

Ministry Spotlight

Family-Like Residential Program Liam's Story

Since its inception, Thornwell has been a partner to the local church and important part of our ministry. We share the same heart—to love God and love others—and a long history of service to children and families.

Thornwell began in the heart of a young pastor in 1875, and they have continued the legacy of hope and healing ever since. Today, they are an interconnected community of experts, advocates, and caregivers who spend their lives committed to helping children and families in need through a family-centered continuum of care.

Their mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect, to build up and reunite families, and to support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

In partnership with Thornwell, we are making a world of difference in the lives of children like Liam.

The sad reality for many foster children is that the disruption in their lives leaves little room for keeping up with school. Many children who come to us are grade levels behind, and because of the struggle to keep up, they no longer enjoy learning.

This was the case for 12-year-old Liam, who lives in a cottage on Thornwell's family-like residential campus. Liam began their Read Right curriculum in the second grade. Read Right, their unique reading intervention program, is a critical piece of Thornwell's continuum of care that is changing the lives of children every single day.

His reading was at a first-grade level—a full year behind. He was in and out of foster care and switched schools multiple times because of it. On top of that, he and his siblings weren't taken to school consistently each day. Despite the hardships he's endured, Liam has always been enthusiastic about learning.

His tutor said, "Liam was one of my favorites—motivated to improve his reading, willing to learn, and very helpful with other students."

He worked hard to catch up, and then to excel. He grew up in turmoil and then watched his siblings leave Thornwell and transition into new homes—a heartache you wouldn't wish on anyone. But Liam hasn't let any of it diminish his joyful, kind, and dedicated spirit!

Liam further proved his dedication by graduating the Read Right program with a seventh grade reading level, as a rising fifth grader! Liam graduated Read Right with new confidence, a stronger love for learning, and leaps and bounds above his starting place two and a half years before—AND as our youngest graduate yet!

As we work together with Thornwell, we can serve many more children and families like Liam.

<< Insert your church's specific call to action to support partnership with Thornwell (I.e. financial contributions, in-kind donations, or volunteering/service.>>

Thank you for your compassionate hearts, steadfast support, and constant prayers for Thornwell and the children and families we, together, serve. We couldn't do it without you!