



Bridging Families Program Update

Hope Grows Here

We are celebrating a powerful milestone: a sibling group of four children from one of our Homes for Youth residences reunified with their family last month. Moments like this reflect what is possible when children, parents, caring professionals, and our community are supported throughout the reunification journey.

Homes for Youth is proud to continue to partner with Crossnore Communities for Children to provide welcoming homes for the Bridging Families™ program, a family-focused, team-based model designed to help children safely and permanently reunify with their families. <https://www.crossnore.org/bridging-families/>

A Milestone Worth Celebrating

Over the past two years, Crossnore and Homes for Youth have helped reunify 12 children with their families. Most recently, a sibling set of four returned home—a meaningful reminder that foster care can be a bridge toward healing, connection, and lasting family stability.

- Through Bridging Families, children can remain close to their community and, whenever possible, stay connected with their siblings while their parents work toward reunification. Professional Bridge Parents help create a safe, supportive environment where families can practice routines, build trust, and strengthen the relationships that matter most.
- Keeping Siblings Together
- One recent success story involved five siblings who had been living across three foster homes in two counties. Through the Homes for

Youth and Crossnore partnership, all five children were able to live together in a Homes for Youth residence through Bridging Families

Meet Our Bridging Families Parents

Erin Westberry & Joshua Clinch

Overlook Home | Currently serving four children

Erin Westberry brings deep experience and a big heart to her role as a Bridge Parent. Raised near the Appalachian Trail in Hiawassee, Georgia, Erin appreciates traditional mountain life—making brown gravy, raising chickens, and enjoying pickin’ and grinnin’. She has lived in five states, traveled to seven countries and Puerto Rico, and enjoys classic cars, church singing, shooting pool, and a good laugh.

Erin’s foster-care experience includes serving as a House Parent at a residential campus in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where she cared for hundreds of residents ranging from newborns to adults. Much of her work focused on children with significant behavioral needs. She is passionate about Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) and believes in preserving families by helping children and parents recognize their own capability and value.

Joshua “Josh” Clinch has joined Erin at the Overlook Home. A Florida native from the Ocala area, Josh moved to North Carolina four years ago. He enjoys playing guitar and video games, and he is excited to serve as part of the Hendersonville Crossnore team. Together, Erin and Josh are providing stability, encouragement, and compassionate care for four children as their families work toward reunification.

Doug & Beth Leavy

Homes for Youth Bridge Parents

Doug and Beth Leavy moved to Hendersonville from the Nashville area this past February. They have two grown children, Caleb and Hannah, and recently welcomed their first grandchild, a baby boy.

Together, they bring decades of experience working with young people from preschool through high school, as well as several years of foster-parenting experience in the mountains of Colorado.

Why Bridging Families Matters

In 2025, 15,849 children were in foster care across North Carolina, and as of June 2026, 117 children were in foster care in Henderson County. Behind every number is a child who needs safety, consistency, connection, and hope.

Homes for Youth provides the homes that make this work possible. Crossnore implements and oversees the broader Bridging Families program, including professional foster parents, therapy, case management, and TBRI-informed support. Together, this partnership gives children a stable place to live while helping parents stay actively involved in their children's lives.

Help Bring Families Home

Your generosity helps Homes for Youth provide safe, welcoming homes where children can remain connected to siblings, parents can remain engaged, and families can work toward reunification.

Please visit [HomesForYouth.org](https://www.homesforyouth.org) and make a donation today. Every gift helps provide homes, help, and hope for Henderson County youth and families. [**https://www.homesforyouth.org/donate**](https://www.homesforyouth.org/donate)