Kenya Beasley ([11:24:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/hVQtYA95sSTA_YrrEAFB-t_j_G2DxKWCcRj-OJZZnvyhHg74HRft9JIwRave0ybF1G_OMqqFg0utjytb83Sb1q4rKuE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=0.06)):

My name is Kenya Beasley. K-E-N-Y-A B-E-A-S-L-E-Y.

Speaker 2 ([11:24:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/DDPqXPVP6OBTVz614g_Jdg96EWzuqjvOJffNoZ8c9NqhPUksXpY9vjKMVuLEHYh1PZ5ywYR3f27RpmYKCFeha0oxRD0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5.1)):

Okay. And caseworker is the right title.

Kenya Beasley ([11:24:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/fmj_JzQcKTMWERbxWy7pgNs9Nf_W93RSUBP0RlIeqzvbeNIIkn1sD01TT9toAmrHIO9kO5F50zcFwyVBwvzVlvD9vRk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=7.47)):

Child Welfare Specialist is the correct title, but people don't recognize that, they recognize caseworker, so we make it easy.

Speaker 2 ([11:24:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/e6UChm3ZQwty5xRhSsalWaEzurd7dFy_RbJNeOzvk-SNRSuBhqI4WKhqWqRPm3bJlLXejquEEBMj5XLzQYcCYNUGVyQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=15.93)):

Tell me a little bit about the excitement happening out here. What's going on out here?

Kenya Beasley ([11:24:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0gvnOE6nHPsXdOJEaxxw_KT8TTsfaju2mVwuyExjO7UlIFIqfIMwM7ViJjxySteqX760H5OUmcDwoMXqH_aKeHP02xI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=18.84)):

So I'm excited because I've been waiting almost 17 years. That's how long it'll be in January, for the playground to be here for the kids. This is somewhere where our parents don't have to put their kids into a vehicle and drive them to somebody else's playground. They can come out here and barbecue and let the kids play. Come out. When the snow on the ground and still be able to sit. People like me who do parent-child visits and sibling visits, instead of trying to take them into the community, we can walk straight down here and we can sit and the kids can play. And that is the best thing is to see the kids play. My favorite part, when I used to come on a Saturday and nobody knew I was here, just to walk out and see the community, not only just the foster children, but the private citizen children playing.

([11:25:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/9ok_Kc06HO91YedAuuTq9nN_vXG8n1zFoZpIs-3fOygPdGlJPR9Y5EYi_Ng7mDuDhIexrAVj1tCBQ7QUzG6zsnoLYXY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=72.18)):

You can't tell what kid is what if you don't know who they are. And that's the way it's supposed to be. That's why this village was built, the first urbanized foster care aid was. I love this. Every day I come. Even after all this time, I see hope. Soon I hit that street, it's like hope. To see, if you get here like 6:30, 7:00 in the morning you see the parents getting the kids into the vehicle to get them to high school or to wherever program they in. I love this place, obviously, I've never left.

Speaker 2 ([11:26:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/i1IDS91l3wM_oIHJ-1w7W2PNEN9owygsSwDM9VfCmpyTsoDZ61XQ5QUJPUZu3PxBvrvIKUVoXvlzKvSeuJehcFOE32E?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=102.84)):

Tell me about just a sea of volunteers out here. What's the scene here with all the red shirts and tell me a little bit.

Kenya Beasley ([11:26:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/SAdkX1vRh8JEchsVb3FEMgx539jXbaCBZzIpIvCRjTBRnBf7Cjruc8uspwtWCYiCnuNNi3lBF3boHs8XC2uAlfDyGi0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=108.42)):

So the sea, I can tell you from one of our little kids, ooh, when they're done, can we play on the playground. For people to take their time, their energy, get away from their families on a Saturday after they even worked all week. I'm so appreciative. I'm trying not to cry, but to see all of these volunteers with the red shirts, doing this from the goodness of their heart, to make sure that our children at this agency be able to play safely in this area, that's a blessing.

([11:26:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/XJPafQ6zkdMZnrKO_ryaqwDqhEyy69B-5_bPfZsPe3caEvNYlENFwt41nxdnqfwKL-iMLOzXFWdAtoqGvqmeEUr6ke0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=149.1)):

And I'm so grateful for them. And the kids, they're in the garden now playing, but they keep looking like they can't wait. They can't wait to get out here and play. But they're staying in there, they know they got to stay in there until y'all all done and give them the go ahead to come play, but they can't wait. I personally can't wait because I love to take pictures, so I can't wait to see the first child slide down the sliding board. I can't wait to see the parents sitting at the benches. This is perfect. And this is easily a place where therapy can happen, where they can come sit at the bench and sit and talk with their client while it's nice outside. I thank you all. So that sea back there, I'm grateful.

Speaker 2 ([11:27:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UM0O0vtjEGphtGQk8WQWl96hMT1zcdSpH-cZtfqfJy2-tc7B8exHByvmJKNyXtJu_smKq-vkGUKupVAEtvZoRdqFpQI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=194.46)):

Tell me a little bit about, so you have the kids that are peeking out now, but what have you heard from the kids leading up to today in terms of their excitement?

Kenya Beasley ([11:27:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/K4ltiNd4qyw5zOvm0d32N3i6uqQ_M-ehzT9yEsoczNExaEsU34BmXrXxnc7q6T_RJCI9PooLWqq9cLzTuTyty1Qi4W4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=200.34)):

So they thought y'all was supposed to be here last week. They was coming out. I worked last week as well. They was like, we're not doing a playground yet? They can't wait to get out here and slide because down there by the office, it's a small playground, but it's for the YMCA daycare center. So this is a playground they can actually come to and play with their friends and their siblings. And unfortunately we have siblings might be in two different homes, but now they can come out here and play together like they would be, if they was in the same home.

([11:28:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Cb7qDe8osQMmhcKskHAoi2VXnHAIzo60kHqoAUBQ-yQ2H38Y-Ph9CG3DV5ruHxmr7JOPo44ahGw-83RjVCePyHGA4HQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=237.81)):

They can't wait to play. So they are really looking forward to slide down the sliding board, to swing, to do everything that they can't wait to do. So that's what they're talking about. Even our teenagers, our 13, 14, 15-year-olds can't wait to come out and just chill. We can just go chill. Instead of chilling in the cul-de-sac where the little block stairs at, they get to come out here where the grass at and sit and talk. The stuff that only teenagers talk because they feel that we old. We don't know what it means to be a teenager. But the fact that we'll still be able to have eyes on the kids, know that they safe down here playing. Safety is the top priority in them having fun.

Speaker 2 ([11:29:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ns_NyLZsjUHFlnzMXqHChSsjSTUhYbqRYheBfWxGyOVdQns2zjyqxwu9Hfknhg8_Ew-yuwYFu8NkKAh5mUC8NIFxtJU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=282.8399999)):

I can just tell that you have a lot of passion for this work, the work that you're-

Kenya Beasley ([11:29:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/j_q9UG_vBLAuTr1mKr2Qvmdcn8hHcPGhG-Nfj0t82KdO-spxI0gP_Kv5Tf3GXjWgYzx2VYTNd7Dr84cMoe-CdJ2ycDQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=286.83)):

I do.

Speaker 2 ([11:29:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/xK9SHnvc11JVEtnNnvcdmdLQRrBKJDUiaqlZD2vDNPXSeu-F2Dj6Cdsv4esFiESkaclT3hudppy4q06Dj_ZgTXGPpLA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=287.3399999)):

Can you tell me a little bit about why foster care is such an important part of your life?

Kenya Beasley ([11:29:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Y9ql3cc-NztyEhK83NQd5hemwFJcYo7nID6Y3b-oP5a9k8faSsFN2oVrXLjTcsSwV2smFYKq0rTQYod3DzL0XvYPS4s?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=293.1)):

I think my father, God rest his soul, Eugene Beasley, he was military, but my cousins and aunts on that side were caseworkers. And I wanted to be a caseworker for so long. So I worked in social services agencies and things like that. But when I got here and found out what they did, I never seen foster care like this. You mean y'all take sibling groups to keep the siblings together? Oh, I fell in love with that. And I learned all that I could from every caseworker, every supervisor, my CEO, Delphine Rankin, which I'm grateful for, encouraged me to go back to school, get my degree. She promoted me to be a caseworker after I passed my licensing. So to me, it's just another way of growing within the agency to do more for my clients. To see, such far I have had two families adopted out, three families where the kids returned home, which is always good because kids don't come into foster care to stay.

([11:30:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FZV9TU2CeCkJTs3q4OKOqLoChfj0TXkPQ3YCQ6FgYNZgLi6dTexYJ2eszTECHD4oJQ7KaFDUPBMl-mtDAUHOQwfXmz8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=360.75)):

We work hard with the natural parents and the children to try to stabilize and heal that relationship so the kids can go home. But if not, then we work hard to find them loving families to go to. So again, I absolutely love what I do. It's hard work some days and some days I'm like, "I can't believe... Why did I come into this field?" But then you see the little one's facing like, ah. When things are going right, you're thrilled that you put in all that hard work. So I also love it because we all are in this field for a reason. Whether we had a friend that was in care or you wasn't raised in the best home yourself, you try to figure out a way to make sure you make that next child's life better than what your life was. So yeah, I love this agency. January will be 17 years. This is the place I will retire from. And I want to do this until I retire.

Speaker 2 ([11:31:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ethqMftcorzQtPeLVIolkuZaMw4t9NhN4kEpCl80cuFC5GeP6wxQFFHdaNPnb3631ADKam2mfhUPNDo5Cm9o2qTB24M?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=427.5299999)):

That's great. So Travelers is obviously the sponsor out here that's working with Kaboom to build a playground.

Kenya Beasley ([11:31:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/L3Cvkd306urBIiMtFczU7i-mtSxlaJ-pXIfFieZntRkONPaKB5kg8_cyM__PfHMUUqQiGoq1A1mBUf1dU--_wNGRHlo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=41487.65)):

Yes.

Speaker 2 ([11:31:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/wM9N1jqKUOffHz-J5ddlluF1oMwBqbFefrFWT3nW6w8OsC87-5CvKqVir7OlGBYyOzl3fG7REj4oyfOaxGRKzH-TYow?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=432.45)):

And you've already spoke to your gratitude a little bit, but if you wouldn't mind, just with the name Travelers in it, if you could tell me what this really does mean for the community.

Kenya Beasley ([11:31:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-urwwt_WRvMLKRhl5sC2l5Loq_hhSjLDtqVgcILzC0uKuSq9o_2Kn8rxiq9yZQXUAP4oSC-BuPRzcoJ2FRwV-zP3yO4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=439.83)):

Travelers, I really want to thank you all because y'all could have donated y'all time, energy, and funds to any organization, so many good ones out there. But for you all to pick One Family Illinois, to make a difference in the kids' lives the way that you are. And not only just the kids' lives, the parents, the case workers, I'm grateful. Many times I walk my kids down here to talk to them, but now I get to walk them down here and play with them on the slide, the younger ones. Or the older ones, I get to sit down on the bench. Not just me, the therapist, the other case workers. When you be able to sit and relax in a normal atmosphere, your kids are a little bit more willing to open up because they feel like it's normal. They're not in foster care, they're just talking to an adult that they respect, but they're being relaxed. I thank you all. Travelers, I appreciate you wholeheartedly because again, y'all could have took your time, energy, and funds anywhere, and I'm grateful that y'all brought it to One Family Illinois.

Speaker 2 ([11:32:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2Apo-195IQiFIqJfjLg2_b7T11UbRm0Llf_IPBU5rU5tmlnBEdRD-TRGoz2WfKdbIGhXEZAdyyMEIBjsQ3ijyGUahaE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=505.89)):

One Family is its own community, right?

Kenya Beasley ([11:32:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ZD4pSegWtYtYwKU2bQmqem_natwDSZtNh8AK4mNqAK1e_4kLkh1m7niJOfUlB4R-xjIkV08iEqGSMdEAzZwzlIUFQYc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=508.83)):

Yes.

Speaker 2 ([11:32:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Gc1cTIpn5jKcZHIVlvcQJCGJPss_MYrsmgGUDBjjbwOuDB7BKcXUT0pPmOmHvywXGGuV9R8TpberIN3RSgZLI61n4ko?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=508.98)):

This little village that where all these foster families live, but now you have church groups, you have Kaboom, you have Travelers. What do you think it means to have all of these people gathering? And it's almost like family, right?

Kenya Beasley ([11:33:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jMQAxPqnLKVwgAX3-hHzXigCat-OzcN-zWM7RyIn-uERv7oHitGGQ-mdBe6Zw9inzLYkjYsKAtuEzpsphUXrnsAHXgI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=522.96)):

It's what America is about. That's what America is about, uniting people. That's what Chicago is about. Chicago is a big place with multiple communities. But when we come together, this is Chicago as best. Helping each other. And that's what that is for me. All these organizations together. Unity for one cause. Man, I just think if the world can get on the same page, there will be no hungry child, no hungry person in this world, if we all could get on the same page. But it start with small. This is the small, raise it to the next level. So yes, that's what that means. Unity all on one accord.

Speaker 2 ([11:33:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Lhb0TmZQ3qggl0IVS9v0ogCrs6Upw74eipk7w9flMi6CqQHd0305hk38Tg4_kAv4YaHQ_j2wf_GyrMSUTsCQRYUl2cg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=569.8499999)):

Beautiful. I think we got it.

Kenya Beasley ([11:33:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UVdyDJFhuDzq_ZxCdCONPI2To_kFAXbrmTS4fwe9KpC1akjyj05OSC6SpLomfc6y_ATSjVCJZHYhA5IMeucRISn1mls?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=41630.1799999)):

Okay.