

The Children's Aid Society La Société d'aide à l'enfance Sudbury & Manitoulin

### Foster Hope, Foster Change, Foster a Child

Why Foster Care? Foster parents make a meaningful difference by providing a stable, supportive home for children in temporary care while their parents work with our agency to rebuild a stable home. Whenever safely possible, the goal is to reunite families, however, in some cases, foster care may be longer-term or until other permanent options are arranged.

By becoming a foster parent, you're not just offering a home–you're offering care, hope and stability. You'll make a meaningful difference in a child's life, helping them heal, grow, and thrive.

### Did You Know... There Are Two Different Types of Foster Care?

#### **Temporary Relief/Respite Homes**

Provide short-term care, offering relief to longterm foster parents and families during weekends, vacations, or emergencies.

#### **Regular Placement Homes**

Offer long-term support, caring for children for extended periods as they work toward reunification with their families or transition to permanent solutions.



## Have you ever wondered how you can make a real, lasting impact?

As a foster parent, you're not just providing shelter-you're providing love, guidance, and a chance for a child to thrive. A few months, or even just a weekend, can make all the difference.

### **Urgent Need for Foster Homes**

The need for foster homes has never been greater. Across Ontario, children and youth are in urgent need of safe, supportive environments-whether for short-term relief or long-term care. Foster homes are vital in providing stability, particularly for teenagers, sibling groups, and children with complex medical or emotional needs.

Agencies are facing significant challenges in placing teens, with 97% of child welfare organizations reporting difficulty in finding suitable homes. There is also a critical shortage of homes that can keep siblings together or offer specialized care. Without these placements, children may face further disruption, making their journey to healing and growth even more difficult.

Foster parents not only provide a temporary or long-term home but also help maintain important cultural, familial, and emotional connections. The demand for identity-affirming homes, particularly for culturally diverse and 2SLGBTQ+ youth, is increasing. Comprehensive support and training ensure that foster parents are equipped to meet the unique needs of these children and youth, making a lasting impact in their lives.

### Foster Care FAQ

# Q What support is available for foster care givers?

A Foster caregivers are part of a support team, including child welfare professionals and community resources, to ensure the child's safety and well-being. Caregivers also receive personal support from child welfare professionals throughout their fostering journey.

## Q How long does it take to become a foster caregiver?

A The process usually takes several months, including training and a home study, which can take up to six months or more.

#### Q Do I need two adults in the home to foster?

A No. Foster caregivers can be single or couples, and they reflect diverse backgrounds, identities, and family structures.

### Q Can fostering lead to adoption?

A Fostering focuses on reunification, not adoption. However, if reunification efforts break down, foster caregivers may potentially adopt.

# Q What relationship do foster caregivers have with parents?

A Depending on the situation, foster caregivers help maintain connections with the child's family, supporting visits and transition plans while fostering.

# The Purpose: Benefits of Becoming a Foster Parent

Make a lasting impact: Provide stability, support, and hope to children and youth in need.

**Personal fulfillment:** Experience the joy of helping a child or youth thrive.

**Ongoing support:** Access training and resources to guide you through the process.

**Financial assistance:** Receive financial support for the child or youth's care.

**Community connection:** Be part of a network dedicated to helping families and children.

# Growing Together: Your Path to Fostering

**Step One: Start with a conversation** - Call us or complete the Foster Parent Inquiry Form (QR code below).

**Step Two: Training -** Attend PRIDE training to prepare for fostering.

**Step Three: Home Study -** Complete the SAFE Home Study Assessment with guidance from your worker.

**Step Four: Support & Financial Assistance** – Receive ongoing support from your Foster Care Worker, peer connections, and reimbursement for expenses and respite coverage.

**Step Five: Form a Lasting Connection** – Make a profound impact by building a life-changing bond with a child or youth!

**Ask Us Anything!** Please call us directly: 705-566-3113, ext. 3006. We look forward to hearing from you!





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