



MEET THE MOSAIC STORE + STYLISTS

Clothed with Dignity

Mosaic Style with Love serves foster children through a partnership with Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services (DSS) with NEW clothing. This collaborative partnership started by Carmel desires to bring dignity and identity to every foster child and foster parent served. Since opening in April 2015, the store has been blessed to serve more than 1,250 Mecklenburg County foster children. This is only possible because of volunteers like Catherine and Kim who serve as Stylists, helping the foster child select clothing and ministering to the foster family during the appointment. Below they share their Mosaic experience.

Catherine Plough Stylist since 2018

My husband Greg and I became parents to a son from Hong Kong in 1999. Our biological daughter was 9 and at the time, we knew few adoptive families and had few resources to help with a child with early life trauma. Five years ago, we became aware of Carmel's heart for the orphan and it was among the things that drew us to become part of the Carmel family.

When I learned of Mosaic and the unique relationship Carmel had forged with Mecklenburg County DSS, I couldn't wait to jump in. At the referral of a social worker families are welcomed into Carmel's beautifully arranged and stocked boutique (on Independence Blvd) in order to be blessed with new clothes for the season and just as importantly, to be wrapped in the love and acceptance of Christ.



*Religion that God
our Father accepts as
pure and faultless is
this: to look after
orphans and widows
in their distress
and to keep oneself
from being polluted
by the world.*

- James 1:27



One recent appointment will long remain in my memory. The children's bags were ready to go, bulging with their choices of clothes and shoes, along with basics including pajamas, underclothes and socks. But the ladies (one older, one younger) who had taken on the responsibility of the children's care were not ready to go. They were ready to pray. Mosaic volunteers always seek an opportunity to pray with families, but rarely do we encounter families ready with specific prayer requests, openly seeking God's guidance. Circled together, we began to pray, each in turn. **The Holy Spirit was present in a tangible way and we had church!**

It was a powerful prayer time, but the Lord held out still another blessing just for me. I was able to share the name of the resource that had lighted my path so many years before. The ladies eagerly bookmarked it in their phones. Mosaic had made it possible for me to pass along a part of my journey that would encourage and inform for years to come.

Mosaic supports families that are exploring or navigating adoption and foster care, and I'm so thankful that I can be a small part of supporting the call of the Church to care for the orphan.

Kimberly Lawson

Stylist since 2016

One of God's sweetest gifts has been the opportunity to be a small part of Carmel's Mosaic Foster Care Ministry these past years and the smiles I am privileged to witness. **Each appointment brings the opportunity to enter into a child's story as a visual representation of the love Jesus has for each one of them.** It is such a joy to see their smiles as they step up onto the platform in front of the long mirror and spin around or dance or bust a cool move in their new outfits. Both the clothes we give them and the notes we write are ways God, through His Church, shares with these children that they are His Imago Dei and are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).



God is constantly reminding me of His faithfulness each time I serve through the Mosaic Ministry - a ministry that is supposed to be for others, but also ministers greatly to me.

- Kim, Mosaic Stylist

I have entered so many stories as a volunteer and each will have a lasting impact on me as a picture of God's faithfulness. One families' story that I have been most marked by is that of a young couple who was fostering two baby girls. We gave them adorable clothes picked out just for them while they shared their desire to adopt both of the girls.

We prayed with them and even discovered they were walking through this with friends of mine who were also fostering a baby girl and wanting to adopt as well (also blessed by Mosaic). We exchanged phone numbers so that we could be a part of their prayer group through the adoption process. They revisited Mosaic and one of their little girls' adoption had become final. The second adoption has also been accepted. These girls are now four and five years old and to have been given the joy of walking alongside them has been both a tremendous beauty and a blessing.

To: Me Shannon, Staff & Carvers

I would just like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the wonderful and kind experience you shared with the (5) foster children placed in my care. May God continue to bless you as you change lives for the better for kids that through no fault of their own, are going thru such a hard transition. The smiles you put on their faces, put a greater smile in God's heart.



***We are so thankful
for the time, attention,
care and prayers
of encouragement
given to our family.
It was another link
of the chain God
used to support us
and our daughters.***

- Mosaic foster mom



Carmel partners with Congregations For Kids, an organization that aims to give every kid in foster care the support they need to thrive. CFK supports foster children by providing mentors, training foster parents and providing support to social workers by pairing social workers with someone to encourage and pray for them in their Sociallight program. To find out more about any of these opportunities to serve the foster community in our area, [click here](#).

My Socialights have been such a blessing to me. These beautiful ladies have brought words of inspiration to me during times that I have felt overwhelmed. They bring a smile to me as I read their sweet words and remember what's important. They touch not only my heart but my soul.

***- Giovanna W, 20-year social worker
with Meck Co DSS***

*Dear Friends,
On behalf of our foster son, I thank you! He came out at bedtime, smoothing down his T-shirt, and said, "Everything I have on is new! Even my underwear! It feels good!" I told him some good people wanted to help him out. He said, "Don't say 'thank you' to them for me."*



Mosaic
Style with Love

**WATCH the Mosaic Store
Grand Opening Video**



Carmel is committed to making disciples of those Nearest, our Neighbors and the Nations.

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