

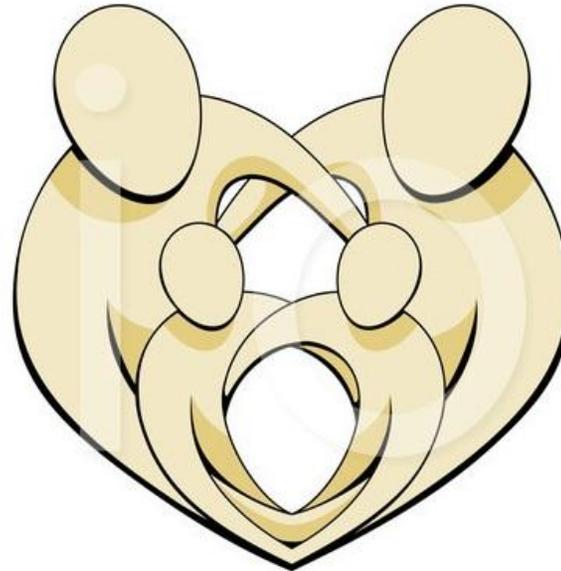
Foster Parents Make a Difference...

IS FOSTER PARENTING FOR ME?

Being a foster parent is not easy. It is challenging and can be trying. It can be satisfying and enriching too, depending upon what you put into it.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do you have enough love and strength in your family to include a child?
2. Are your own children willing to support you and not resent the time and love you give to another child?
3. Do you like children enough to carry you through their good and bad moments?
4. Could you accept that a child needs to love and respect his own parents in spite of their inability to care for him?
5. Can you work with Social Services in planning in the best interests of the child?



A CHILD'S DEFINING MOMENTS
IN LIFE CAN BE MADE BY
YOUR CARING HEART!

HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

1. Contact your Foster Home Coordinator, Judy Schult, to set up a meeting to gain a complete overview of foster care in Orleans County. This meeting also gives you a chance to ask any questions you may have regarding foster care.
2. Complete an application form, Child Abuse and Law Enforcement Clearance Forms, and provide references.
3. Have a physical and medical form completed by your doctor.
4. The Foster Home Coordinator will complete a home-study. This process includes getting to know you and your family, visiting your home, discussing the kind of child you would like to care for and talk about any special concerns.
5. Complete trainings pertinent to foster parenting.

Being a foster parent means that you are special. It means that extra measure of caring and sharing needed by the children we serve. Some of the characteristics foster parents need to possess are a stable family environment and the ability to handle stress well.

You are not alone in this endeavor. Your Foster Home Coordinator, Judy Schult, will be working closely with you throughout the Certification process. Following your certification, you will also have the help and support of the staff of Child and Family Services.

Right now, Orleans County Department of Social Services has a need for foster homes for boys and girls 10 years of age and older; parents for our Cluster Home Program, which is designed to provide care for adolescents with special needs; respite foster homes which provide temporary care for children whose foster parents who need a short break, and emergency foster homes where children are placed when removal from their home needs to be done immediately.

We are looking for adults who:

- ❖ Are at least 21 years old
- ❖ Are single or married
- ❖ Are able to provide a safe and healthy home
- ❖ Want to make a difference in the life of a child
- ❖ Can work as part of a team with caseworkers, other community agencies, and the child's family

We care about the children and we care about the foster parents. Our goal is to help make the foster care experience rewarding for all concerned.

If you would like to more information about how you can share your home and love with foster children.

Please contact:

Judy Schult – (585) 589-3161

Or copy and print the form below and mail it to:

**Judy Schult
14016 Route 31 W.
Albion, NY 14411**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Good time to contact you: _____