



## 2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Sara Blomeling DeRoo LMSW/LCSW, Kimberly Offutt MSW

Presentation Title: "Been There, Done That" Successful Recruitment Practices: Hiring Former Foster Youth

Topic Area: Effective new methods for recruiting foster, adoptive, and kinship families;

Description:

Operation Forever Family has created a highly successful recruitment model with former foster youth as their lead recruiters. The use of this model, along with other innovations has led to 15/20 youth in their research based program, exiting the residential treatment system and brought them into loving adoptive and foster families. Presenters will share the innovative model and lessons learned along with the research behind it.

Format: Lecture

Presenter(s) Biography:

Sara Blomeling DeRoo is an adoptee, and adoptive parent of 14 children. She is a former foster parent who has dedicated her professional life to finding families for waiting children. She is a clinician, trainer, advocate and trauma specialist who works with families and children in foster care or adoption on the local and national level.

Kimberly Offutt is a passionate foster and adoptive parent and social worker who is a tireless advocate for youth needing families. Kim is a nationally known speaker and trainer who works as the National Foster Care Adoption Director at one of the country's leading agencies. She has led successful initiatives for recruitment for the past 14 years.