

## WHAT BUILDING A NATIONAL WELLBEING INFRASTRUCTURE LOOKS LIKE

Since its founding, FFI has led and supported the work that is paving the potholes and removing the roadblocks to wellbeing. This year alone, we:

- Launched partnerships with courts in St. Louis to support better outcomes for kids and families through a wellbeing orientation.
- Propelled community leaders from across California to leverage the strengths of their communities to address domestic violence and oppression in the systems they work in.
- Partnered with multiple agencies in Missouri committed to using wellbeing as a shared, silo-busting approach to helping kids and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems achieve long-lasting, positive change.

The ripples of our work are far broader:

- Massachusetts is the first state making wellbeing a core required element of sexual and domestic violence services. Beginning in 2017, government funding will be tied to a wellbeing orientation, using the Five Domains of Wellbeing framework.
- Over 2,000 child welfare workers in Missouri are now using a wellbeing orientation in their work, allowing them to gain a better picture of families' situations, engage families more fully, and make more informed decisions to make children's safety a stepping stone to wellbeing.

In 2017, we'll continue building a wellbeing infrastructure through these and other projects:

- Work with 50+ nonprofits eager to become part of a national wellbeing infrastructure.
- Support five government agencies in Massachusetts to launch a new approach to supporting survivors of violence in need of housing, paying attention to wellbeing at every step.
- Collaborate with community leaders across the country to bring more attention to wellbeing on the ground, in communities.
- Partner with courts, child welfare and juvenile justice agencies, domestic violence programs, government support programs, and other systems so they are better able to help people make and sustain change in their own lives.



## WHAT A NATIONAL WELLBEING INFRASTRUCTURE LOOKS LIKE FOR PEOPLE



Marietta is a 37-year-old mom living with her boyfriend, Carl, and her 12-year-old son, Jason. Marietta works part-time and is very dedicated to taking care of Jason, who has cerebral palsy and several other medical issues. Carl helps Marietta take care of Jason's basic needs and watches him while Marietta works. But, Carl also feels that Jason gets between the two of them. One night, Carl wants Marietta to go to a party with him, but she needs to stay home with Jason. Carl has been drinking a lot, and he physically threatens her and Jason. Marietta seeks help.

**With today's potholes and roadblocks, everyone is doing the best they can but it still doesn't add up.**

- Marietta is told if she doesn't go to a domestic violence shelter, she risks losing custody of Jason.
- The shelter staff work hard to find a doctor close to the shelter, but Jason doesn't trust or connect with the new doctor and his health declines, jeopardizing years of progress.
- Marietta can't find affordable housing that's also accessible for Jason. She moves back in with Carl.
- Marietta tries to get Jason back into care with his previous doctor, but his spot was filled and he is put on a waiting list.
- The next time Carl hurts her, Marietta chooses not to go to a shelter. She loses custody of Jason.

**With a wellbeing infrastructure, everyone's efforts add up to lasting change.**

- Marietta has a conversation with a domestic violence advocate. She is clear that she's not afraid Carl will find or hurt her, and that she can't be placed in a shelter because of Jason's medical concerns, but she doesn't want to lose custody and doesn't know what else to do.
- The program is able to pay for a short-term motel stay near the hospital where Jason gets his care, while Marietta is supported in figuring out next steps.
- Marietta's advocate negotiates with Marietta's sister's landlord to let Marietta stay with her sister (who lives nearby) for two months, and the program provides \$50/week for food while Marietta's food stamps application is reviewed.
- Marietta and Jason can take the bus to the doctor, who has advocated for Jason and gotten him a spot in a day treatment program for children with disabilities, allowing Marietta to work.
- Marietta is connected with a training opportunity to work in the day program Jason goes to because she is gifted in working with children facing health challenges.