WHIT PROGRAM

Weekly Hands-on Independent Tutoring Program
whitprogram.org

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS — Jennifer Lisson, Founder and President of The WHIT Program, has received two significant honors in recognition of her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children in foster care.

Lisson was recently named a recipient of the prestigious **Angels in Adoption Award**, a national recognition presented through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and nominated by August Pfluger. The award honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to improving the lives of children and families through advocacy, service, and support of adoption and foster care initiatives.

The recognition highlights Lisson's work through The WHIT Program (Weekly Hands-On Independent Tutoring), a nonprofit organization she and her husband founded in 2021 to provide free one-on-one tutoring and mentorship to children in foster care. What began with 27 foster children and 27 tutors has grown into a statewide program serving hundreds of foster youth across Texas, helping students overcome educational gaps and build brighter futures.

In addition to receiving the Angels in Adoption Award, Lisson was recently appointed by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Commissioner Audrey O'Neal to serve on the **DFPS Services and Support Subcommittee**, a statewide advisory committee dedicated to improving services, policies, and outcomes for children and families involved with the child welfare system.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized with the Angels in Adoption Award and to have the opportunity to serve on the Services and Support Subcommittee," said Lisson. "Both of these honors represent the collective efforts of so many people who care deeply about children in foster care. I am grateful to the volunteers, universities, tutors, child welfare professionals, judges, CASA advocates, caregivers, and community partners who have helped make The WHIT Program possible."

Under Lisson's leadership, The WHIT Program has expanded to work alongside more than 30 universities across Texas and has become the only free tutoring program approved by DFPS for statewide expansion. The program focuses on helping foster youth improve academically, increase confidence, and work toward high school graduation and promote educational opportunities.

Commissioner O'Neal's appointment recognizes Lisson's experience and perspective as a strong advocate for children in foster care. Through her role on the Services and Support Subcommittee, she will help provide recommendations and insight aimed at strengthening support systems for vulnerable children and families throughout Texas.

These latest honors add to a growing list of recognitions for Lisson and The WHIT Program, including the 2024 DFPS Helping Hands recognition, the 2024 Remarkable Woman Award, West Texas CASA Volunteer of the Year honors, and the 2022 National Collegiate Honors Council, for a national recognition along with Angelo State University's Honors Program, for Best National Community Service and Engagement award.

Foster Kids start out behind. We catch them up.

As The WHIT Program continues its statewide expansion, Lisson remains focused on one mission: ensuring that every child in foster care has access to the academic support, encouragement, and opportunities they deserve.

For more information about The WHIT Program or to become a volunteer tutor, visit The WHIT Program's website.

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