



April 2017 | eNews

Perspective

Why I Foster

My first experience as a foster parent for Breakthrough permanently altered my perspective. I had taken on a teenage boy with whom I could barely communicate. Jason kept his hood up all the time, folded his arms defensively, and reacted negatively to any change in my voice or facial expression that wasn't a smile.

Eventually, I learned that Jason had been physically and emotionally abused by his mother and father. When I spoke with his counselor, I learned that his first request was, "Please tell me my new foster parent's rules so I won't make her mad." Having no previous experience with abuse, I worked with Morrison staff to learn to maintain a calm and nurturing approach and to spend extra time with him. After many sessions with Jason and his counselor, I understood that his laughter wasn't spiteful, but nervous; his chosen isolation wasn't anti-social, but defensive. He stayed in his room because he didn't want to get in trouble with me.

Jason has changed. He no longer hides in his hood, he is not afraid to ask questions, and he openly shares his feelings with me. When I asked him what the most important thing was that he had learned at Breakthrough, he replied, "I have learned how to communicate with my parents. It's the first time we ever sat down and just talked."

This is why I am a foster parent.

For more information on how you can become a foster parent, please contact Shaun Matthias at 971-413-1259 or shaun.matthias@morrisonkids.org. To support our foster care programs, click [here](#) to donate now.



Take A Walk With NAMI

Save the date!

On Sunday, May 21, 2017, we will join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for the largest mental health event in Oregon and Southwest Washington. We're coming together to make a statement that mental health matters, that recovery is possible, and that no one should be ashamed or embarrassed to ask for help. For more information about this exciting event, click [here](#).



Support Morrison While You Shop at Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program

Did you know that every time you shop with your linked Rewards Card at Fred Meyer, you can help Morrison earn a donation? To learn more about how you can support Morrison when you shop, click [here](#).



Watch the Pros and Support Morrison Winco Foods Portland Open

Join us August 21-27, 2017, for the annual WinCo Foods Portland Open. At the Regular Season Finale on the Web.com Tour, 25 players will earn their PGA Tour Cards. Check out 156 of the best golfers in the world and watch 2-Time PGA TOUR winner Justin Thomas and 2015 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Daniel Berger for just \$25!

Best of all, 100% of your ticket purchase supports Morrison. Your ticket purchase includes free parking, four days of PGA Tour golf action, a junior clinic, a free Sunday breakfast and much more. To buy your tickets today, click [here](#).



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Our Mission

At Morrison Child and Family Services, we partner with families and communities to provide effective and responsive services for children and youth coping

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