

20 Reasons why Fostering OLDER youth can Make a Difference!

There are many reasons why family foster care makes much more sense than orphanages or shelter care. Children need a loving, supporting and nurturing environment to thrive. Many children in foster care lose connections with many of the people in their life. Not only are they separated from mom and dad but they may lose connections with friends at school, lose teachers, neighborhood friends, etc. The more that children are moved around once in foster care only furthers that separation for children. It's no surprise then that children begin to lack trust even with safe and loving caregivers like you. No matter what the age, there are multitudes of reasons why children need to develop relationships with supportive adults. Specifically, our youth who are 14 and older especially need to be connected to adults in their life who can "be there" in a variety of ways. Do you foster older youth? Have you considered the ways that you as a foster parent might be able to maintain connections with children even after they return home or even age out? Here are 20 reasons why you should consider fostering or even mentoring our older youth in foster care:

1. Lifelong relationship
2. Family
3. Friendship
4. Unconditional love
5. Ongoing support
6. Knowing that someone cares
7. Continuity
8. Someone to go home to
9. Sharing life's ups and downs
10. Someone to call "just because"
11. Sharing holidays
12. Celebrating special times together
13. Someone to check in with regularly
14. Shared history
15. Assistance around major decisions
16. Growing and changing together
17. Being accepted no matter what
18. Someone to trust
19. Knowing someone is proud of you
20. Knowing that you are not alone

New Foster Parent Orientation:

Do you know someone who might be interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent? Orientations are held every other Monday from 6:00-8:00pm at CFC. The next date of orientation is **February 22**. Contact Linda Rathbun at 517-882-4000 ext. 140 to RSVP.



Capital Area Interagency Coalition 2016 Foster/ Adopt PRIDE Training Schedule

February Meeting Location: **Eaton County Department of Health & Human Services**
1050 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Session	Date	Time
1	Tuesday February 9	6pm – 9pm
2	Thursday February 11	6pm – 9pm
3 & 4	Saturday February 13	9am – Noon, 1-4pm (Potluck Lunch)
5	Tuesday February 23	6pm – 9pm
6	Thursday February 25	6pm – 9pm
7	Saturday February 27	9am – Noon
9	Saturday February 27	Noon – 1pm (Potluck Lunch)
8	Saturday February 27	1pm – 4pm

DIRECT DEPOSIT AND EMAIL

One of the biggest changes for our agency is being able to move to direct deposit for foster parents. Typically, we have been sending out checks each month and including a printed copy of this newsletter. All of our newsletters (including archived editions) have been available on our website at www.childandfamily.org We want to encourage you all to view the monthly newsletter via our website. Child and Family Charities spent most of 2015 revamping the website to update it and make it very user friendly! We hope these improvements will help us communicate more effectively with you and with the community. We also hope that these technology advances will also help you share things with your social media networks such as needs we may have, good things happening and our need for foster parents.

REMEMBER: As a licensed foster family, when you refer someone to become a foster parent, you will receive \$300 for that referral once the new family becomes licensed!

- As we advance in the technological world, we would like to **begin sending some communications via e-mail**. We realize that not everyone desires communications this way or has access to do so; however, we would love to be able to have faster and more efficient ways to communicate with all of you. Please send CFC your current email address and contact info. Email Diane Goodemote at diane@childandfamily.org

A REMINDER ON PAYMENTS: All foster parents are required to “register” with the DHHS Contract & Payment Express system at www.michigan.gov/cpexpress Child and Family Charities is now offering DIRECT DEPOSIT of foster parent checks! This does not apply to all financial assistance you may receive; however, for the monthly foster care payments you receive when a child is placed in your home, the payments can be directly deposited into your bank account. Please contact your licensing worker to complete the necessary form for these arrangements.

Stepping Up Together with Pregnant and Parenting Teens

A new parenting class for teens, which will give them the opportunity to get together and learn. Free transportation is available. There will also be free food, child care, and gift cards offered to all teens who attend each session.

Tuesdays, February 9, 16, 23, March 1, and 8.

from 4:30-6:30 pm

Please contact Melissa Ridge at 517-541-8749 or mridge@eatonresa.org to register and get more info



Reactive Attachment Disorder Support Group

The Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) Support Group has been meeting for over 13 years. New families are always welcome to join– both foster and adoptive families can attend. The group typically meets on the 4th Monday of each month at the agency from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner is served potluck style, and if families register ahead of time, childcare may be provided. The next meeting will be held on February 29.

Please RSVP to Korey Wheeler at 517-882-4000 Ext. 133 or koreywheeler@childandfamily.org

RELATIVELY SPEAKING...

Family members often had not considered or had the desire to be licensed but in order to provide the care and love to your family member, you came forward and walked through the process. Whatever the reason for care, you are important and need support just like anyone else.

Michigan State University offers a support center for families like yours called the Kinship Care Resource Center. You can find out more information by calling 1-800-535-1218 or e-mailing kinship@msu.edu