

# Become a Foster Parent.

Childhood is brief. There are countless opportunities for you to change a lifetime for a child in foster care by sharing your heart, opening your home and giving hope to children and teens. Families provide safe, nurturing, and predictable environments during the very brief "window of childhood."

## Get Started Now!

Please call 269.501.0834 for answers to any questions you may have about becoming a foster or adoptive parent.



Family & Children Services is a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian, human service organization begun in 1903. Its mission has remained constant "...To support, strengthen and preserve the safety, well being and dignity of children, individuals and families".

The Agency receives funding through contracts with Community Mental Health programs and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, insurance reimbursements, fees for service based on a sliding scale and contributions. We are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children. The Agency is licensed by the State of Michigan as a Child Placing Agency, Child Caring Institution (Children's Therapeutic Group Home), and Substance Abuse Program.

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### Foster Care & Adoption Services

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- *Family & Children Services' facilities are barrier-free.*

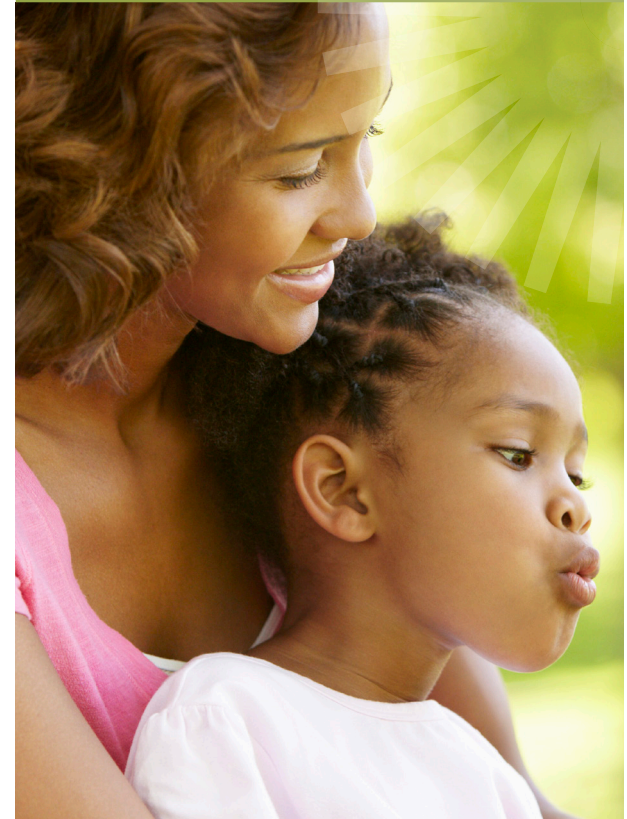


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# Foster Care & Adoption Services



Change a life.  
And hers, too.



# One Child.

# One Family.

# Making Connections.

## Foster Care

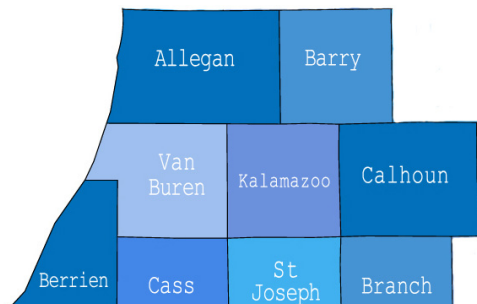
Foster care is an opportunity to provide children who have experienced the trauma of abuse or neglect safe haven. We provide refuge to children ranging from birth to 17, from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Foster parents are essential to providing stable, temporary homes that protect and nurture these children in the hope that their birth parents will become able.



## Adoption

Unlike foster care, adoption is an opportunity for children to have a "forever family" when they are unable to live safely with their birth parents.

## Regional Service Areas



"It's just been a life changing experience. Adopting seven kids through Family & Children Services and fostering 43 kids has been an experience of a lifetime. We have given our life to fostering kids and they always come back to visit for holidays, birthdays and weddings."



## Who makes a good foster parent?

People of all walks of life make good foster parents. Some are married or partnered; some are single, divorced or widowed; some own homes and some rent; some have children already in their home and some do not. All these different people do seem to have several common characteristics.

- 18 years of age or older
- Love children
- Stable income
- Able to commit to challenges
- Strong desire to make a difference

## Share your heart and your home with a child.

Experience a powerful opportunity to develop an important relationship with a child or teen. You can make the difference in a child's life right in your own home – few opportunities are quite so rewarding!

## Use your parenting abilities and access training opportunities.

Feel the joy of helping a child through difficult times. Foster parent training will enhance your parenting abilities and help you understand the difficult issues young children and teens face.

## Impact the future by helping families and children today.

Provide a child with a chance to grow physically, emotionally and socially in a safe, substitute family. Foster care is a nurturing environment where children can heal while their parents work on the issues which caused out-of-home placement.



Please call 269.501.0834 for answers to your questions or more information.