

WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

FOSTER CARE IS A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT FOR A CHILD WHO CANNOT LIVE SAFELY WITH HIS OR HER BIRTH FAMILY.

Children in foster care live with their relatives, foster parents or, if neither of these is available, in group facilities. Children are removed from their parents due to neglect and/or physical, sexual or emotional abuse. With education and support for the birth parents, more than half of children who go into foster care return to their birth families.

WHO MAKES A GOOD FOSTER PARENT?

PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE MAKE GOOD FOSTER PARENTS.

Some are married; some are single; some own a home and some rent. But all these different people do seem to have several common characteristics. They love children, are able to commit to challenges and have a strong desire to make a difference in children's lives.



Denver Human Services

1200 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80204

720.944.4000

Colorado Relay/TDD 1-800-659-2656 *English*
Colorado Relay/TDD 1-800-337-3242 *Español*

standup@denvergov.org

www.denvergov.org/fostercare

Stand Up For Me.



Denver Foster Care



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY
HUMAN SERVICES

Foster Parents Rewrite A Child's Story

Foster parents provide a safe haven for the children in our community who need it the most. They're called to action in a wide variety of scenarios for children from all racial and ethnic backgrounds who range in age from infants to teens. Foster parents stand up for children who are neglected and abused by providing a safe, stable and nurturing environment for these children until they can be reunited with their families.

Unlike adoption, your commitment as a foster parent isn't for life. But it can have a life-long, positive effect on a scared, vulnerable child.

Keeping Families Together

When Andrea and Jack first considered fostering a four-year-old boy, they were a little anxious. How would they answer Dominic's questions about his mom and dad? Would this little boy see them as a barrier to his hope of going home to his family? Denver Foster Care answers questions like these, and many others, during the training required to become foster parents. We help our foster parents understand that foster care is a temporary extension of the child's

family. All efforts—yours as a foster parent and those of social workers and birth parents—are aimed at preserving the original family and ensuring the child has every opportunity to live with his or her family again. We all work together as a team, birth and foster parents included, in meeting the child's needs and hopefully reunifying the family.

Training & Support For Foster Parents

Informational meetings for people interested in fostering

27 hours of free, pre-service training required by the State of Colorado

Ongoing support and direct access to the child's network of social workers, birth parents and other family members

Support groups

Ongoing training

Financial reimbursement

What's Best For The Child & Our Community

When innocent children in our community are in danger, foster families stand up and offer a place of safety until parents are ready to care for those children again. As a foster parent, you're not only doing the right thing for the Denver community, but you may even be helping out your own neighbor. We try to place children in foster families in their own neighborhoods to keep routines with school and friends intact during difficult times.

Take A Stand For A Child In Need

Nationally, there has been a decline in foster care homes. Denver is no exception to this loss. Now, more than ever, we need responsible, caring people to stand up for Denver's children. Just the simple act of providing temporary shelter, food, a stable life and loving support helps tremendously. You might even help a child regain trust and hope. And that's definitely something to stand up for.

If you're interested in becoming a foster parent, call **720-944-4000**, e-mail standup@denvergov.org, or visit www.Denvergov.org/fostercare.

▶ **WHEN JULIE'S* MOTHER LEFT** the first time, she stayed home from school to care for her younger brothers. And when her mom left again, Julie decided dropping out of school was the only way she'd know for sure that her little brothers would have the close supervision they needed to survive.

500,000 children nationally are in need of a caring temporary home.

Stories like Julie's are all too common. In the U.S., there are more than half a million children who desperately need the safe and loving home a foster parent can temporarily provide. In Denver alone, there are hundreds and hundreds of vulnerable children.



* All names in this brochure have been changed to protect identities.