

National Angels Outcome Evaluation

ABOUT THE STUDY:

At its core, National Angels works to establish wellbeing and resilience for children and families through its programming. The Love Box Program provides a sense of community and support for foster and kinship caregivers through intentional giving, relationship building, and mentorship. The Dare to Dream program matches volunteers with youth in foster care to help guide them on their journey towards self-sufficiency and successful independence.

National Angels contracted with the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing (TXICFW) to conduct a program evaluation of their Love Box and Dare to Dream programs at the Austin, Texas chapter. The evaluation was conducted in 2022 to take a “snapshot” of how participants are currently doing in terms of short-term and intermediate outcomes.

THE RESULTS FROM THE SURVEY SHOW THAT:



National Angel's programming promotes stability

- Caregivers who have participated in National Angels for at least six months reported higher levels of commitment to their child and increased support compared to caregivers who have participated less than six months or who were waitlisted; however, further evaluation is needed to determine if this is a result of program participation.
- **77%** of caregivers participating in Angels programming indicated that they intend to remain foster parents over the next year.
- National Angels helps generate social capital for caregivers. **79%** of caregivers and **89%** of volunteers are likely to maintain their relationship past their participation in National Angels programming.



National Angel's programming provides support

- Caregivers and volunteers participating in National Angels programming report high satisfaction levels with National Angels staff and programming.
- National Angels services and programming are meeting immediate basic needs and providing long-term support for youth and families that they are not receiving from other social services.
- Dare to Dream mentors reported increased confidence and improved relationships in youth since they started participating in the Dare to Dream program

These stabilizing factors can have tremendous implications on caregiver and child trajectories in the long-term. This study primarily focused on the short-term outcomes listed in the logic model, but the implications of these short-term outcomes have broader implications for long-term success for children, youth, and families.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the findings from this outcome evaluation, the TXICFW research team offers the following recommendations for National Angels Love Box and Dare to Dream programs.

- 1 Review survey to determine whether items need to be adjusted, dropped or added prior to expanding data collection to include all National Angels chapters. Use data to inform Continuous Quality Improvement processes.
- 2 Conduct the survey at multiple time points (e.g. prior to starting the program, after six months, and/or at the time they exit the program) to allow for evaluation of change over time.
- 3 Monitor and track normalcy-related items to better understand the implications for long-term trajectories of children and youth served by National Angels programming.
- 4 Continue engaging birth family members and help caregivers and volunteers feel more comfortable with birth family engagement.
- 5 Explore options for conducting more rigorous studies in the future to determine whether observed outcomes are a result of program participation.

There are some important limitations for this study including small sample sizes, the lack of a comparison group, and no pre and post assessment. Additional research is needed to determine if the observed findings are a result of program participation and if they are true across various National Angels chapters. However, our research team has empowered National Angels to conduct sustained data collection to help address these limitations.

For more information on the outcome evaluation, or contact Tymothy Belseth at tymothy.belseth@austin.utexas.edu