

## Comfort Cases has one goal: Bring Dignity and Hope to youth in foster care.



**About Comfort Cases:** Comfort Cases is a [501\(c\)3 nonprofit organization](#) whose mission is to inspire communities by bringing dignity and hope to youth in foster care. We believe that every child deserves to feel a sense of dignity. Currently, when entering the system children are provided with a trash bag that they must use to quickly gather their belongings. The symbolic nature of the trash bag, an object meant for garbage and waste, can be representative of the situational instability experienced by a child in foster care. It can also represent a lack of self-worth, and paralyzing fear during a time of uncertainty.



**The Comfort Cases Solution:** Comfort Cases aims to eliminate the demoralizing practice of providing children with trash bags to store their belongings. Today, the organization has proudly assembled and delivered over 150,000 Comfort Cases and XLs for children and youth in foster care in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. New in 2021: We are expanding to serve the United Kingdom!



**What are Comfort Cases?** [Comfort Cases](#) are backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system. Children, youth, adults, groups from civic organizations, schools, corporations and religious organizations pack and prepare year-round. We provided nearly 13,000 cases in 2020 and are on course to distribute more than triple that number in 2021.



**What is a Comfort XL?** Comfort XL large collapsible duffel bags were introduced in 2018 to truly replace the need for trash bags for children entering foster care. Our goal is for every social worker and police officer in the country to have a supply of Comfort XL duffel bags to give to children when they are removed from their homes.



**How to Order a Comfort Case:**

Foster Care Agencies, Educators and First Responders can order cases online at [comfortcases.org/orders](http://comfortcases.org/orders)

# Foster Care Facts

*On any given day, there are approximately 440,000 children in foster care in the United States, with over 220,000 children and youth entering the system each year.*

*700 children enter foster care every day; one child every 12 minutes.*

*96% of children in the foster care system have experienced a traumatic event or adverse childhood experience, and are more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with PTSD as combat veterans.*

*The average age of children in foster care is 7.6 years.*

*54% of all children in foster care are non-white or mixed race.*

*10% of youth in foster care have been in the system for 5 or more years.*

*60% of child sex trafficking victims have spent time in foster care.*

*On average, a child can spend almost 12 to 20 months in foster care. 10% of foster children spend more than 5 years in foster care. The average age of a child entering foster care is 7 to 8 years old. The average age of a child exiting foster care is 7 to 9 years old.*

*20,000 of youth in foster care age out of the system between the ages of 18-21 annually.*

*The foster care system underinvests in foster children, contributing less than 50% of what it costs an average American family to raise a child from 0-17 years of age.*

*Within four years of aging out, 50% have no earnings, and those who do make an average annual income of \$7,500.*

*Only 5% of rural foster youth and 21% of urban foster youth report access to a computer at home.*

*For additional Facts and Statistics, please visit [www.comfortcases.org/fostercarefacts](http://www.comfortcases.org/fostercarefacts).*

# Foster Care Resources

*For more information or donate to Comfort Cases, please refer to our [website](#).*

*To learn more about becoming a foster parent or foster family, check out the [National Foster Parent Association \(NFPA\)](#).*

*For more information about what to do or who to call if you know of a child in immediate harm, please call 911 and see the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) for more information.*



## About Comfort Cases' Founder, Rob Scheer



*Rob Scheer entered foster care at 12 years old with only the clothes on his back and a torn trash bag to carry his belongings. Flash forward to 2013, Rob and his husband, Reece, were ready to start a family and were notified of a brother and sister in foster care that were in need of a home.*

*They now have five children whom they have adopted from the foster care system. Rob presents to hundreds of schools, universities, and other public forum events each year to educate the community about foster care and to share his personal story. He also advocates fixing the broken foster care system to the local and Federal governments.*

### Rob's Memoir

#### Media Assets

"Dads" Apple TV Trailer

Ted Talk

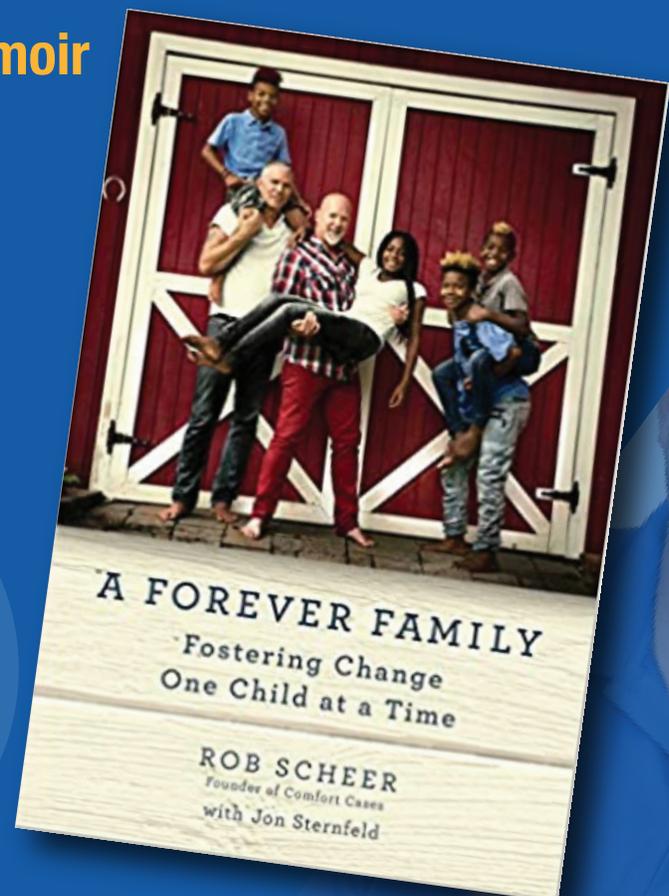
CNN Heroes

NBC Nightly News

The Ellen Show

UpWorthy

Vacations of the Brave-Amazon



# Upcoming Events and Sponsorship Opportunities

**May: National Foster Care Awareness Month**

**October: Annual Gala "Backyard BBQ"**

**November: National Adoption Awareness Month**



## Supporters

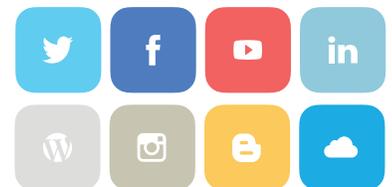


## Testimonials/Endorsements

*"Families are so incredibly grateful for these backpacks and items. They make a huge impact on the dignity that kids carry as they come into care. We make sure that no kid in our county ever enters care with a trash bag - Comfort Cases makes that possible. Your work is valued. We can't thank you enough!"* — Greenwood Foster Parent Association, Greenwood, South Carolina

*"A Forever Family, Fostering Change One Child at a Time" is nothing short of remarkable. The book is the incredible biography of Rob Scheer - tracing his story through a very difficult past, to building his own family, to founding Comfort Cases – with the mission to bring hope and dignity to children in foster care. As our team read the book, we also found new connections and adoption stories among our own team and networks."* — Corporate Relations Manager, Constellation

*"Rob has a perspective unlike most surrounding foster care and the trials and tribulations of growing up in a system that all too often ill equipped to meet the massive and multidimensional needs of its participants."* — Community Director, Yelp



For more information, contact:  
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