

The Johnston Family

by Berkeley & Grace Johnston



Easter - Our first big holiday together out of the NICU!

We are the Johnston family and it's a joy to share our story with you! We have wanted to adopt since before we were married, and have always hoped that adoption would be a big part of our family story. We had a biological daughter, Robin, in 2020 and then immediately began preparing for the adoption process.

Shortly after finishing our home study with Wyoming Children's Society in August of 2022, we began to feel that we were meant to expand our search outside of WY. I had a friend working with an adoption consultant based out of Florida called Evermore Adoption Consultants. We signed on with them and began applying to cases right away. About a month later, we matched with a couple that was due in March of 2023. We did not know the gender yet, so we bought 'Little Brother' and 'Little Sister' onesies to tell my family about the match. Right before Thanksgiving, we learned that the couple had decided to parent and would not be moving forward with the adoption plan. We were sad about the disrupted match but we knew that God had a baby for us.

What we didn't know was that God actually had TWO babies for us! About a month after our failed match, we got a phone call that we had been chosen by a mama whose twins were two days old and in the NICU. Two hours later, we were on a plane to Tampa, FL. All we knew about the twins was that they were a boy and a girl and their mama had already signed the papers. They were ours. We arrived at the hospital to learn they were born at 33 weeks, each weighing just over 3 pounds. We became Florida's newest residents while they grew big and strong in the NICU.

“To those deep in the process- it's worth every piece of paperwork, the deeply personal questions and the emotional roller coaster. We're cheering you on!”

They spent 37 days there before graduating on January 20th, 2023. During our stay, God completely cared for our family, providing an amazing place to stay with friends and a car to borrow for 5 weeks from a stranger. Our amazing families rotated flying out to Tampa from all over the country to be with our daughter so that we could spend each day holding the twins. There's nothing easy about having babies in the NICU, but we are forever grateful for those countless hours of skin-to-skin bonding with our tiny babies. Before we left Florida, we had lunch with their birth mom and she held them for the first time. It was so special to see how much love she has for them, yet how confident she is in her decision to place them into our family.



story continued on page 2

cover story The Johnston Family continued...



Robin meeting Berkeley & Lily for the first time

Berkeley and Lily are almost five months old now and we cannot imagine our lives without them. We are so grateful to Kristi and WYCS for walking us through every step of the process and preparing us to be adoptive parents. Kristi has gone above and beyond, constantly checking in during our FL stay to see how the babies were doing and pushing our ICPC through in record time so we could finally bring them home. To those deep in the process- it's worth every piece of paperwork, the deeply personal questions and the emotional roller coaster. We're cheering you on!

Wearing the Little Brother & Little Sister outfits we bought before we knew about them.

112th Gala Honoree Dave McNulty



On August 12th, 2023, Wyoming Children's Society will celebrate 112 years of service with our annual gala celebration and fundraiser! We will gather at Little America for a beautiful evening with friends and family as we celebrate our many years of serving women, children, and families. The evening will include an elegant dinner as well as silent and live auctions. With the support of businesses, community partners, donors, friends, family, staff, volunteers, and the Board of Directors, the Gala serves as an essential fundraiser that creates resources to fund services to pregnant women in crisis,

and children waiting for safe and loving forever families. You will also be able to start bidding on silent auction items two weeks before the event. Please watch your email for more details as we get closer.

This year the Wyoming Children's Society and the Board of Directors are excited to honor and celebrate our former board member and fierce advocate, Dave McNulty. Dave worked for the Wyoming Department of Employment for 22 years as a field supervisor over the employment offices in the state. Dave then worked for the US Department of Labor Veteran Employment and Training Services for 24 years before retiring. Since retiring Dave has dedicated his time to his family and to volunteering. Dave volunteers with Rotary, reads books to Kindergarteners every week, and is working on an exciting project in Cody with veterans.

Dave joined the WCS Board of Directors in 1987 and dedicated 34 years of leadership and service to our mission until he resigned from the board in 2021. When asked about his time with the agency, Dave said "Wyoming Children's Society helps build some of the best families in Wyoming. We help women that may be in a crisis in their life but when they come to Wyoming Children's Society, they know that things will turn out in the end. The staff provides care to birth moms and adoptive families and that care goes on for years and years after the adoption process is finalized. You can go back any time and talk to someone or ask for help and that just doesn't happen in very many agencies. I think Wyoming Children's Society is unique in that way. It's a big extended family for life." Dave has a big heart for this agency, and he continues to advocate for children and families to this day.

story continued on page 3

112th Gala Honoree Dave McNulty story continued...



Dave and his wife, Alison, live in Casper, Wyoming. They have two grown children, Whitney and Mike, and have four grandchildren that keep them on their toes. Dave is a true Wyomingite who enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors.

Please join us on **Saturday, August 12th, 2023**, at Little America as we honor and thank Dave McNulty for his many years of service, dedication, and passion to this agency! We cannot do the work we do without each of you and the support that you provide us at the Gala!

You can purchase tickets by contacting the Wyoming Children's Society at 307-632-7619 or online at www.wyomingcs.org/gala. You can also support us by making monetary donations. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Wyoming Children's Society Earns Hague Accreditation Renewal



Hague Accreditation signifies that an agency meets the standards founded in the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act, and the Universal Accreditation Act. Hague Accreditation indicates that an agency conducts international adoption services in substantial compliance with these standards. An agency must apply for renewal every four years.

Accreditation involves a formal evaluation of an agency's compliance with the standards which includes close examination of the agency's documents and verification of compliance during a site visit at the agency's office.

After months working toward the re-accreditation process, a formal site visit and review, we received notice on February 2, 2023 that we have earned accreditation through February 15, 2027. This is an important accreditation when working in the field of international adoption.

2023 WyoGives



We are excited to announce that Wyoming Children's Society will be participating in this year's WyoGives event on July 12, 2023.

This event is a powerful, statewide 24-hour online fundraising event that is designed to bring the state together as one community to raise money and awareness for Wyoming's nonprofits.

We really appreciate all our donors, and we encourage donors that plan to donate this year to do it on July 12th! There are great opportunities for us to receive matching funds, but we need you all to donate.

On July 12th, just visit the website below and donate! It's that easy!

<https://www.wyogives.org/organizations/wyoming-children-s-society>



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This is an easy way to give back to WCS while completing your normal grocery shopping. There is no extra charge to you!

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Children Who Wait

Wyoming Children's Society is committed to recruiting adoptive families who are interested in bringing permanency to children who are waiting in the public foster care system. Currently, there are over 400,000 children in foster care with over 100,000 of those children available for adoption. Xane and Missy are just two of the children who are waiting for their forever families. Financial assistance is often available for adoption related expenses. If you are interested in learning more about adopting a waiting child please contact Wyoming Children's Society.



Xane (9)

Xane (9) wants to grow up to test video games for a living! Minecraft is his favorite; he can spend chunks of time detailing his biome using different mods and knows that a pickaxe is vital for anything in the game. Toy trains, cars, and drones are also of huge entertainment to Xane. In fact, he happily chats about his knowledge of trains to whoever is eager to hear. Gobbling up pizza is sure to happen when served for a meal and he enjoys eating Skittles for a treat now and again. If allowed to choose a superpower, Xane ponders how cool super strength or flying would be. Piano is a passion of this young fellow who is said to catch on quickly to how it works. Xane appreciates adults who take time to notice his interests and participate in them with him. He enjoys his friends at school and can form tight bonds with adults. If video game testing doesn't work out, his backup choice is becoming a video game designer. As a third-grader, Xane is keen on learning math and reading. He often seeks out math activities for fun! All family types will be considered for Xane. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services. Xane resides in Colorado. Child ID: 330884

Alexsis-Valerie (13)

Alexsis-Valerie (13), who likes to go by "Missy," fancies dancing. She loves to spin and twirl around her room. Playing basketball and riding her bike are two ways Missy appreciates staying busy. Any car ride stopping at McDonald's will surely be a hit for this girl. She also favors honey-roasted chicken. Missy enjoys painting or drawing when the clouds are out, with teal appearing in many of her creations. She is a budding cook in the kitchen and is open to trying new things. Unicorns and horses are near and dear to Missy's heart. Being invisible would be the only superpower that this girl hopes to possess. Missy gets along well with her peers and is described as a great child with a lot to offer. She dreams of the day when she can add M.D. to the end of her name! This bright and polite girl is in the sixth grade. Reading is one of her strengths, and her computer course is her best-liked class. Missy's LDS faith is important to her, and she would like a family that can support her in this. She has significant connections to maintain following placement. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services. Missy resides in Utah. Child ID: 222247



News from Wyoming Children's Society Board of Directors

Wyoming Children's Society wishes to thank these Directors for their years of service.

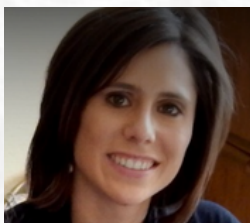
Each of these women are inspiring examples of community leaders. Their service, leadership, and gifts to Wyoming Children's Society have been numerous and greatly appreciated and they will be dearly missed.



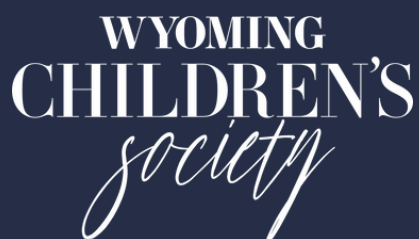
Kristin Mackey was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2015 and served for 8 years. Kristin was a second-generation board member and had the opportunity to serve alongside her father, Terry Mackey, until his passing. Kristin said "The Wyoming Children's Society has been a big part of my heart for a long time. Becoming part of the board alongside my dad, Terry, was one of my proudest moments, and I will forever be thankful for my time spent with this tremendous organization."



Kristen Crago was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2014 and dedicated 9 years to serving and advocating for the Wyoming Children's Society. Kristen has a heart for adoption and has helped numerous families with their adoptions through her work as an attorney.



Janelle Osborne also provided 8 years of service to the Wyoming Children's Society Board of Directors. Janelle is an adoptive parent and has been an advocate for adoption, and our birth families, children, and adoptive families for many years.



Our Mission

Our mission is to build healthy families through adoption, and to advocate for birth families, children and adoptive families.

Our Vision

A world where every child belongs to a safe and loving family.



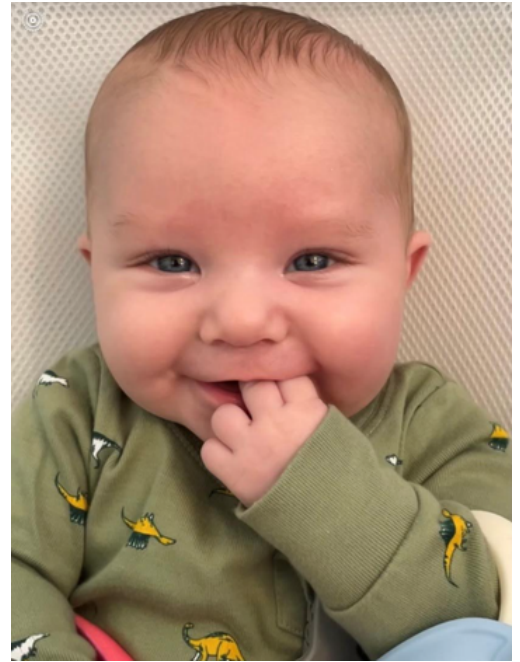
New Arrivals



Berkeley Johnston, Jackson



Bryer Lord, Casper



Cylus Weekly, Cheyenne



Isaiah Rankin, Sheridan (Haiti)



Lily Johnston, Jackson



Leo McHenry, Cheyenne



Everly Reinhart, Cheyenne

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A large, abstract watercolor graphic in various shades of blue, ranging from light to deep navy, occupies the bottom half of the page. It has a soft, painterly texture with irregular edges.

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