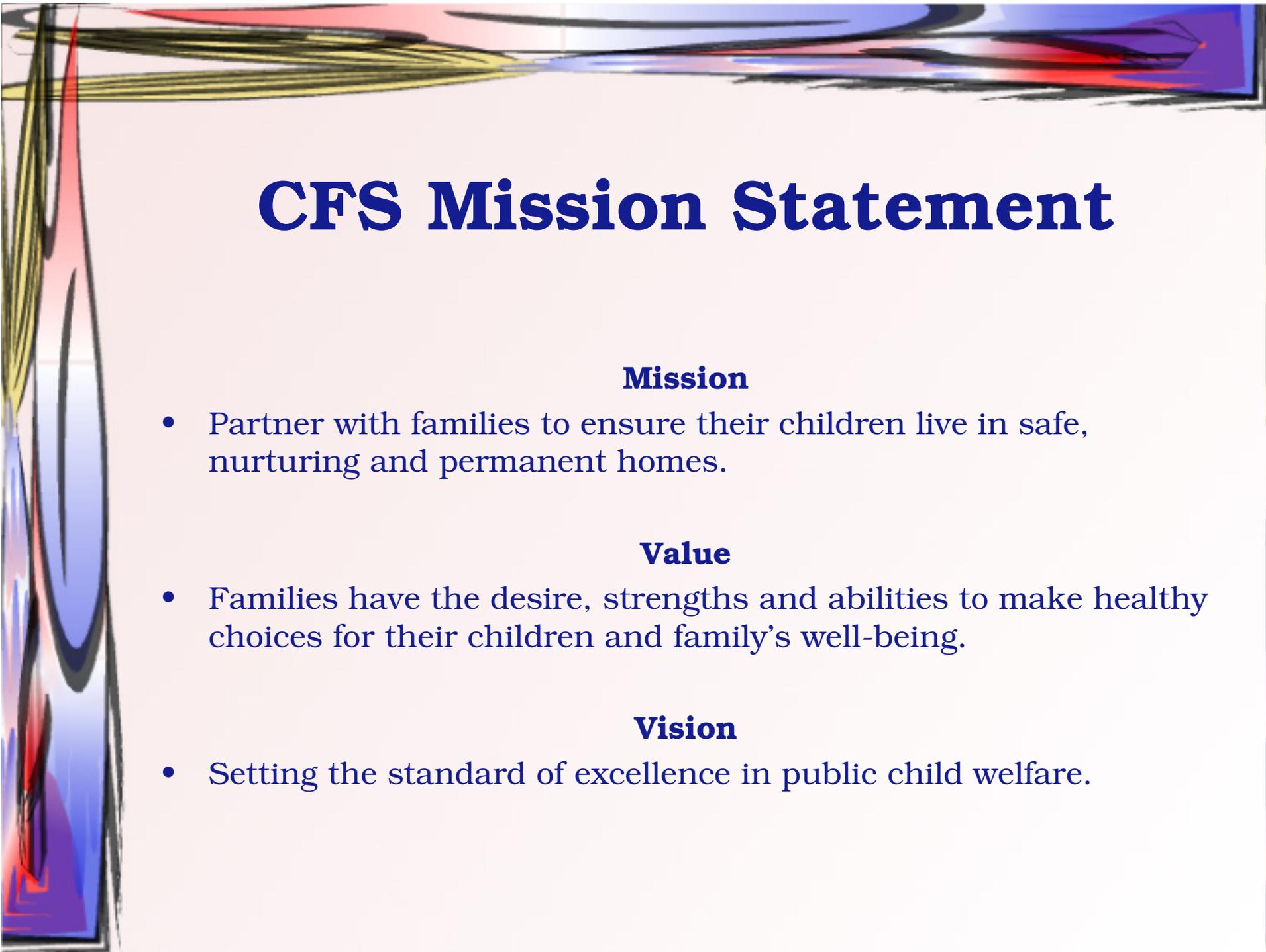


Family to Family Orange County

Scott Burdick, MFT
Senior Social Services
Supervisor



CFS Mission Statement

Mission

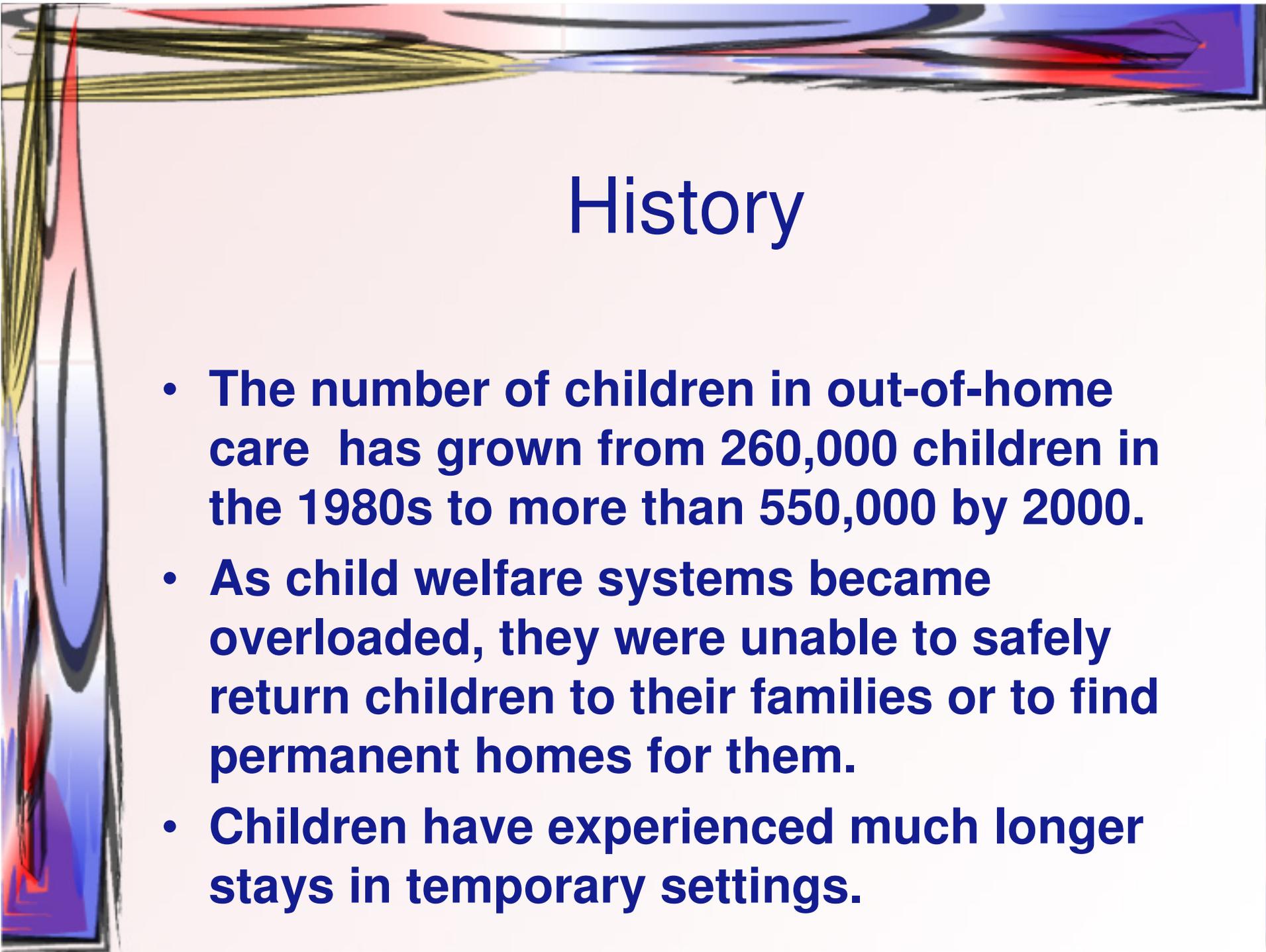
- Partner with families to ensure their children live in safe, nurturing and permanent homes.

Value

- Families have the desire, strengths and abilities to make healthy choices for their children and family's well-being.

Vision

- Setting the standard of excellence in public child welfare.



History

- **The number of children in out-of-home care has grown from 260,000 children in the 1980s to more than 550,000 by 2000.**
- **As child welfare systems became overloaded, they were unable to safely return children to their families or to find permanent homes for them.**
- **Children have experienced much longer stays in temporary settings.**



History

- **The number of foster families nationally has dropped, so that fewer than 50 percent of the children needing temporary care are now placed with foster families.**
- **Large numbers of children have been placed in group care or with relatives who have great difficulty caring for them.**
- **An infant coming into care in our largest cities has a good chance of being placed in group care, and may be without a permanent family for years.**



The City of Santa Ana

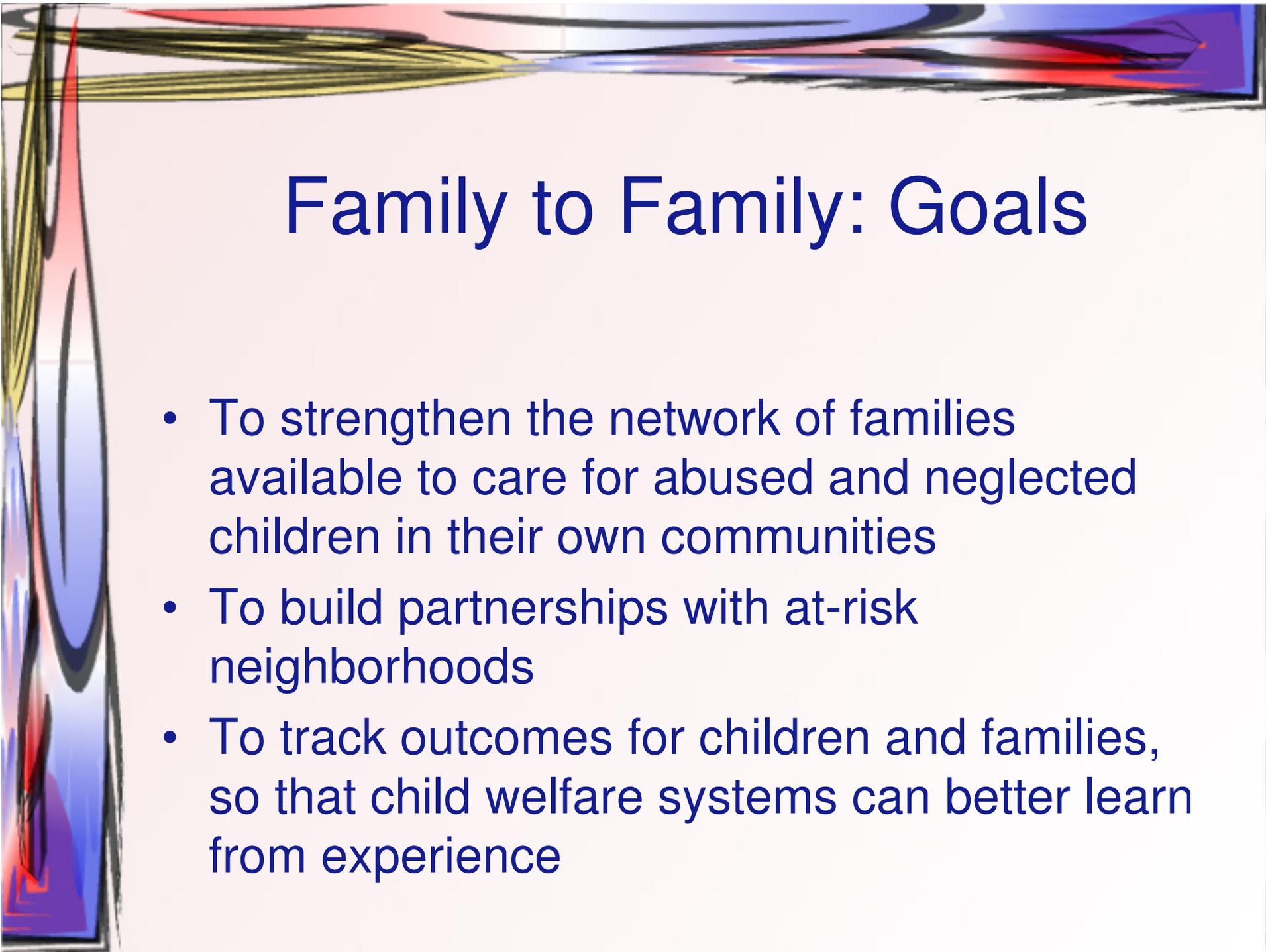
- **Statistics**

- **3780 Child Abuse Registry Reports in the city of Santa Ana(2002)**
- **Approximately 350 Children in Out-of-Home Placements**
- **Approximately 50 Licensed Foster Families in Santa Ana**
- **Approximately 350 Children are currently placed out of the Santa Ana community**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation
was established in 1948

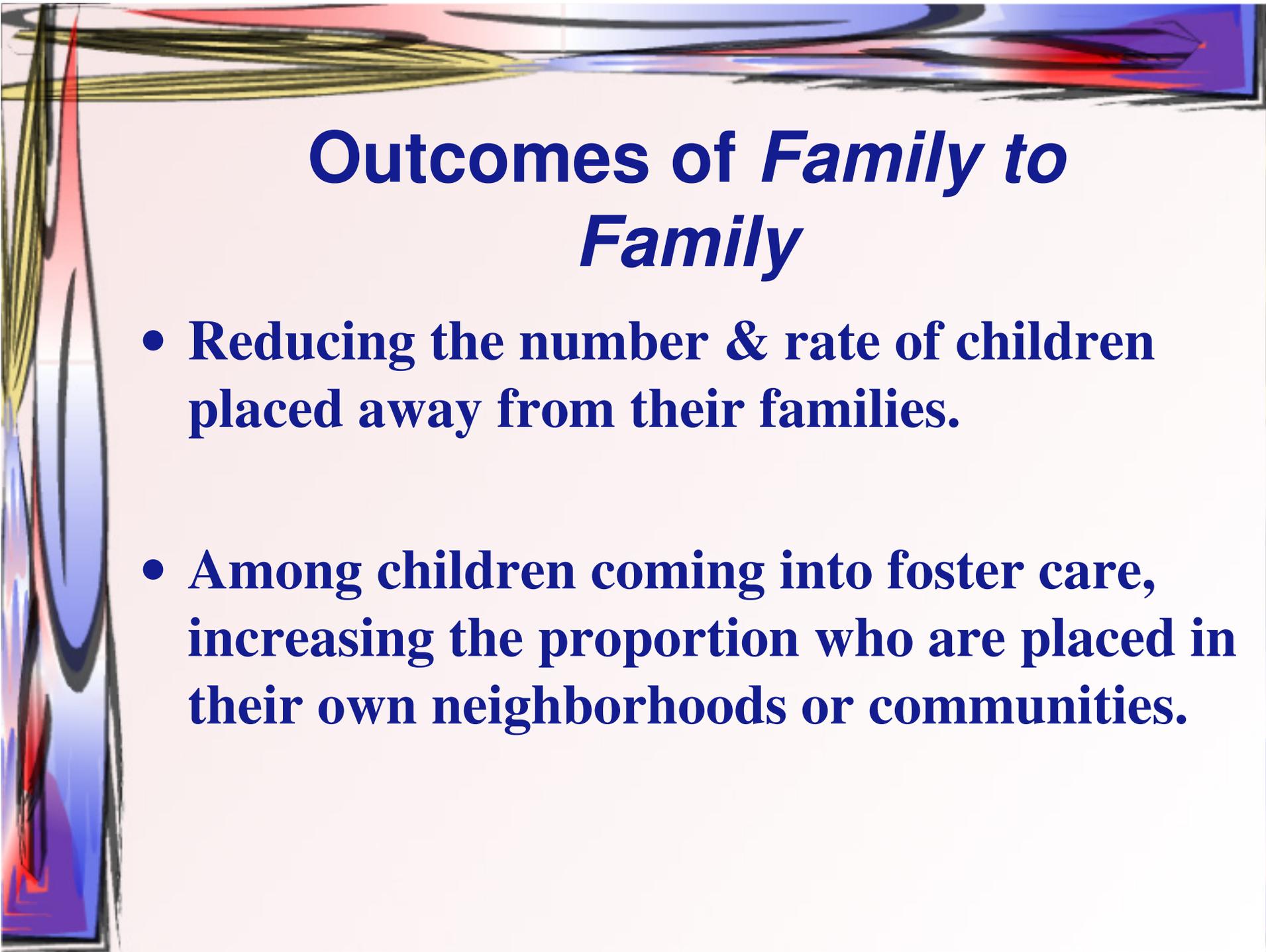


by
Jim Casey,
a founder of United Parcel Service,
and his brothers and sisters, who
named the
Foundation in honor of their mother,
Annie E. Casey.



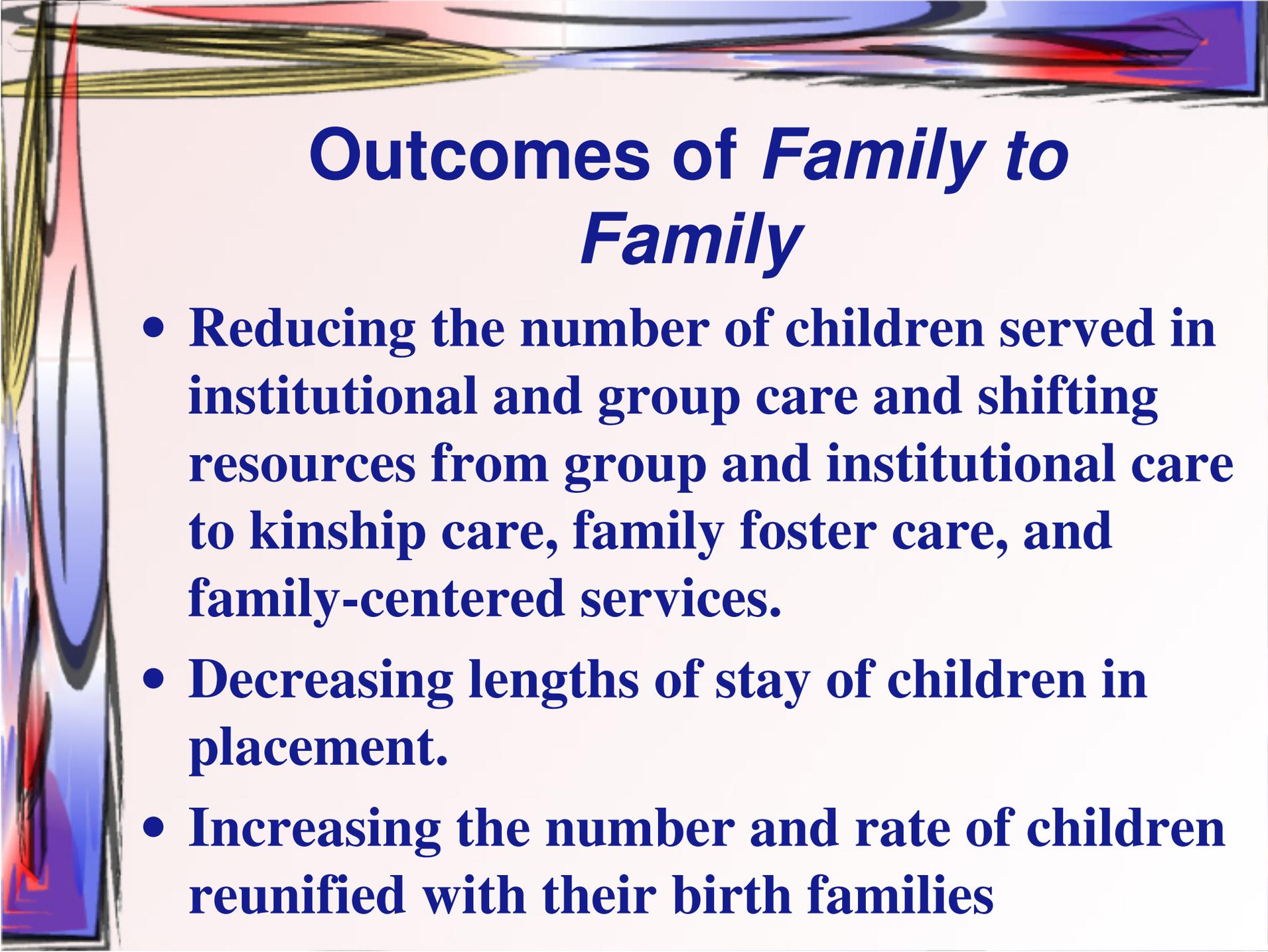
Family to Family: Goals

- To strengthen the network of families available to care for abused and neglected children in their own communities
- To build partnerships with at-risk neighborhoods
- To track outcomes for children and families, so that child welfare systems can better learn from experience



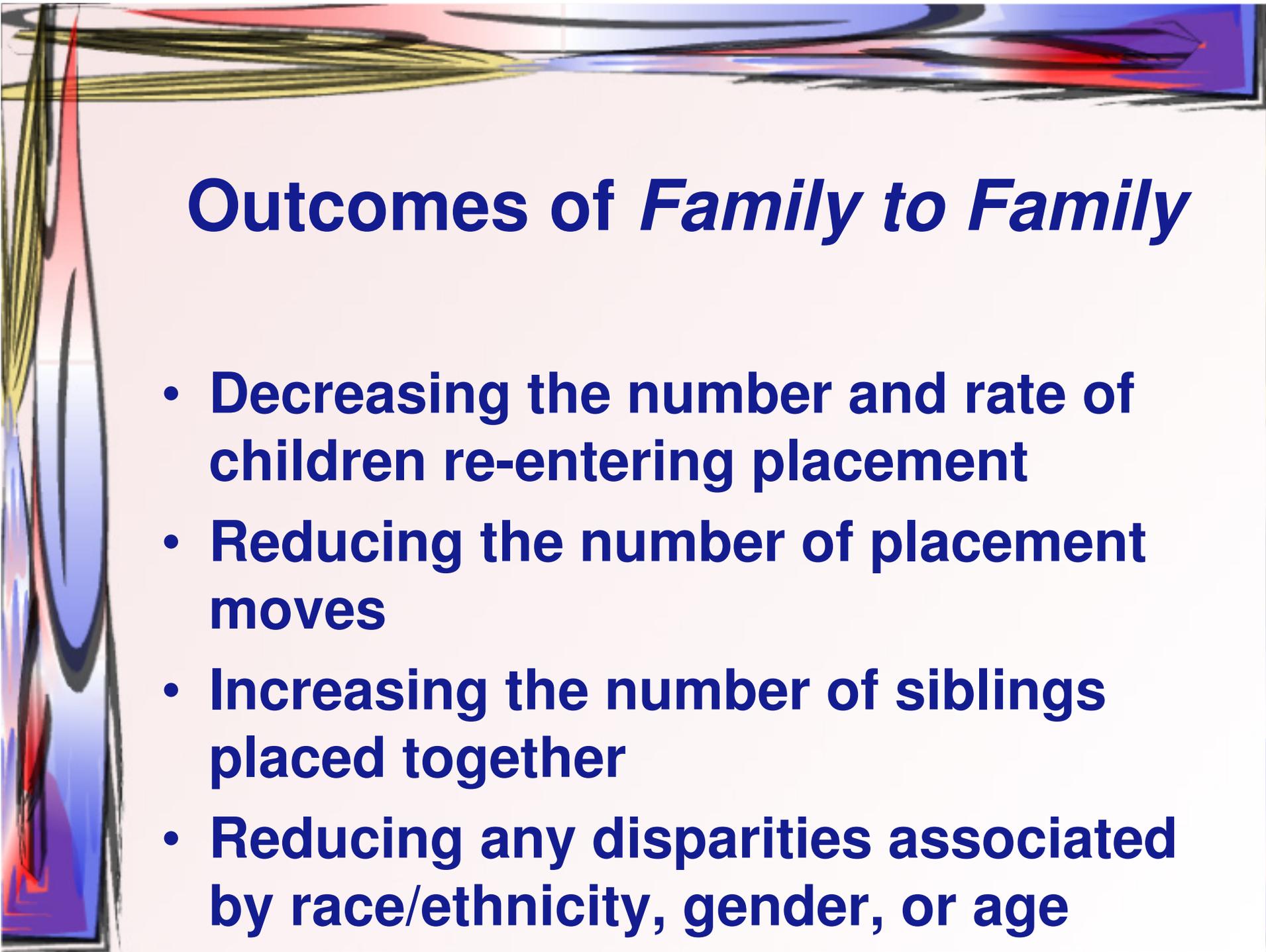
Outcomes of *Family to Family*

- **Reducing the number & rate of children placed away from their families.**
- **Among children coming into foster care, increasing the proportion who are placed in their own neighborhoods or communities.**



Outcomes of *Family to Family*

- **Reducing the number of children served in institutional and group care and shifting resources from group and institutional care to kinship care, family foster care, and family-centered services.**
- **Decreasing lengths of stay of children in placement.**
- **Increasing the number and rate of children reunified with their birth families**



Outcomes of *Family to Family*

- **Decreasing the number and rate of children re-entering placement**
- **Reducing the number of placement moves**
- **Increasing the number of siblings placed together**
- **Reducing any disparities associated by race/ethnicity, gender, or age**



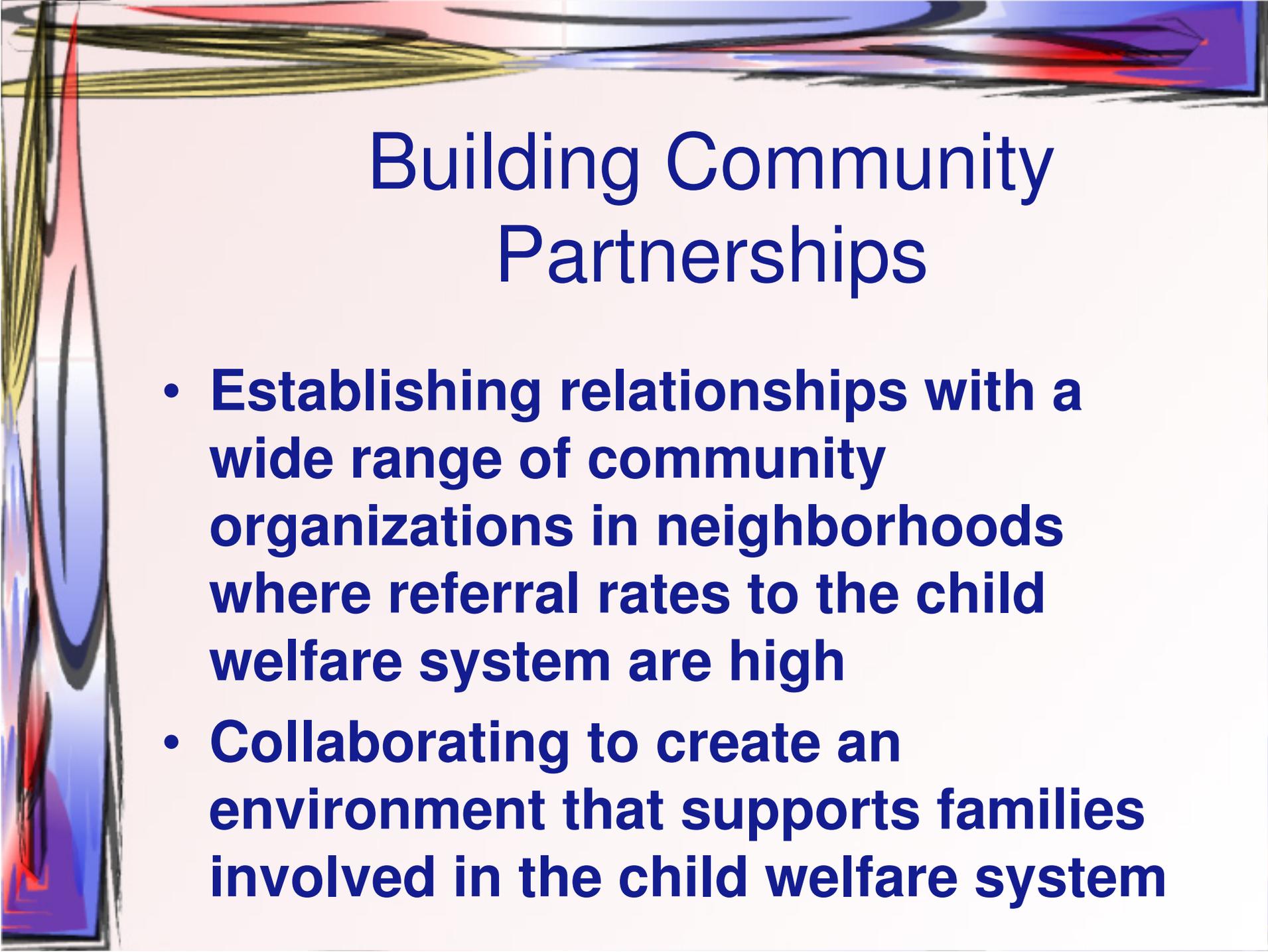
The Four Key Strategies of *Family to Family*

- **Building Community Partnerships**
- **Recruitment, Training, and Support of Resource Families**
- **Family Team Decision-Making**
- **Self-Evaluation**



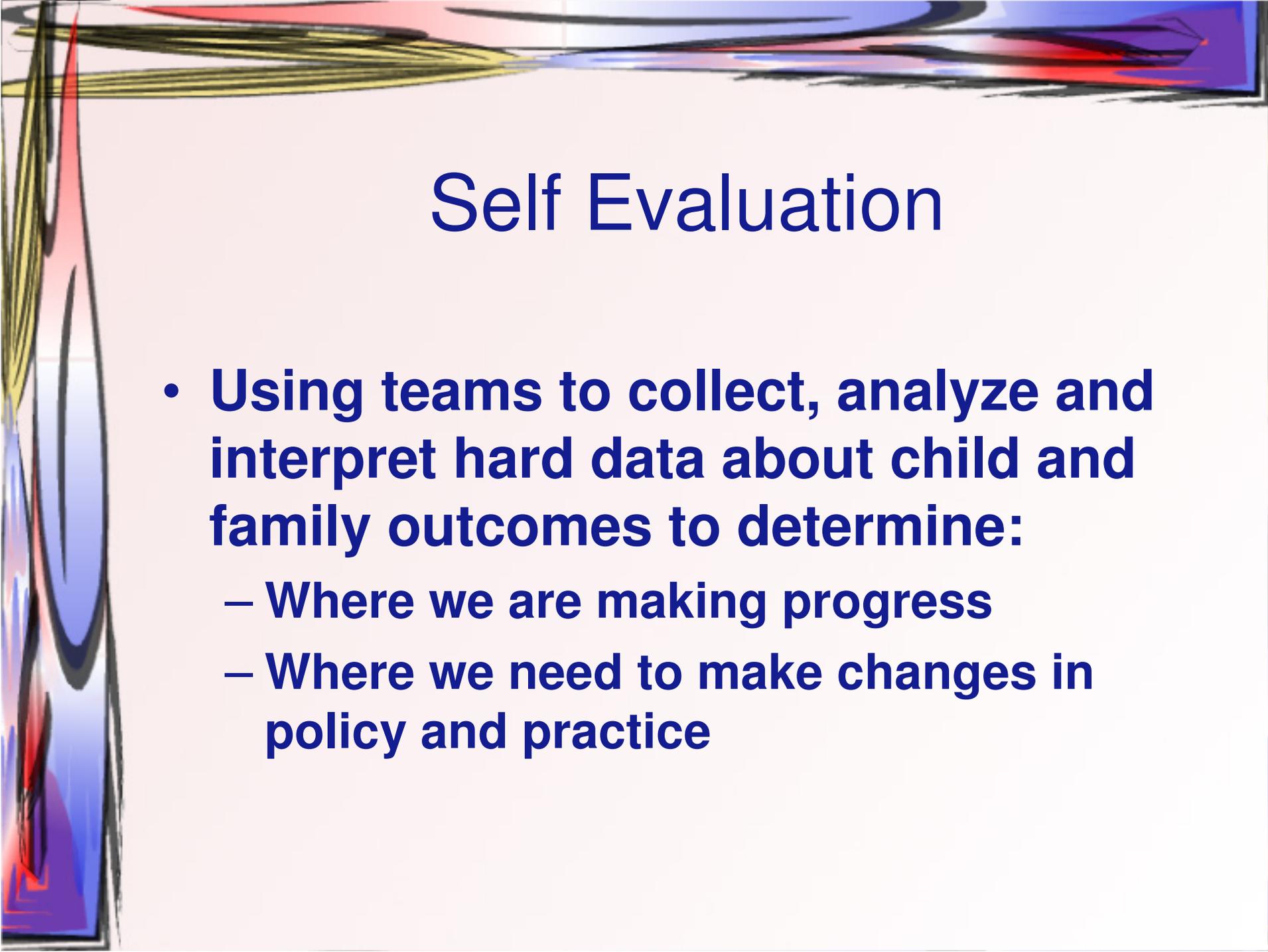
Recruiting Training and Support

- Finding and maintaining foster and Kinship families in their own neighborhoods
- Foster Parents, Relatives and Non-Related Extended Family Members, (Resource Families) are the bridge connecting the agency, biological parents, and the community
- Recruitment should be community based, using Foster parents/Resource families as recruiters. We must establish teamwork among Resource families, biological parents, children and the agency.
- Resource families need to be treated with dignity and respect as full members of the team. We must provide more training resources for our Resource Families



Building Community Partnerships

- **Establishing relationships with a wide range of community organizations in neighborhoods where referral rates to the child welfare system are high**
- **Collaborating to create an environment that supports families involved in the child welfare system**



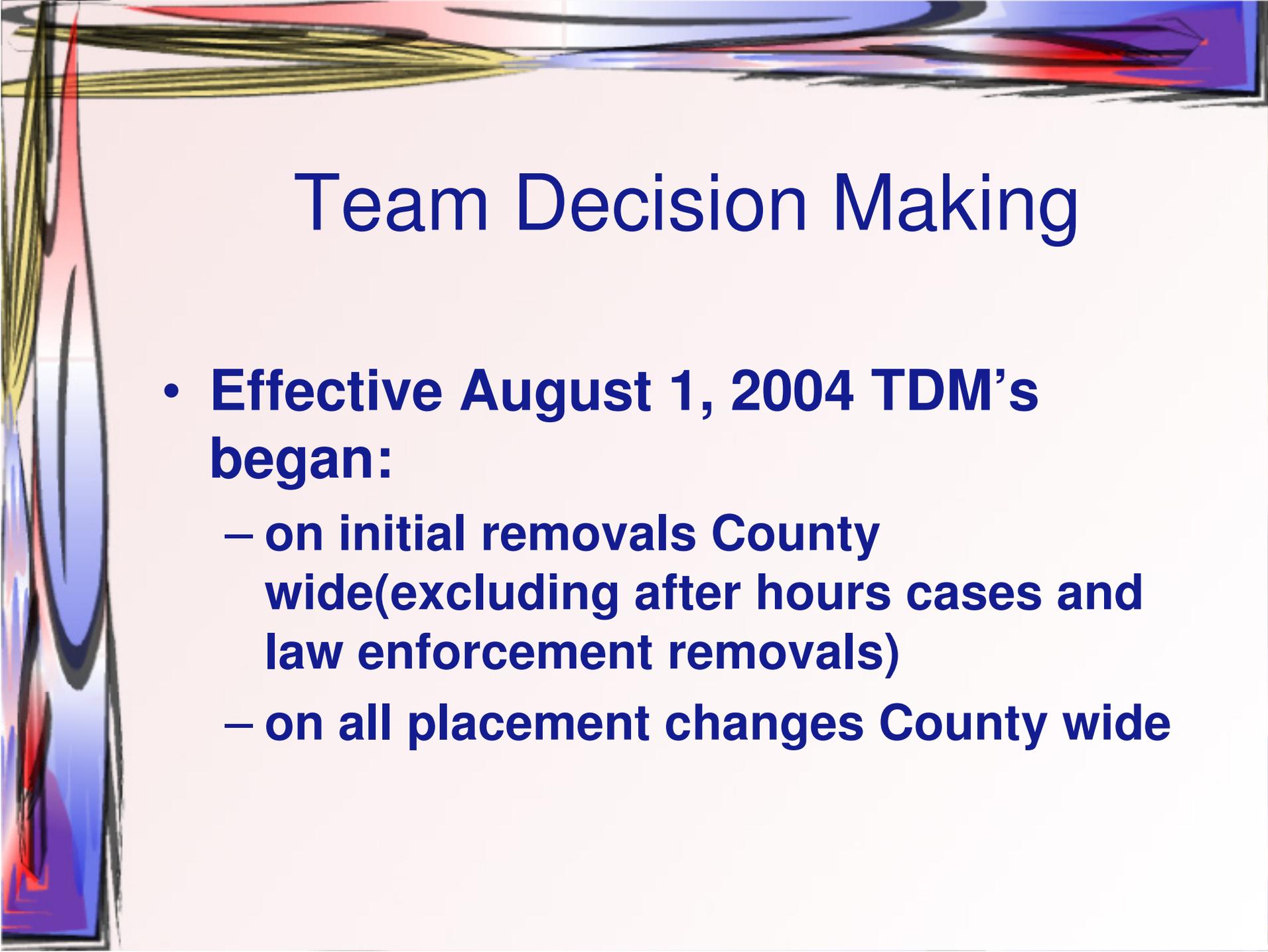
Self Evaluation

- **Using teams to collect, analyze and interpret hard data about child and family outcomes to determine:**
 - **Where we are making progress**
 - **Where we need to make changes in policy and practice**



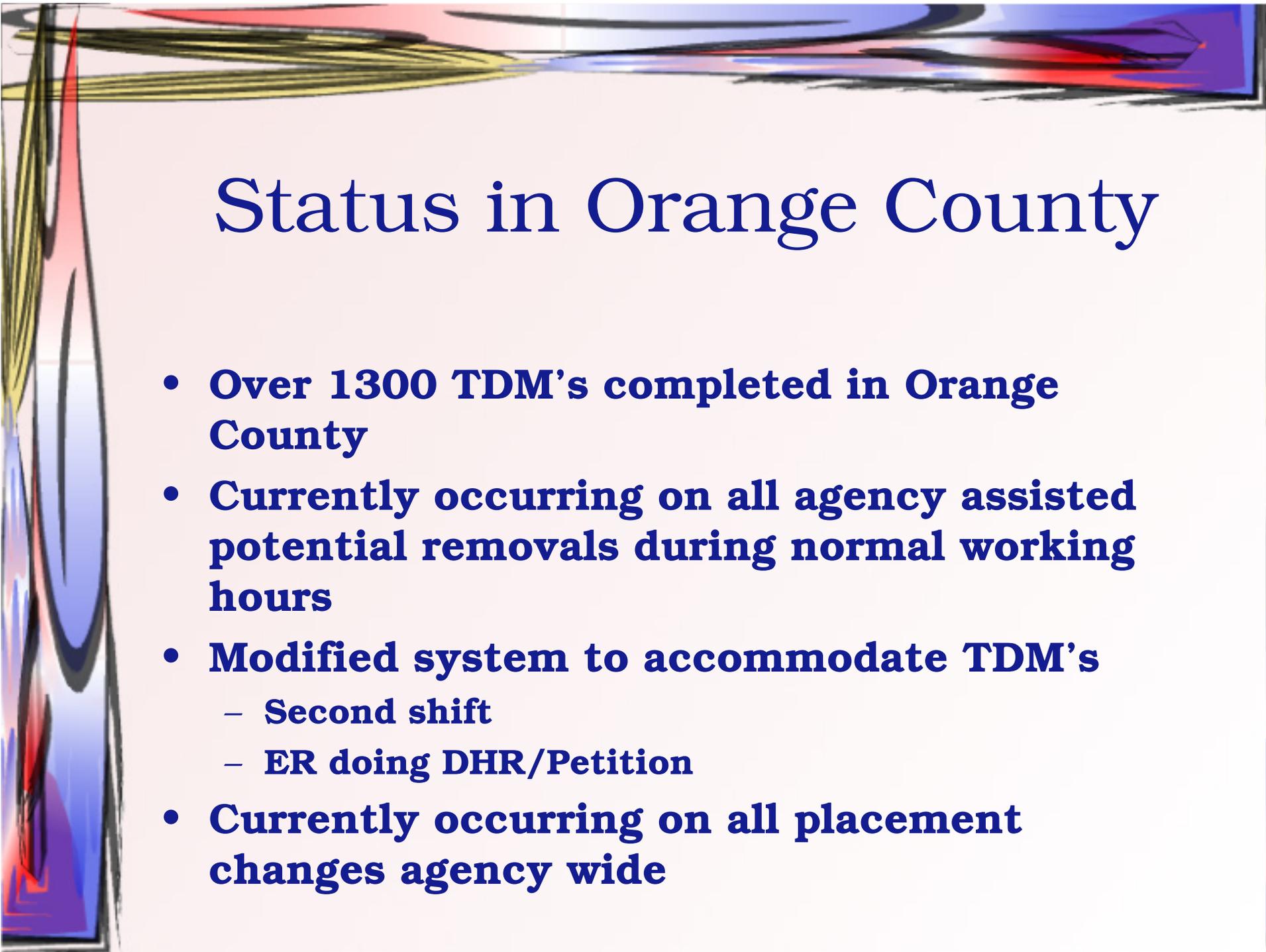
Team Decision Making

- **Involving all parties involved in a child's life in placement decisions. Parties include:**
 - **Parents**
 - **Child**
 - **Foster Parent**
 - **Community Partners**



Team Decision Making

- **Effective August 1, 2004 TDM's began:**
 - on initial removals County wide(excluding after hours cases and law enforcement removals)
 - on all placement changes County wide



Status in Orange County

- **Over 1300 TDM's completed in Orange County**
- **Currently occurring on all agency assisted potential removals during normal working hours**
- **Modified system to accommodate TDM's**
 - **Second shift**
 - **ER doing DHR/Petition**
- **Currently occurring on all placement changes agency wide**

TDM Progress in Orange County

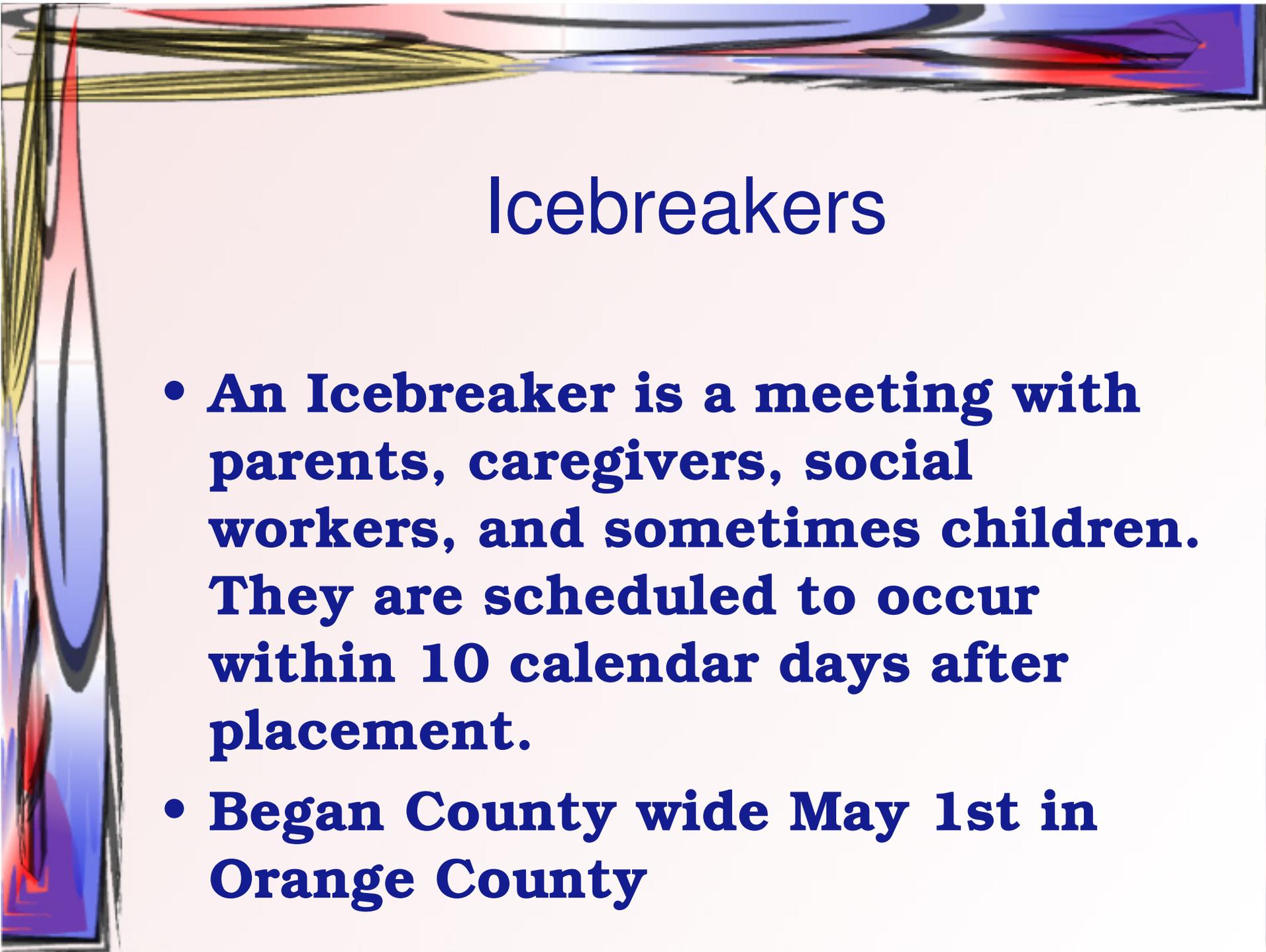
**Orange County Children and Family Services
TDM Imminent Risk of Placement and
Emergency Placement (Removal) Meetings
January 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005**

Purpose of Meeting:	Number children	Number children return or remain home	% of children return or remain home
Imminent Risk of Placement*	95	73	78%
Emergency Placement**	140	17	12%
Totals for both meetings	235	90	38%

TDM Placement Move Meetings

Orange County Children and Family Services TDM Placement Move Meetings January 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005		
Decision Made	Number of Children	% of Children
Change to less restrictive placement	12	5% *
Maintain child in present placement	118	50% *
Change to same level placement	75	32%
Change to more restrictive placement	32	14%
Totals	237	

55% of children for whom a placement preservation meeting was held were either maintained in their current placement, or moved to a less restrictive placement.



Icebreakers

- **An Icebreaker is a meeting with parents, caregivers, social workers, and sometimes children. They are scheduled to occur within 10 calendar days after placement.**
- **Began County wide May 1st in Orange County**



Icebreakers

- **Allow parents to share information regarding their child with the person who is providing care for the child.**
- **Are informal & child focused**
- **Help both the caregivers & the parents care for the child**
- **Support parents & caregivers**
- **Facilitate family reunification**



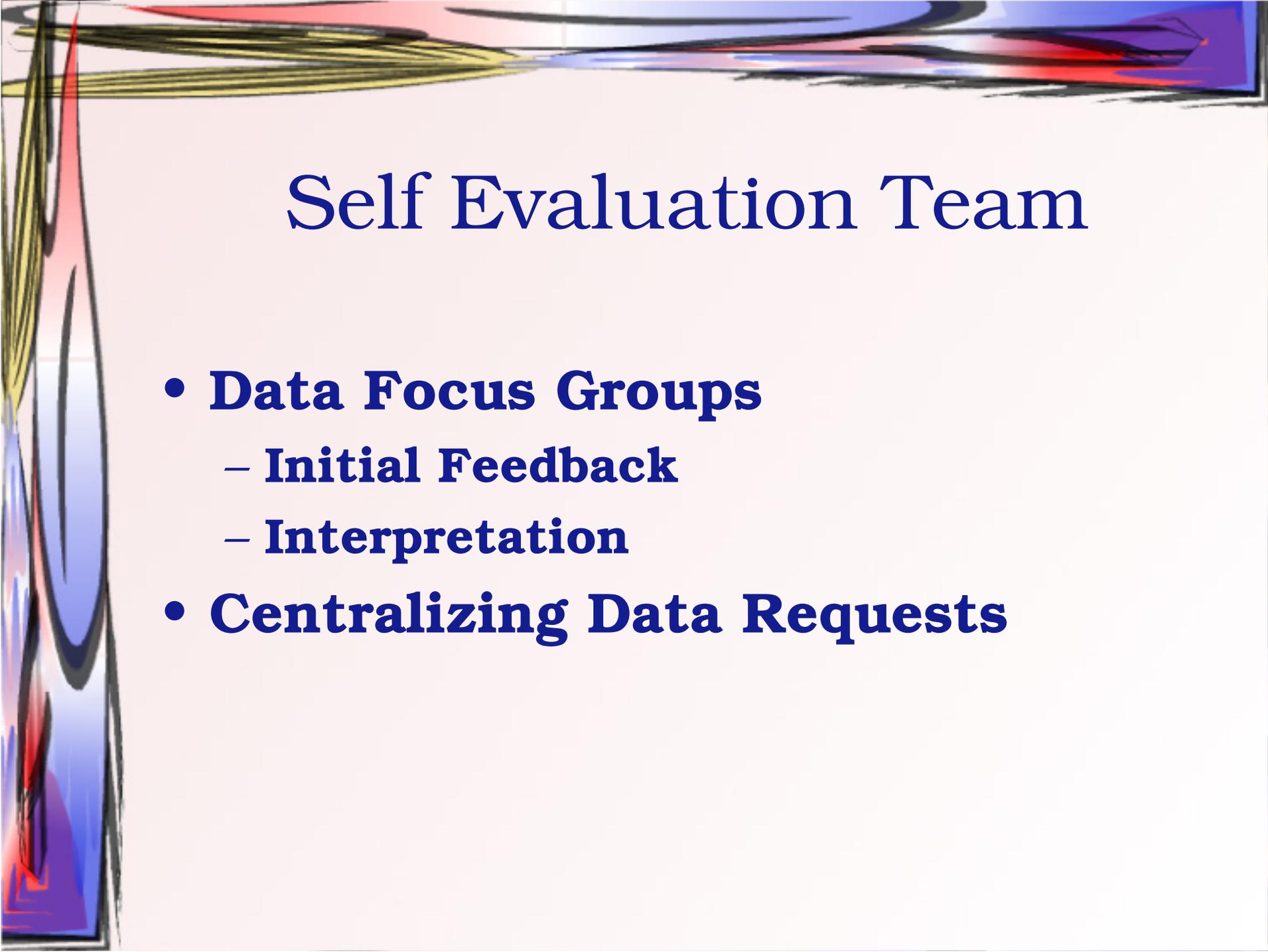
Recruitment Training and Support

- **Use of Foster Parents-Former Foster Youth**
- **PRIDE Training Model**
- **Recruiting for children needed**
- **Youth Permanence**
- **Targeted Recruitments**



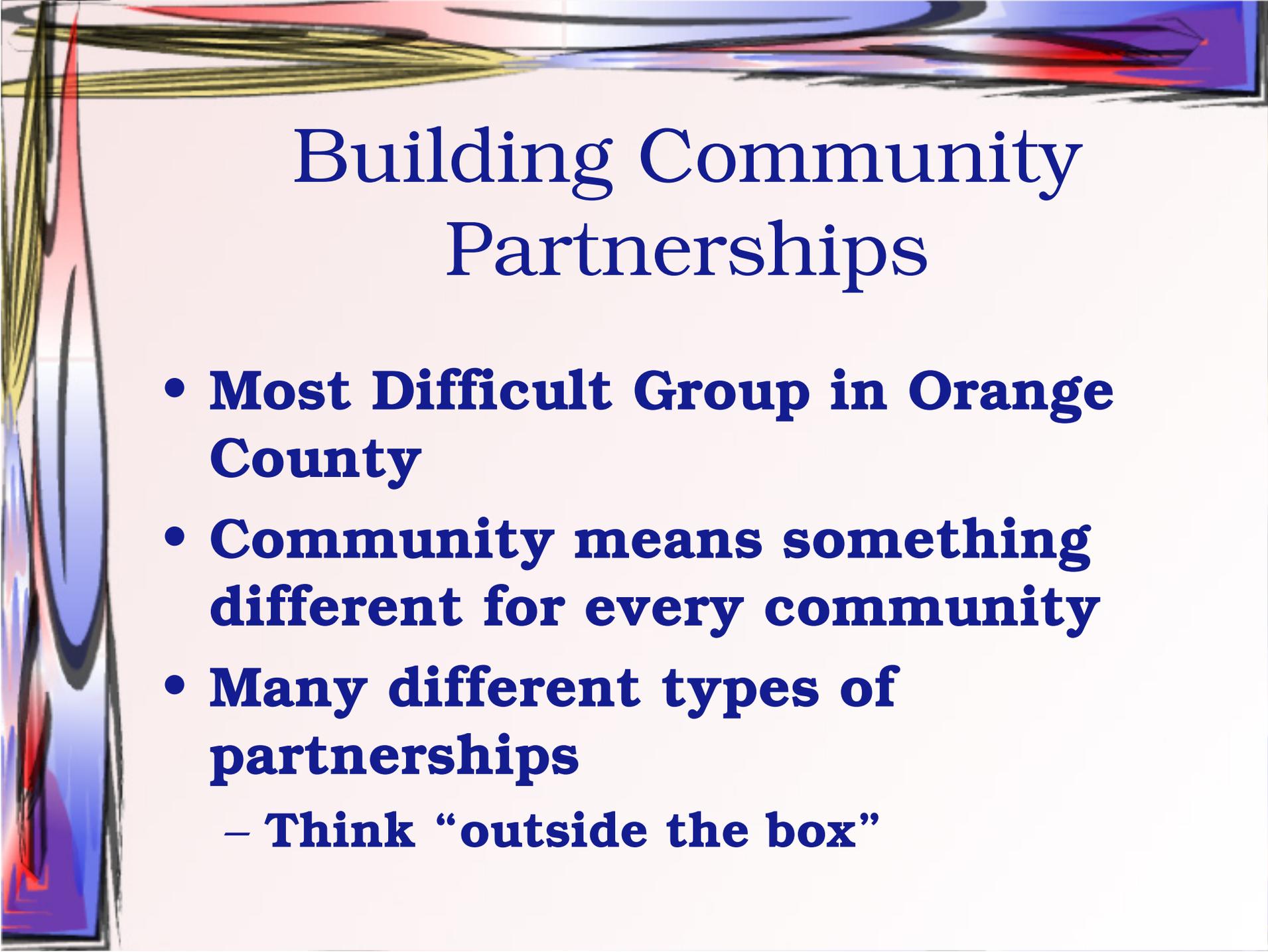
Self Evaluation Team

- **Initial Data Focus Groups**
- **Data Clean Up-Garbage In/Garbage Out**
- **Presentation of Consistent Data**
- **Bulletins**
- **Web Site**



Self Evaluation Team

- **Data Focus Groups**
 - **Initial Feedback**
 - **Interpretation**
- **Centralizing Data Requests**



Building Community Partnerships

- **Most Difficult Group in Orange County**
- **Community means something different for every community**
- **Many different types of partnerships**
 - **Think “outside the box”**



Building Community Partnerships Progress in Orange County

- **Quarterly Community Forums**
- **Starting from where community is at**
- **Parent Leadership Task Force**
 - **Parent Recognition Event**



Planning Council

- **Composition**
- **Purpose**



Family To Family

Every Child Deserves a Family

- Every Family Needs the Support of Their Community
- Child Welfare Agencies Need Community Partners

For more information visit our website at:

www.family2familyoc.com