TREEHOUSE FOUNDATION

RE-ENVISIONING FOSTER CARE IN AMERICA
Intergenerational Treehouse Community Model

Meeting the needs of children who experienced foster care, their adoptive families, and the elders who support them.
Two Key Initiatives

Intergenerational Community Model

Promoting Regional Innovation
Treehouse Easthampton
Three Partner Model

Treehouse Foundation

Berkshire Children & Families
BERKSHIRES • PIONEER VALLEY

BEACON communities
Housing at Treehouse Easthampton

- Elders: 48 1-bedroom cottages
- Families: 12 townhouses, 3 – 5 bedroom
- 6 affordable; 6 market rate
- Accessible design for aging in place and persons with disabilities.
Treehouse Community Members

**Total:** 120+
(ages 6 months to 90)

- 12 families
- 45 children
- 53 elders

**Parents:** provide children with legal permanency

**Elders:** volunteer 6+ hrs/wk to support the wellbeing of children, families and their peers
## Children and Youth at Treehouse Easthampton 2006 - 2018 (N=101)

*(Citations available on request)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National Averages for Foster Youth</th>
<th>Treehouse Youth</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduates</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attending College or Vocational Training</td>
<td>&lt; 10%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Drop Outs</td>
<td><em>(ANNUALLY)</em> 8 -14%</td>
<td><em>(TOTAL OVER 12 YRS.)</em> 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Repeating One or More Grades in School</td>
<td>33 - 46%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens/Young Adults Parenting</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed Placements / Children Returning to DCF</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>0</td>
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Outcomes for Older Adults

- Significant increases in self-esteem & quality of life
- Long-term affordable housing
- Reduced social isolation
- Opportunities for leadership & learning
- Ability to age in place
- Peer support
Key Community Features

Community Center
- Great design matters
- Large multi-purpose Community Room
- Indoor/outdoor gathering
- Library with computers & wifi
- Centralized mail
- Community kitchen
- Conference room
- Partner staff offices
- Work spaces for interns

Living @ Treehouse
- Great design matters
- In-home laundry
- Energy efficient
- Every unit has a porch/patio
- Playgrounds
- Community garden
- Abundant parking
- Beautiful
- Well-maintained
### How is Treehouse Different?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treehouse</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent home with loving family</td>
<td>Don’t stop “the bounce”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong community connections</td>
<td>No community support; social isolation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term relationships across generations</td>
<td>Difficult to maintain relationships with caring adults or friends</td>
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<td>Integrated long-term programs &amp; interventions</td>
<td>Lack of coordinated access to short-term programs &amp; interventions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highly collaborative &amp; responsive to emerging needs</td>
<td>Lack of long term focus, relationships, connection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational advocacy</td>
<td>Less responsive to changing needs</td>
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Treehouse Communities 2.0

- Incorporating TAY (transition aged youth)
- Some 2-bedroom units
- Market rate senior units
- Urban/suburban settings
- Embracing regional diversity
- New regional & state partnerships
Long-term Social & Economic Costs of Aging Out

- Shattered lives & families
- Estimated $300,000/per person for social services addressing poverty, mental health issues, homelessness, substance use, or incarceration
- High likelihood of the next generation experiencing foster care
Over 3,000 children & youth have been served by programs launched through Treehouse. Here's a sample...

Birdsong Farm
250 children/youth

Camp to Belong
1,000 children/youth

HEROES Leadership
350 TAY

REFCA Conference
300 thought leaders from across the country
HEROES YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

HELPING EVERYONE RECEIVE OUR EVERYDAY STORIES

CHANGE. TEACH. BUILD COMMUNITY.
Ready to Replicate!

- 13 years of lived experience
- Proven results
- Award-winning
- Financially sustainable business model
- Leverages existing $ in more impactful and cost-effective ways
- Efficient delivery of services
- Successful, vibrant public/private partnerships