

Fostering Adolescents



Denver Foster Care

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At 14, Juanita* has experienced more hardships than most of us will ever encounter in a lifetime. Yet somehow, this resilient, optimistic teenager still manages to focus on the positive, like her love of writing and playing soccer.

In Denver, 38 percent of children in foster care are ages nine years or older. Just like younger children, these teens are subject to abuse and neglect. They would love the structure and support a foster family could provide.

Foster parents who take in adolescents often tell us that, in comparison to younger children, these teens are more self-sufficient, more emotionally stable and have more success in school. Most importantly, they desperately need positive role models to help them through hard times with family and the trying years of adolescence.

So, think about fostering an adolescent. Who knows? You might be surprised to find that you get just as much from the relationship as your foster teen does.

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

* Names have been changed to protect identities.



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