



Welcome to the ALL  
IN Empowering  
Futures

NEWSLETTER

*We're so glad you're here!*

## A Message from Tiffany Dixon, ALL IN Board Secretary and Alumni



When I aged out of foster care, my instinct was to run from that part of my life. For a decade, I did just that—building a career in strategic communications and avoiding conversations that reminded me of my past. But over time, I realized that I was yearning for a community—a community where I didn't have to explain myself, a space where people just got it.

I met Lynn Johnson many years later at the ALL IN Foster Care Summit in West Virginia. By then, I had shifted careers to support transition-aged youth in foster care, bringing my personal experience into my professional life. I remember sitting with Lynn and talking about how few spaces exist for foster care alumni—not just youth but all of us who have spent any time in care.

The conversation went like this:

Lynn: "Have you ever spent a day in care?"

Me: "Yes."

Lynn: "Then you're ALL IN."

Me: "I'm not that young."

Lynn: "It doesn't matter. If you've ever spent a day in care, you're ALL IN."

*And from that moment, I was.*

That feeling deepened when my husband and I attended the Branson, MO, retreat with our sons. As foster care alumni with little extended family, we often feel like we're parenting in a vacuum. But the retreat felt like a homecoming.

Aunties and uncles surrounded us and loved our kids as their own, who shared their stories without hesitation, and who held space for ours. It was healing, growth, and a reminder that we're not alone.

Now, I don't go a week without connecting with alumni I've met through ALL IN.

When invited to join the board alongside two other alumni this year, I said yes without hesitation. In our first meeting as a leadership team this February, we asked ourselves: What does ALL IN truly stand for? The answer was clear.

ALL IN is not a program or an initiative. It's a network for foster care alumni success—a living, breathing community that looks out for one another. We decided to update our mission statement to reflect this truth.

*ALL IN exists to connect and support all people who have spent time in foster care. We are a lifelong network that walks alongside each other through every stage of life, intentionally offering belonging, wisdom, and a commitment to never let each other go unseen.* For me, it is a chosen family that I am endlessly grateful to be part of.

In solidarity,  
Tiffany Dixon, Board Secretary, ALL IN

# ALL IN is everywhere!

## West Virginia ALL IN Summit



ALL IN CEO and Founder Lynn Johnson and two Alumni Board Members represented at West Virginia ALL IN Foster Care Summit. Their session, "Serving Young Adults Who Aged Out of Foster Care," was one of the most highly attended events, with standing room only!

The team led an impactful breakout Table Talk session, sharing valuable resources, lived experiences, and emotional insights about supporting foster care alums. Attendees inquired how they could take meaningful, action-oriented steps and better understand the unique challenges and strengths of young adults transitioning out of care.

ALL IN is proud to amplify the voices of foster alums and continue advancing informed, compassionate solutions nationwide.

## Colorado Regional Gathering



ALL IN partnered with Jefferson County, Adams County Chaffee workers, and RISE, a local nonprofit, to host a Spring Social Gathering for youth transitioning out of the foster care system. The event welcomed twenty young adults, their significant others, and young children. It was a day filled with connection and celebration, featuring food, games, raffles, free resource tables, and an Easter Egg Hunt. We're grateful to our partners and everyone who helped make this event a warm, welcoming, and joyful space for these young individuals and their families!

## Bi-Monthly Zoom Calls

It's never easy to stay connected, but ALL IN is trying the best way we know how when people are spread across the United States – Zoom. We will offer Zoom calls twice a month for women. Our first one happened on June 2 in all time zones, with over thirty women participating. From the positive reactions, this is something much needed for everyone to connect and continue important conversations with other alumni, trusted advisors, and ALL IN staff.

**Don't worry, men! We will have calls for you as well in the very near future.**

## What it means to be "Chosen Family"



ALL IN encourages alumni to build and engage with "chosen family." These chosen families create community, connection, and support. It means showing up for each other, having someone in your corner, answering the phone for one another, and spending holidays or taking vacations together. This is a perfect example of what ALL IN means by "chosen family." These foster alumni and their spouses met at a recent ALL IN retreat. From that meeting, they coordinated a getaway from work, family, and life to relax and refresh with new friends. They are already planning for next year!

## Celebrating Excellence

ALL IN hosted a table and joined other organizations to recognize the accomplishments of young people in foster care who graduated from high school, received a GED, or a college degree. We met many wonderful young adults ready to take on the next chapter of their lives.



# Alumni Spotlight

by **Darien Karenbauer**

At the beginning of May 2025, I received a phone call from ALL IN Founder, Lynn Johnson, asking if I'd like to ride from San Diego to the Grand Canyon. My first thought was, of course, I will!—but then I remembered I didn't have much biking experience. I pushed that thought aside and agreed to go anyway.

I was hired as a medic for the trip, but soon learned I'd also be riding a bike. Just a week and a half after getting the call, I was already on my way to Arizona for training. I spent a week training in the Arizona heat before setting off on my ride.

The journey began at Del Mar Beach in San Diego and ended at the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Along the way, I witnessed incredible sights and mentored some amazing teens while also serving as their medic. We rode for nine days through brutal desert temperatures, with highs reaching 108°F and an average of 95°F. We camped in towns that felt like they were straight out of an old Western movie.

When we finally reached the Grand Canyon, our group of six boys and four staff stood in awe. The views were breathtaking—photos simply couldn't capture the scale or beauty. I was amazed by these young men who had just ridden hundreds of miles. I was also proud of myself for pushing through, even when I wanted to quit so many times.

Looking out into the endless horizon, I was speechless. This was more than just a bike ride—it was a redemption story,

both for me and for six teens who have experienced difficult journeys in child welfare and/or the juvenile justice system. One thing I truly admire: from the very beginning, no matter how hard or how hot it got, these boys were

ALL IN!

**Way to go, Darien! We are so proud of you.**

