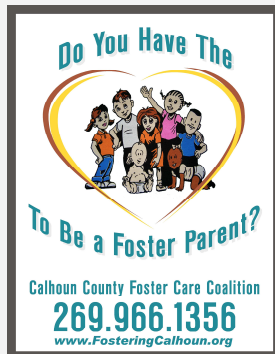


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**Sharing is Caring!**

Please copy and share this newsletter with your friends, church, and co-workers

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**FosteringCalhoun.org**

Visit for details on Events, Support groups, Trainings, and Foster parent resources

# Calhoun County Foster Parent Newsletter

Spring Issue: March 2015 – May 2015

## Great Family Attractions in Calhoun County

Summer is on its way and your family has a great opportunity to make lots of happy memories together. Here are some excellent family friendly attractions promising lots of fun for everyone right here in Calhoun County.

### Historic Bridge Park

**14930 9 Mile Rd, Battle Creek 49014**

Bring a picnic basket and camera to this park displaying several beautifully restored steel road bridges that have been converted to pedestrian bridges.

### Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary

**www.alligatorsanctuary.com**

Watch your budding reptile and amphibian enthusiasts fall in love all over again with extraordinary creatures that have been rescued and now live in a semi-natural environment open to the public.

### Flash Flood Waterpark at Full Blast

**35 Hamblin Ave, Battle Creek 49017**

Starting Memorial Day Weekend, the whole family can cool down, relax, and play at the waterpark.

### Binder Park Zoo

**www.binderparkzoo.org**

Enlarge your child's imagination with a visit to this collection of rare, exotic, and domestic animals from all over the world.

### Kingman Museum

**www.kingmanmuseum.org**

Visit beautiful Leila Arboretum Park featuring more than 2,000 species of trees and shrubs and then make your way to the museum to see an extensive natural history collection, fascinating science displays, planetarium, and hands-on learning opportunities.

### Battle Creek Bombers Baseball Game

**www.northwoodsleague.com/battle-creek-bombers**

Chance for your whole family to get out to watch the game while enjoying hot dogs and chips.

### Willard Beach Park

**Enter at George "B" Place on Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek 49015**

Pack a picnic and get ready for a fun time at the beach. Remember to use plenty of sunscreen on everyone and reapply every two hours as well as after getting wet.

**Check online for hours, entry fees, and other important info!**

**Visit [www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org) and search for a nearby city for more ideas.**

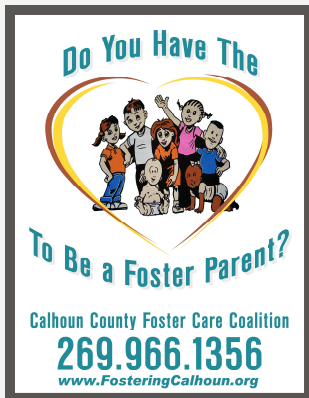


**CALHOUN COUNTY  
FOSTER CARE  
COLLABORATIVE**

Calhoun County  
Foster Care Collaborative  
190 E. Michigan Ave.  
Battle Creek, MI 49014

[www.fosteringcalhoun.org](http://www.fosteringcalhoun.org)  
Phone: 269-966-1356  
Fax: 269-966-2852

**Become a Foster Parent  
Call 269-966-1356**



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*Calhoun County Foster Parent Newsletter*

**Consider becoming a foster parent or supporting those who are already foster parenting.**

**We'd love to share some info with you or your church / organization / business. Please visit [www.fosteringcalhoun.org](http://www.fosteringcalhoun.org) or call 269-966-1356**

**Do You have What it Takes? — 6 Characteristics of Great Foster Parents**

At any given time in Michigan there are approximately 13,000 children in foster care. Each one of these children needs to be matched to a loving, safe home where they can be cared for as long as they are in foster care.

As you think about all these children needing a loving and safe home, you might be wondering if being a foster parent might be right for you.

There are 6 characteristics of great foster parents:

**Heart** — Great foster parents are people who really love children. Foster parenting is all about the children! You will really need to have a big heart for children and unselfishly pursue what is best for the children in your care.

**Nurturing** — You, your household members, and your home environment would need to be healthy, stable, safe, and promote wellbeing, positive growth, and happy experiences for children.

**Flexibility** — Children require lots of time and attention. You would need to be available to meet with the various professionals working with the children. All children may unexpectedly get sick or have other needs arise that may require you to change your plans. You would need to be able to adjust your way of doing things or your way of thinking about things to better meet the unique needs of the children in your care.

**Temperament** — You will need to be able to stay self-controlled even when the child is acting out of control. Foster children have already gone through a lot in their short lives and they need the adults in their lives to be patient and caring even when the child is reacting to all the pain and sense of helplessness they feel.

**Committed** — A foster child has already experienced a lot of loss (parents' good night kiss, home, toys, pets, friends, familiar routines and foods, and other losses). It's important for the foster parent to be a resolved and committed person able to be a support and caregiver to the child as long as needed so the child doesn't have to experience more home transitions and losses than necessary.

**Learner** — While being a foster parent is extremely rewarding, it is also very challenging. The most successful foster parents are always learning and finding ways to improve their skills. They constantly become better and better at caring for foster children and working with the professionals involved with the children.

**Next Step:** If you think you might have what it takes to be a great foster parent, a foster home licensing worker would love to meet with you and tell you more about it. Just call **269-966-1356** or email **[info@fosteringcalhoun.org](mailto:info@fosteringcalhoun.org)** and ask for a meeting to learn more about foster parenting!

Brought to you by Calhoun County Foster Care Collaborative members:

Bethany Christian Services

Family & Children Services

Lutheran Social Services

Calhoun County DHS

Family Enrichment Center

Youth Guidance