

Other Ways to Help



We realize that Foster care or adoption may not be for you. There are other ways to help the children of Polk County who are in foster care.

- *Invite us to speak at your church, business, or other function*
- *Donate needed items*
- *Volunteer to help at events or donate space at an event*
- *Spread the word among your own friends and family*
- *Provide training in a needed area for current foster parents*
- *Call to ask what you can do*

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and effort for the children of Polk County



Polk County Department
of Social Services

231 Wolverine Trail
Mill Spring, NC 28756

Phone: 828-894-2100
E-mail: jpittman@polknc.org

Polk County Department
of Social Services

Foster Care & Adoption : Building Futures One Child At A Time



Tel: 828-894-2100



Foster & Adoptive Parents: Building Futures One Child At A Time

POLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MAINTAINS A SPECIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE: **FOSTER AND**

ADOPTIVE PARENTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU

ABOUT WHAT THOSE PEOPLE DO SO THAT WE MAY BE



ABLE TO ADD YOU TO THAT LIST.

FOSTER PARENTS PROVIDE SAFE,

TEMPORARY HOMES FOR THE CHIL-

DREN WHO HAVE BEEN RE-

MOVED FROM THEIR OWN HOMES

BE- CAUSE OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

ADOPTIVE PARENTS TAKE THESE CHILDREN AND GIVE

THEM PERMANATE, LOVING FAMILIES.

THE PROGRAM PROVIDES TRAINING AND NEEDED GUID-

ANCE TO THE COURAGEOUS FAMILIES WHO JOIN. THEY

ARE NEVER LEFT TO GUESS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE!

AS A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE FAMILY, YOU

TOO WOULD RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF

TRAINING AND

GUIDANCE ALONG YOUR JOURNEY INTO

THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

Basic Requirements To

Become A Foster Parent

- You must possess personal qualities that will allow you to work well with the agency and any children placed with you
- All members of the family must agree in the decision to foster
- If you are married, it needs to have been for at least one year
- You must be at least 21 or older
- You must have a stable income sufficient for the needs of the family
- Foster parents cannot deny the child the opportunity for spiritual development and the right to practice his or her own religious beliefs
- Suitable childcare arrangements must be made while foster parents are working
- Homes must be located in an area with access to schools, doctors, and churches
- Homes must be of adequate size and structure
- Home must pass a fire and safety inspection
- Parents must have a clear criminal history
- Parents must complete 30 hours of initial training and 10 hours yearly

Myths about Foster Care and Adoption

- + I must have parenting experience
- = Many foster parents have had no parenting experience and have gone on to be wonderful foster parents
- + I have raised children, so I do not need the training
- = Parenting children in foster care is not the same as parenting your own. Once you are a part of the training, you will agree
- + The younger the child, the less problems they will have
- = This is not true. We all deal with situations differently and trauma is no exception
- + As a foster parent, I will not have to interact with the birth family
- = The birth family is an important part of that child's life. The more a foster parent interacts with a birth family, the easier reunification will be
- + All these children need is LOVE
- = Most of these children have someone who loves them. They need safety, stability, rules, and therapy

Our initial 30 hour training course is called **MAPP**. This stands for **M**odel **A**pproach to **P**artnerships in **P**arenting. We offer these classes twice yearly depending on interest from the community.

Our next class will begin when the class fills. Call our office today to sign up!

