




As someone raised solely in the foster care system, a therapist, and a single father who adopted eight young men from the foster care system, I know too well the struggles of meeting the needs of the nearly 400,000 children currently living in that system. It is nearly impossible to find adequate adoption-competent, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive mental/behavioral health resources to help our youth navigate the stigmas that they have inherited through no fault of their own.

Abuelos's **When the Holidays Aren't So Happy Cause Campaign**  is seeking to raise money for agencies working with our youth to provide and enhance mental/behavioral health services while providing training to increase the competence of those delivering the services. Combined with all the other stressors life provides, the holidays statistically tend to increase the need for mental health resources, especially for those whose family systems are less intact.



[Click above or here to watch video.](#)

The plan:

From September 1 – December 31 I propose a partnership with national organizations and the general public to sell over **1,000,000 copies** of my self-published book, **The Spirit of Christmas** (Available in 9 languages and on Kindle). I will donate **60%** of the royalties towards the development of a grant to which agencies from across the nation who provide mental/behavioral health services to kids in care can apply to increase and enhance their services.

The goals of enlisting organizations such as yours in this national book selling campaign effort are to:

- 1. Bring added awareness to the plight of kids in foster care.**
- 2. Create alternative resources for kids in foster care.**
- 3. Act as a beacon for those who might be interested in becoming family resources for those kids who are in desperate need of families.**
- 4. Raise enough money to make a difference.**

As I have learned from the guidance of those who have led me, I take my lived experience and turn it into something magical. Despite my past struggles, I challenge those around me to make a difference. As I cannot do this on my own, I am asking for help from those who have shown great leadership and success in helping young people find a global community where they feel connected, competent, and purposeful. People such as you can help promote the cause and encourage public participation. I am reaching out to you in hopes that those attributes may bring strength and inspiration to youngsters should we partner in a project that I believe could have a long-lasting impact on our youth.

The process:

1. Sales should be made using the link found on Joetoles.com between September 1 and December 31, 2023.
2. Book sale income will be placed in an escrow account overseen by a reputable financial manager.
3. The Joseph Toles Foundation in partnership with a yet to be determined not-for-profit entity familiar with grant organizing will be responsible for vetting the responding agencies, their grant request, and approval of the distribution of the grant award by the Escrow Manager. At no point will The Joseph Toles Foundation or its partners be in possession of any of the proceeds except what has been allocated to them by the original fundraising agreement.
4. Although The Joseph Toles Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization this is not a tax-deductible donation and cannot be used for those purposes.
5. For those looking for a tax-deductible donation, there will be a “donation only” link provided on the book campaign page at Joetoles.com. Those donating will receive a video version of ***The Spirit of Christmas*** in English.
6. The Escrow Manager will distribute the grant awards in accordance with the process outlined by The Joseph Toles Foundation Board of Directors in collaboration with the yet to be selected partner grant organizing entity.
7. Together with said grant organizing entity, The Joseph Toles Foundation will create a list of criteria in which agencies will be eligible for grants and create reporting metrics and tools for agencies to report back the results and use of grant funds.
8. A full summary report will be created and made public by The Joseph Toles Foundation with information from the Escrow Manager and grant recipient organizations. This report will be updated monthly and published on the Joseph Toles Foundation website until the final reports are completed and posted.

[Click here to get current statistics about foster care in the United States.](#)



Click [here](#) or on the photo to view the video **Bastard**.



[Click here or on the photo to view video.](#)

I am hopeful that with your assistance we can make a huge difference in the mental/behavioral health services youth in foster care receive. I will be available to meet in person or via Zoom during this campaign to answer any questions, receive feedback, or just to get to know your needs better. I certainly welcome any technical assistance as my long-term goal is to make this a national awareness partnership movement on an annual basis. I am hopeful that you will join me on this journey to make every day feel a bit like a positive holiday for kids experiencing the effects of foster care.

May our efforts provide comfort to humanity,

Joseph Toles

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