



A WELCOMING HOME: — Be a Foster Family —

Be the difference. Children from across Texas are in need of help. These children have never known what it means to have a safe and loving place to call home. You can make a difference in the life of a child by opening your home to provide a safe and nurturing environment. To a child who has neither known safety nor learned to trust, the smallest gesture of a welcoming home could be life changing.

There is a critical need in every community for families to volunteer to open their homes to children who have been

abused, neglected, or abandoned. The availability of a loving foster family is essential to creating a safe place for children who have experienced trauma and neglect. Foster families play a critical role to the growth and development of a child by creating a stable and loving home environment.

Answer the call and find out more about beginning the journey toward helping a child in need by becoming a foster family.



MEET THE NEED

- Many children in the foster care system are removed from their home communities and foster families are needed to meet this need.
- Children are spending time in foster care and aging out of the system before finding a permanent family.

BENEFITS

- The opportunity to change the life of a child
- The chance to make a difference in your community
- The opportunity to make a difference in the world

STEPS

- Attend an Information Session with a private or public agency
- Attend the required pre-service training
- Participate in a home study

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide daily care and nurturing
- Advocate for children in their schools and communities
- Keep children's caseworkers informed
- Be supportive of efforts made to reunify children with their birth families
- Provide a positive role model
- Help children learn life skills

REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least 21 years of age, financially stable, and a responsible mature adult
- Complete an application with a private child-placing agency or DFPS
- Share information regarding background and lifestyle
- Provide references

- Show proof of marriage and/or divorce
- Complete a home study
- Undergo a criminal history background check including FBI fingerprints
- Undergo an abuse/neglect check on all adults in the household
- Attend free training to learn about issues of abused and neglected children

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Have adequate sleeping space
- Allow no more than 6 children to live in the home
- Agree to a nonphysical discipline policy
- Permit fire, health and safety inspections of the home
- Vaccinate all pets
- Obtain and maintain CPR/First Aid Certification
- Obtain TB testing as required by the local Health Department for household members
- Attend 20 hours or more of training each year

TEXAS RESOURCES

Statewide Foster Care and Adoption Inquiry Line
1-800-233-3405

Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE)
www.adoptchildren.org
TARE Help 1-800-233-3405

Texas Foster Family Association
www.tffa.org