v55gCg2B4YGn_1VvkpsYl6Y?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2094.06)):

Yes, absolutely. Not only just family, but support lifelong connections. You may connect with one person that you may keep in touch with for the rest of your life, where somebody may just come in for a season and that season is just to teach you something. And so for me, yes, it has become one family. We are all one huge family that's here for the same cause. And that's just to make sure that we're doing the best that we can for these kids that's already been hurt.

Preston ([11:29:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/NvkDtAW9_XG6fUfhQY94NVAxHwlYbKGAxe90RZqfhXQZ7eslWG6aK0T0ZsDwL6u7e8yF7e5RwydOQCrm1BgI2krfza8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2123.88)):

And if we could work in the name of Travelers, I'd love to just hear what is your gratitude for Travelers coming in and providing a place for these kids to play?

Fatina Wilson ([11:29:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Wy0d8BufIv7IR5mQYXcFiY3Ac3K6MVD4F4CrPc56ZQvAQgGcVXrUWBJcPgNaYfJ_OZo7_UA5vPpbr6Pc2LDbXsqIdf8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2135.04)):

I am excited, because I remember us talking about this last year. And it was just recently I had asked again. I was like, "Hey, what happened to the whole idea of the playground? We talked about it last year and I know it was the whole thing of just trying to find a partnership." And now knowing that we have partnership with Travelers to be able to finally make this happen, to finally feel like we are actually moving forward into a great direction for our kids is absolutely wonderful. I'm excited to be a part of it. I don't do a lot of manual labor, but I'm excited to be out there on the 19th to help put something together to say, "Hey, look, I did that too." So yeah.

Preston ([11:30:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0GuQil_SQQdQbarJnr3U5-gRo6o2i323L3l2oxlrmYhZx7ruCVpq6DYDqRDWY5cWkAGpN0GY98FPpIzwKRwVMoke6N0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2183.76)):

I want to talk a little bit more about the word blessed. You said that that was an important word to you. You have decorations here in the kitchen that say blessed. And I appreciate you telling your backstory of why you got into foster care. And I would just love to hear your perspective on your desire that you had to be a mother. And now that that is being used in a wonderful way to change kids' lives, kids that are being brought into your home. How does it make you feel to know that you have been blessed with that, the deep desire to be a mother that you had?

Fatina Wilson ([11:31:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/8LYyB6YKdHp38gKhVdi4-qHCX_l7D6jvV1436Lm4sruihHl0rOwOSwoo3JkXeC7VU2rYTSNIrDSXtxp0c83y1VvU-EA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2225.52)):

It makes me really understand my purpose in life. It makes me strive for more. It got me to thinking about what more I can do on a positive side of foster care. We talk about foster care a lot and we talk about all the negative and all the trauma that the kids go through. When do we stop to talk about the positive? When do we give those kids the positive? And so, the amount of trainings that we have to go through, it's all the same thing, trauma, trauma. How to handle kids with trauma, how to help them through their trauma, how do we help them heal if we continue to just keep talking about the trauma? When do we give them a reason to smile? And so for me, I know it was time for me to embark on something else that God was saying, "This is your calling, this is your mission."

Fatina Wilson ([11:32:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EVjP5Y0lEWJDTiHZpXXyN8tCg8gU4Z8y_BkFayk8ZM68dwezHTC_QiYaUt379zQtj80iUywDNeSt_0S3VvxrmiyrZ7I?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2292.96)):

My aunt tell me all the time, "Bless your ministry. Because this is your ministry." I knew it was my mission and my calling, but I also knew it was something else that I needed to be doing. And so in congestion with fostering and being part of One Family, I'm starting another project that hopefully sheds some positive with foster care. Not just for the kids, but for the adults that's involved as well. And get us to start thinking differently about foster care. Because I think once we start thinking differently, things will change. And we'll see more kids coming out with smiles than the hurt that they come out of of talking about their experience in foster care.

Preston ([11:33:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/nAr1lPhFXf0O4m-EegOSeGVOIxMTZmR_XK_d2nGWaWyXNIFQylsTgh55EwESXnq7xS7IoAeRjpvOf-RMpdMXTCp1GJI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2337.15)):

Are you willing to share a little bit about what, to whatever degree you can or you're comfortable?

Fatina Wilson ([11:33:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/o91-jqzHkM0Uidm0uOROufhYKaJY5SB3XX75Bzxf3VTXjr3nsrpM0g_JuQPIx1Hs08z4zCmP_liihVW2NgqOgGTcim4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2342.22)):

You know what, I think I will share it now. Because I've shared it with a few people here in One Family. I am writing a children's book that will actually follow a sibling group through foster care. And it's the positive showing how foster care, going into a home is not all that bad. And so the new book, the first book of the series will be out shortly. It's called Moving Day, and it's three siblings and they get to move into their new foster home. And it ends with the oldest saying, "Hey, I hope this new life is just as great as today was." And so I want to be able to introduce these children's book so the kids have something positive to read about foster care and knowing, "Hey, it ain't that bad." But it also is going to leave some questions at the back of the book that the adults can discuss with the kids and open up some discussions about emotions and feelings. And knowing that there's another book to follow.

Preston ([11:34:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/H68MZdyZTkiN-sZyQ7L_lEI_JebjDNXGhwlFYx0ClQpUgKxdidwkCcCgLya50Fpj9bw1X7XvpFYQqUHTQo-u8I0UcaA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2405.94)):

Just tell me a little bit about what led you to have this vision, or what happens?

Speaker 3 ([11:34:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UR_f_WRq2jJqfdK9FFYvIH-7I73LnEJNAnZoKRRPJbSTxkRgWwA1oVHrd51xMZnC40K8MckjjjZcwz7-twGzh4_URyQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2411.31)):

Okay, thank you.

Preston ([11:34:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/smSyQnFgBeBhKLXH0mfXsFpZe-DbTR5QcZpgn9ocCbi02PJl4GqiTODkYMcf2sVFVG0W18uVnbW_N_spw1QvJZiZSgQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2417.19)):

What started this for you?

Fatina Wilson ([11:34:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ATEGIvCcjkh7Xbgh3cBCbLrSDxJv620oxVqFCYlsfMFNxzdSVebrdStHwsS9mRD1LnzTjM5ymggvFwC80uAYbUi35pw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2420.07)):

At first it was like, do I do a podcast? Just watching one of my kids who is so energetic, loves to be on the camera. I was like, "Maybe I'll do a podcast." But then as I kept trying to maneuver to a podcast, God kept saying, "That's not what I'm telling you. I'm not telling you that. Get a book, get a book." And so, one day I woke up and the story just came to me and I just started writing it out on my phone and I made a phone call to a friend who's a publisher and has children books. And I was like, "Sis, I got this great idea." And she came back, she was like, "You know I was in foster care. You got to do this book." And she got on her computer and rolled out the rest of the story, and it just went from there.

Fatina Wilson ([11:35:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MGWJFlqDCCcLZ3taH7CaFRMHG12fnxcx09lwexbvWc4rXlVMACfJIBGI8ulJ4rpb_YvitfRSSUD7Dfi20P-ihHcaTv8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2465.37)):

And so every day, if a story comes to me, I'm jotting it down. So I have 10 books already jotted down. I read the first book to the kids and to see my kids get excited about it and was able to relate to some of the things in there, that was the decide, "Go for it. Just do it." You got to leap out on it, take that risk. And I'm super excited about what's to follow with it. I'm hoping to be able to let this book not only just stay with One Family, but to get it out to other agencies, let it be part of a training activity. So that way, again, the kids know that there's not all bad experience that you hear about foster care, there's some good things. And then they have a book that they can relate to. And I think that's most important. And I haven't seen anything that they can relate to that doesn't just constantly talk about the trauma, but give them something exciting to think about.

Preston ([11:36:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4lwjOQT6LhMlbpBR07VBTM--zLbEBdnZ_sfljJZ8esf7jJ3_A1wmXC2DOJ1cchFd1eJWrJZHpGfoKhvOziEYCWCqpm4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2526.12)):

So your friend, you have a publisher, so when will it release? You're at that point?

Fatina Wilson ([11:36:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Bfr_uujgnwScKYCQv3v_QLcKmpQQ-a6nA_A76Fv45P_1goTs1bhax5dza5kO4iindeWPi1NY5026FTegMQlxUlhQ1Pc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2532.18)):

Yeah, we are at the copyright point right now. Illustrations have been done. Books have been ... Yeah, we're really close.

Preston ([11:36:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/PO3J2xFncHluvS6ERtaxFOVf7u2Jq6_F_vJ7G7unZT5KhSFe_FU7znok1EH-RFNkZXL2PVbK0Njk_E5lrH5KzYVOUzg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2542.02)):

I'd love to just get a little, I mean, I love this whole idea of there's so many positive things that do come out of foster care and all the work that you put into is one of them. And that's really, really, really cool. I would love to just know a little bit more about how that makes you feel to know that you're not only doing this difficult work, but you're creating things. You're starting to go above and beyond and create new ways for this healing gap.

Fatina Wilson ([11:36:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4qaUDH8rbeLWMA74Moz3ATK44izx00FLuna6TUhZRsgpAQKo3efJWLjtv2g_yfV-fEbQt52f39UmMS5qtYUTLYWmWFU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2567.91)):

I think for me, I'm looking to make sure I leave an impact. I don't want to just be like, "Oh yeah, she was a foster parent and she fostered these many kids." I want to leave an impact. I want my work to stand for something. I want it to be known that I just didn't care for kids, but I actually advocated for them. I actually showed them something different. I actually listened to what was going on to help them understand that life, it can be difficult at times, but it's what you make of it. It's how we get through it. Don't give up. And so for me, I look too to leave some type of legacy for my daughters and that they can be proud of and say, "You know what? We may not want to live there. But I'm glad my mom stuck it out and I see why she stuck it out, and I'm proud of her."

Preston ([11:38:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Gc2MntSeXf1BXlmQVkAzS8Oj2zq3GljrLpITDVrCZ9ZpHjwzBTjfrP3hBeOQBglr-sJwdCSk1nLt9a3Y04Xtil7EUPI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2632.2)):

And so let's just touch really quick on, you've had lots of kids come in and out, but you have adopted two. Can you just tell me a little bit about that, how that came about, and your decision to be willing to become a permanent parent to them?

Fatina Wilson ([11:38:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4wuJE7JFkEOxVOPOV6mWBqk7Q0GbrNtJXsOvUXcdZBtaFz5pnrB8LFyYs93nvN7bBM1bQnuBfeGnXSBo86d8hYhDPug?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2647.98)):

Out of my first sib group of six, unfortunately they weren't able to return home. Of course, everybody looks as like, "Are you going to adopt all six?" And the kids actually asked me, they was like, "So, are you going to adopt all of us?" And I had to be truthful with them and with myself, and I had to say, "You know what? I don't know. I have to do what God tells me to do."

Fatina Wilson ([11:38:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/KW4GfQF32gG5fXi_kt9FDlE8-az64qgqdlu7GXQdta5XAiJNXS5N5FKuqMAtAWgoP2CQ4CTWQN3FAEBq4Qo_jV3cMxI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2671.59)):

What I did know was for sure I was going to adopt the youngest, because I had her since she was three days old, so I was the only mom she knew. I was mom. She didn't know she was in foster care, still doesn't know. And so that was an easy one. The oldest, I realized what was going on, and she had came to the decision that she wanted to not go back home anyway and wanted to be adopted. And so she had asked, and again, I still couldn't tell her, yes. For me, I have to listen to what God tells me to do. Because I feel like if I would've just said yes, that would've been selfish on my part and on hers, and I probably wouldn't have been making the right decision for neither one of us. It did not come down until that court date where the goal was changed when I was asked, "Are you willing to adopt the oldest?" And I was able to say yes, and confidently know that was the right decision.

Fatina Wilson ([11:39:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/XrMVgI3TTybelZRA_RUrqTjaLYoLF5GL9pBc6DivOcmOCkII3XFM7TVAME0KAbpHSj6pe6Wot3u1kr0PIdFG4LFM6KY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2728.5)):

Our process took longer, because COVID shut everything down. But it was worth the wait. Because that moment going to court and knowing that it was being finalized was emotional. But the day that became very emotional for me, it was two days. The day getting that birth certificate that had my name on it as mother made it official for us.

Fatina Wilson ([11:40:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/9GSxPDnEBfcP8Jl49Lt5cCe4wEWE6mdYLHZLHU950dU4dyzcIQtOAYrjD40pH84aRJ9Bpxag0IAw8NO8xtMbqIfx_iM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2755.89)):

And then to be able to finally get them passports became another emotional day. And so, adopting those two, I still have to consider their feelings of me being here. I constantly have conversations with them about us still being here on the village. Mom still being a foster parent. And you, yes, still here. People may look at you and say, "You're a foster kid, but you're not, you don't have that title. Are you okay with this?" And I touch in with them because I want them to express to me how they feel, but I also need them to understand that mom's doing work. And so, I'm glad to have girls that understands, and they're becoming role models, so yeah.

Preston ([11:40:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/zA4r7xrRNgsFa184OsUw_jIKMJHFk8YUhI38oNjZsjzCUYTYP7p8eAG3_TzOvU9I0uVOrL4eEe4fAQ-EoAJbYg62ngQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2807.37)):

You had just mentioned the emotions that you felt when you got the birth certificate and the passports and those things that really symbolized the fact that you are a mom.

Fatina Wilson ([11:41:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QdmJsztDMo7gjttZxJyivzrCLFQxCIp3upKJpWZ3D37DOJsE-F5vDdZxffucNYH0DMoKkWt3bzWSbHEMR3p3h0iEm38?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2815.83)):

Yes.

Preston ([11:41:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-GeCsHMWa8qfo4mIBvXdUu5A7XV2VvA3xjaoaxRStzpHhuqxg9dV04AdmlPIMu9asy1D9MV4fQSa5ujh1xyVlG4Ol_k?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2817.15)):

Can you just talk through those emotions a little bit for me and just really just changing the lives of these two girls?

Fatina Wilson ([11:41:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qKFofuxFObdGQ6AM2zmQxUEZLg2FErnUhXwvwwmxI5H0FujINyiwgdPAb58v7pqGjb9sSf7LpdIw6fQxu3E0Xa3KFX8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2825.07)):

So, the day the birth certificates came, I remember I was down here when I opened them. And I looked at it, and I kept looking, and I kept looking. And so I called my oldest down, because the youngest, she doesn't know. I called the oldest down and I gave it to her and she read it, and we changed both of their middle name and their last name. And she read it and she was like, "Is this for real?" And I was like, "Yeah." She was like, "So, we're finally done?" I was like, "We're done." And to just see the smile on her face to finally feel like she's finally free. Because she was tired of the process, she was tied of it being drawn out. And to see the relief off of her shoulders, that brought tears to my eyes. And I think I was more excited for her that day.

Fatina Wilson ([11:42:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FGBa1LYW9jAuExLioZlAY7Wi_WbxpyJ8kufWM0jRZsPQePHfXXCV8O9cyYgfXSXZSX3oAkP-QO_BsC7dxAU8jNKj700?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2876.79)):

The day the passports came was my assignment. Because I felt like as a parent I'm now giving you access to the world. I'm giving you something that most kids don't have, and you can freely say, "I can travel and learn and be about other cultures." And being able to set them up for something better in life. That was, for me, the most emotional day for me. And so it was important that once those birth certificates came, we're going right to get passports, and so for it to finally come and to see them hold them and know that, "Hey, this is your ticket to the world." That meant a lot for me.

Preston ([11:42:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0Zbr4Yqo6i0YfpEe5hkUvGdOjKxCyU4XQEEapqXiqcUyYDg4uhL0YvJKgEnkKF2_VFELYCbTUavm0h0O2cGKw8RFGhQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2921.25)):

Great. One more just really practical. I think I'd love to just go back almost to one of my first questions, and if you could just describe the household, and I just want to get an understanding that you do have four foster children.

Fatina Wilson ([11:43:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UOnC_4lqhC6VuCqzTMSPVp7pu8DkNCQrSlH9Tk0CgCwfusNVaDnjWkqffJOslbo9dDUFjAO_Ol2Dn3TiYj4eVHJ4PF4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2933.85)):

Yes.

Preston ([11:43:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/kPpPKQ44XK4iqreWIu9omicJLFspJZZD9U8DAqa15YxdUe0xPTIrvs_ytaOFrH92HvnBJg3-c3TFUZtXUXgOv0fxuPc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2934.69)):

And then you have your two adopted daughters.

Fatina Wilson ([11:43:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/NH4H_P_7REb1tZ-FPunhQypfYCRzJ5kPdAtWaIoIhnd2osSVAb-HW37UkLV3WkmZ7DYy_OHfYqEgXd4mIc9NDp8YVZw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2936.16)):

Yes.

Preston ([11:43:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jxVRoPMTnZub_RCqYUA0lViwG9ZIfS8Y6gxDL2t571GdmJT3CitbBiUYFzD_1af9zKO9EddfFq-f_xCSakaC2glrrsE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2936.37)):

So again, we don't need to go into names, but if you could just give a brief statement about what your household looks like?

Fatina Wilson ([11:43:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/yFoiwdVch_eBgaTxInUzO9S5XeNlFgiZ93qDN5loDHJCZ-TS0DYinWAiw7O2P2yYE643f5e6GMIF1WzZ1Ex8xfeYb_M?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2942.88)):

My household consists of six kids, five girls, one boy aging from the age of four to 15.

Preston ([11:43:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JLbhUStsQX3fTnPGH_nuA1tsYvdYsGDnD8Wn2-zujk2ZuK8G84Vdg_2uT1QNsFJHvdXYtrBbZ6SQaWWJ24Vwolothmo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2954.34)):

And then just give me a brief statement that you were able to go on to adopt two.

Fatina Wilson ([11:43:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ctoCUqsjWty3KvgYx65v0wBxHgLh27xV_FqtIa2or_evJsguf0B1zfIsG6xRpob7U8InyYfRO9zdG0whC2QGn0SWkcg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2958.84)):

Yes. And so out of the six two are my adoptive daughters ... We don't, and we know of course, use adoptive. We have come up to actually say that they are my daughters through surrogate. So, that's been our little running joke, that they're not adopted. That mom has a surrogate. So I have two of my own and four fosters.

Preston ([11:43:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EMUItePWBeDcelgjaaQ0NURY7eRLO91I8KyYb3SULBh3mKMUxPMyPVK4ZkgLRFamfmFGyVGvVPoVOtUBlmyr-nivtMo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2985.33)):

Let's just talk about, again, this is my last question, and then Peggy might have some thoughts about things, but purpose. You've talked about what your purpose is, so I'd just love to get a direct statement from you and just tell me what is Fatina's purpose?

Fatina Wilson ([11:44:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/uCrGiz05YxI3NcTTc_1dnKflh0wQ6Wxh7QQW350fEbjBEyBNzfPbx_en1Mge7Ci0nbNLeQr5zCQA7Lc8RtvDwslQwAc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3002.67)):

I wore this shirt today, and it actually says, "Mommy with a purpose." My purpose is to be mom. My purpose is to be the loving mom. The mom that's going to get me to get back in line. My purpose is to be mom who's going to teach you life lessons. My purpose is to be the mom that's going to help you understand that you're going to have some rough days, but it's okay. Get up, dust yourself off, and let's try again. I'm the mom with the purpose that's going to make sure that when you leave foster care, you're leaving with a different impact in your life that's going to help you get through the rest of your life. I'm that mom with the purpose of life lessons.

Preston ([11:45:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ZhE05EiaDCS5OEs59d8LF4PMdNe65Ykg_UFSitdi3xUkGsW7ksYOMXJ26BqKpwmCqAvE_SXeQbPm1maRTrK7Jm6oGqM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3063.18)):

Beautiful. Peggy, is there anything that you would love to touch on or any additional questions?

Peggy ([11:45:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/lmfrBUVuoE4c-VHzbUP2XFhvLWUFRhN0Ho_GhJNYHyc7MKJe7cYE-8WO6WMgVseAkxm1bmk9Hnrxoi5GnZm-S9ul59w?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3069.33)):

Sorry, I've just been sitting back here, so I think you could ask it, but I'd love to just hear more about your mom. I mean, motherhood's just amazing. By the way, your story is incredible, because I had a similar experience, so it touched me tremendously. So, thank you for opening up about that.

Fatina Wilson ([11:45:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cJt1BsU1-wAcfX2WqZ5Zb9aa3KRbSTDtq2S62hXzV8MP_pMLTVxafTdRpeP1v4hhKHrmHlyDtdqp3d8WwdkDzLzIXp4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3090)):

No problem.

Peggy ([11:45:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cjN7c0gKFRPutEQy52qzfTdrATxXzXEZlQu8TbTRsUwvK6XjXwzvHvQbWLD1p7ZfDjZ7mZv8h9L6yRziEupkJiyHxoY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3091.44)):

But just motherhood is incredible, and I just wanted to hear maybe some of life lessons that she taught. If she was sitting here, what would she say? Preston, you can kind of riff off that.

Preston ([11:45:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/dFm1JmNSIwklWbTbZTbpXhQxqoV3Qf1RX3bQL6MmboC4B8biEaJ3cr8beypUJ4DpFGrmSDwon7Cxn3aXMWExBcb1DMw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3103.17)):

Sure, yeah, yeah. I'm just going to pause while Peggy sits down, and we're just going to get a little bit of room tone, and then I'll come in with the questions. So, we'll just be silent for a moment. Your mom has been a big inspiration in your life, and motherhood is something that you take that you have a lot of passion for, so obviously that comes from just watching her. And you even want to pass down things to your daughters. So, with all of that in mind, just tell me a little bit about your mother and why has she been so impactful?

Fatina Wilson ([11:46:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/xQFB0OhPpWzwNU7pGunFZwQ6HrOXU6PydgMb_NdOyToNhkuwgSkNhFtznQ7zkLD6eXck65bybaJfsapRvWLg-S7b-BY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3142.92)):

My mother's been impactful in my life, because I watch my mother care for my siblings who are my step siblings. We don't say step, they're my siblings. I come from a blended family. And so to watch my mother step in and help raise kids that weren't biologically hers, taught me that there's no difference between the kids if they're biologically yours or not. Whatever she did for us, she did for all of us. If you got new shoes, everybody got new shoes. If we went out, everybody went out. I watched my mother work every day, come home, pick us up from school, cook, help with homework, and do it all over again. But I also watched my mother take the time out to spend with us. She made it comfortable of having open conversations with her. We were able to just go and have those conversations. And as a kid, you never understood why your parents always said, I'm not your friend, I'm your parent.

Fatina Wilson ([11:47:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JE0XlP53pm-G9sCHl5nYYl5hOXdcJS7M1GnCIdoiOepjM0sSZ6Y2f4pBG5f3IdM0z0ibTuRc8Ise5ZPGbwdDlFb036g?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3217.83)):

I know now. Because now I could say, not only is my mom, my parent, but she is one of my best friends. She's the mother that from the tone of my voice she'd know if something is off, if something is bothering me. I talk to my mom every day. And there's multiple times a day we talk, we video call. So, to just see her put us first, that's all I know is to put my kids first. My mom made sure that we didn't want for nothing. If we struggled, we didn't know, because it was never a moment that we didn't have what we wanted or what we needed. I watch her make sure that we went to school. It wasn't no option for me. It was, "You're going to college."

Fatina Wilson ([11:48:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Ali2ZoJuMpZQO1BSJvO2jLTUKwR8-MZbHSJHCvCSIP5hhGOPn8nEBFcdVlWrmx9gKtc2Le1G1LKHx9yHIQwxppcNyVQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3274.62)):

And then not to be a parent to say, in high school I didn't have to work. It was a option for me. For me, my mom has been the impact that I needed to continue to push here. Because I just recall the work that she put in for us, and she didn't give up on us. So I can't give up. I can't.

Preston ([11:49:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/kmt5cVyuLRuOlyW4sQE5wWzmoXdSQ012ymgY2BJ_DORbxpB3b1Iin7mNNTvkMEC6RpiW5L6Ts8MOr2s1RBSCg9Ajn50?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3298.89)):

You think your mom's proud of you and the mother that you've become?

Fatina Wilson ([11:49:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/mHK2jqLs-Z8Y_bAYywyPVTbK8qdOfKu6ak2hWM8r3w5W4fWdDPPS6eaYog7zqajVa0SprIQl_Q88Uwuuam4xC4KpHYc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3303.33)):

Yes. Yeah, I believe she is. I could say she is, because when she calls, she always asks about the kids first. And during my darkest time when I was going through my separation and my divorce, my mom stepped in and she didn't judge. She did what a mom was supposed to do. She embraced me and she reminded me of why I was here. And if it wasn't for her, I probably would have gave up. So yeah, I know she is.

Preston ([11:50:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qZvyg_VFIZJOP4SYz3xjo7wxcrXz6cQCySQSwLEeqrPom9TzeU_ezMCdYvKhFj9bi0zcOSAim4L8tf6RwINLmv7QLDQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3365.82)):

And what does it mean to you to know that you're passing on the legacy that your mom has shown you to these kids and your adopted daughters?

Fatina Wilson ([11:50:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/aaagjYiG_ilO4UDKflvoGXrYY7hSPDina3-5O7PB6VK0hQdcUsviMbZ7o44jbMuLCVi59yEcfRL1sRBU0MvQ5-Jz3UQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3379.35)):

To see my 15-year-old look at me and some days know that, "Oh my God, my mom just had a long day." And to step in the way she has this past couple of months, where I was having a rough day one day and she knew it, and she just walked up and just gave me a hug. Let me know that she's seeing what my family has to offer and what we've been passing down for generations, and now she's doing it. I watch her embrace some of the other kids on our village and have conversations with them about some of their struggles and say, "Hey, look, I remember being there, but you okay, it gets better."

Fatina Wilson ([11:51:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/uoGRkJo5kaJcSWSMd7Bg-Txul6bc3M7O_IcYLgK1CCVKapnu9MSmhctAGoe13tu-tWVaxOPV5-rxStcckCD6Gkump2M?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3433.71)):

Lets me know that they're watching. Even my youngest, my six-year-old, I watch her care for the foster kids that's in the home. And she lets everybody know, "This is my sister, this is my brother." And when they go to school and she's walking them to their class and everybody knows that she's going to take care of them. It feels good. It feels tremendously good to know that I'm doing something right, because there's times that I do question, I do question. But then when I see my kids and I see how they interact with themselves or how they interact with others and we're out somewhere and someone just notice and stop me and go, "Oh my God, your kids are so well behave in the store," lets me know I am doing something right.

Preston ([11:52:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/IpGLC6fqdM6suUA1O_u6t86ctudGuCUnQ6ozsY9mN6urGH7A9euciysVEBFyCfUqhrIC509hmFGrYaWSpAX3VIGOV04?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3490.44)):

Oh, wow. So three generations, and maybe your grandmother is like that, but you have, you're passing this on to generation.

Fatina Wilson ([11:52:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/KRmo5H0WnHT60eqmLqT1OJ4oF8DdCnkFVh-5XGPIzcAA70fPDiDicdYJGAyu13_Lqmi5elbSF9kwJWH-T28VbZi7FD0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3498.69)):

Yes.

Preston ([11:52:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/66wDjNV7aVJ9HD7d2vCsjO0AOco6ZJbxb2HeelKf9IA81d4uDUDBQkCWG_pq7LLMaFBRMOqLCGJ-2UtQj1LEeoF5gqg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3500.01)):

Can you just speak to the fact that this is not just a one-time family thing that's happening, but this is something that really is changing lives and going from generation to generation?

Fatina Wilson ([11:52:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/m0ouSny9Ozyc7yfHwxOaeU-WkmV7um6OwDMkqtISLeWE7rVz4CQsLj-ElDX5BPPoiysg29QzK2DB79Cr7p0mhnilLJo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3509.04)):

Yeah, it is. Because I even look at the sib group that was able to reunify with their mom last year. This was a tough group. Nobody wanted this group on the village. Mom was tough. Mom had gotten into it with other foster parents, and I was the one foster parent that I was like, "Nope, not here. We're going to work together. You don't give up on your kids and you get them back, but I'll be here." And we built a relationship that those kids' mom called me mom. And to watch her pick up some things that she saw that I was doing with her kids in her home, to see that that was what works for them, that when she got them back home, that she kept them on some type of structure and schedule. That she's not afraid to pick up the phone and say, "Hey, I need my help. I need my support. I need that person who's been mentoring and teaching me and showing me something different."

Fatina Wilson ([11:53:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/dqJnXP0zKkE4uJfrTI8oNhxXI2q3wnyYfyTLweBd5SDmif5qq9jVRTVPsodaqw2V-P98wBLbE-LRzTxCWHGRWHgqWYE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3573.63)):

And she'll call me at the drop of a heart and say, "Hey, ma, I need your help. Or I'm at work. Can you go by and the kids doing this?" Or to know that what she has been seeing in me, I'm starting to see in her. I'm starting to see that she is becoming the mother that she had desired to be, and she just needed somebody to keep pushing her and knowing that she can do it and have that support for her. And so to see that I'm passing it along, even outside of my home, matters.

Preston ([11:54:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/LDFnkyLSIkJPRfaOKdD1VoxlFXAMCtec76XKmPvyF2ajSj_O9SkhmnUYXOjrYQ8tk1wbs30kSBLvzDJf6mVwMcOuLN0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3611.34)):

Wonderful. Anything else that I didn't ask or about your story or anything else that you think is important in terms of your perspective as a foster parent?

Fatina Wilson ([11:54:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/dJsa0k59ZFTjNeG7THBxNziwx1mPXb-vCGXlm7fuxW813gBfnMp224S5az68fgDlYl5TPTxaMNfy5lsumqVOvl3li_o?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3624.24)):

I think I want people to stop looking at foster parent as a job. When you stop looking at it as a job, you can do it successfully. Look at it as what it is, your parent. Whether they're yours or not, you're a parent.