

MAYBE YOU'VE **THOUGHT ABOUT** BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT, BUT SOME IDEAS ABOUT **FOSTER CARE** HAVE YOU SECOND-GUESSING. HERE'S SOME **MYTHS** ABOUT FOSTER CARE THAT SIMPLY **AREN'T TRUE.**

Myths About FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION



Child & Family Services
of Northwestern Michigan

www.cfsnwmi.org | (231) 946-8975 | (231) 347-4463

**I WORK
OUTSIDE
MY HOME,**
I CAN'T BE
A FOSTER PARENT.

FOSTERING A CHILD DOESN'T
NECESSARILY REQUIRE YOU TO
BE AT HOME FULL-TIME.

DIFFERENT CHILDREN WILL HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS. PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. THEY MAY DEVOTE THEIR TIME TO CARING FOR CHILDREN, OR WORK AT HOME, OR WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME. WE WORK HARD TO **ENSURE THAT FOSTER CARE IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL** FOR THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES WE SERVE.

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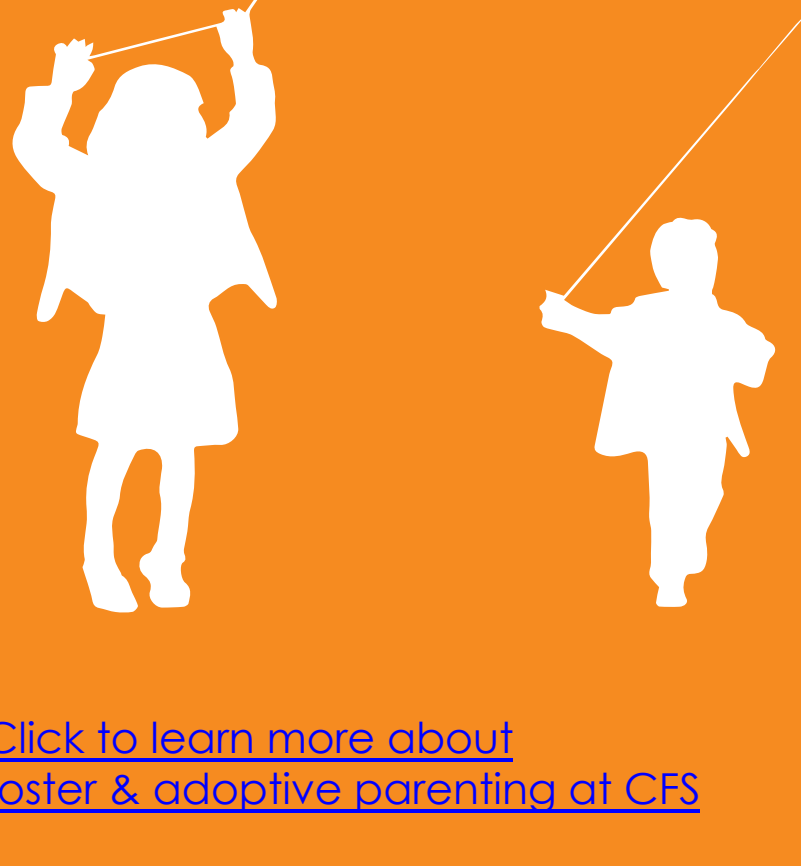
**I DON'T THINK
I'M THE RIGHT AGE**
TO BE A FOSTER PARENT.

LEGALLY YOU MUST BE OVER 18 TO FOSTER. OUR ONLY REQUIREMENTS ARE THAT

YOU HAVE ENOUGH LOVE AND STAMINA ENERGY AND EXPERIENCE TO TAKE CARE OF LIVELY CHILDREN!

COUPLES AND SINGLE ADULTS OVER AGE 18 **WITH GOOD CHARACTER AND A SAFE AND STABLE HOME** ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE FOSTER PARENTS.

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**I DON'T OWN
MY OWN HOME,**
I CAN'T BE A
FOSTER PARENT.

YOU DON'T NEED TO OWN
YOUR HOME TO BE A
FOSTER PARENT.

AS LONG AS YOU CAN **PROVIDE** A SAFE, STABLE, AND **NURTURING ENVIRONMENT**, YOU CAN FOSTER. SOME OF OUR FOSTER PARENTS RENT THEIR HOME, AND SOME OWN THEIR HOMES. WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU CAN PROVIDE **ENOUGH SPACE FOR** CHILDREN TO SLEEP, **PLAY AND LEARN.**

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**I'M NOT
STRAIGHT,**
I CAN'T BE
A FOSTER PARENT.

CFS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE
AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL
OR FAMILY...

BECAUSE OF RACE, RELIGION, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, COLOR, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, MARITAL STATUS, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, POLITICAL BELIEFS, OR DISABILITY.

WE **WELCOME** APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WHO CAN BRING DIFFERENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND LIFE EXPERIENCES TO FOSTER PARENTING, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

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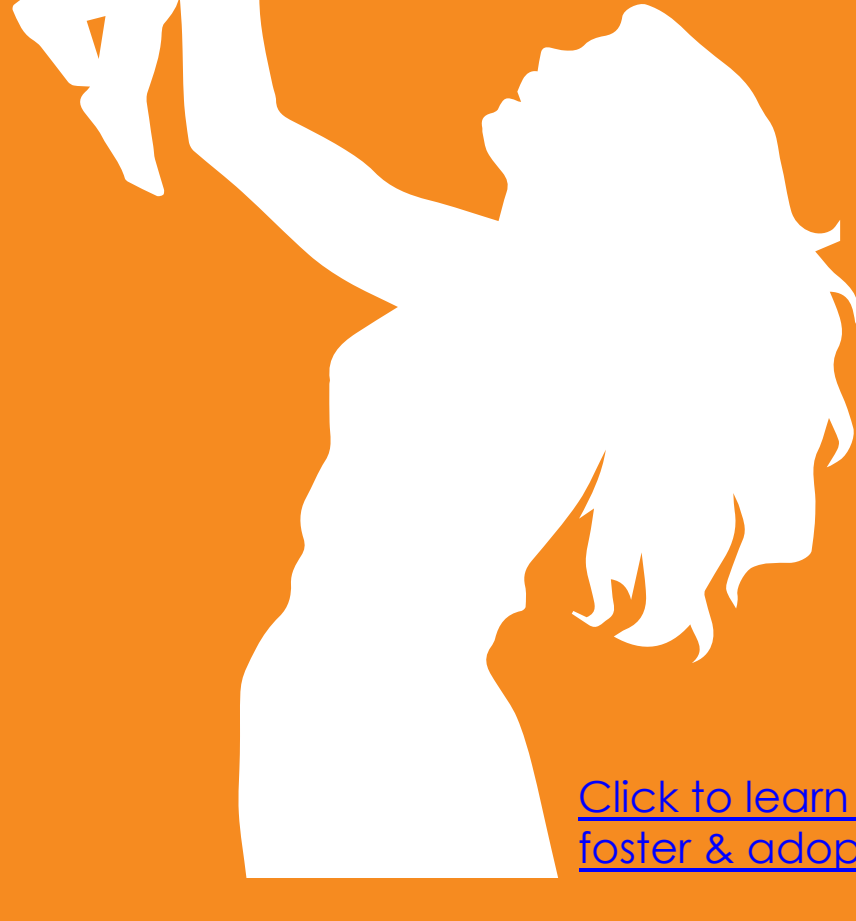
**I'M SINGLE
AND NOT MARRIED,**
I CAN'T BE A FOSTER PARENT.

THERE ARE NO REQUIREMENTS
REGARDING YOUR MARITAL STATUS.

OUR FOSTER PARENTS MAY BE SINGLE, MARRIED, IN A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER. FOSTER FAMILIES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, JUST LIKE THE CHILDREN THEY CARE FOR.

ALL THAT'S REQUIRED IS A NATURAL LOVE OF CHILDREN, AN ABILITY TO SET GUIDELINES AND PROVIDE DIRECTION, AND A WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US AS PART OF THE CHILD'S TREATMENT TEAM. **WE'RE HERE FOR YOU THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PROCESS.**

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**AS A FOSTER PARENT,
I WILL RECEIVE
LITTLE TO
NO SUPPORT.**

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

WE OFFER **FREE AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT** FOR OUR FOSTER PARENTS AND THE CHILDREN WE SERVE. WE REGULARLY HOLD ORIENTATION SESSIONS, SUPPORT GROUPS, RESPITE ACTIVITIES, AND TRAININGS TO ENSURE YOU GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED.

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**FOSTER CHILDREN
HAVE BEEN
THROUGH SO MUCH,
THEY CANNOT BE HELPED.**

CHILDREN HAVE LOTS OF WAYS OF EXPRESSING WHAT THEY NEED, AND CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ARE NO EXCEPTION.

WE PROVIDE TRAUMA-INFORMED COUNSELING AT CFS AND **GIVE YOU THE TOOLS TO HELP CHILDREN HEAL AND GROW** FROM THE TRAUMA THEY'VE EXPERIENCED. CHILDREN ARE AMAZINGLY RESILIENT. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THESE CHILDREN WILL GROW UP TO BE PART OF OUR SOCIETY. **HOW WE RESPOND TO THEIR NEEDS WILL LARGELY DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF ADULTS THEY WILL GROW INTO.**

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**I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH
TO PROVIDE FOSTER CARE.**

NONE OF US ARE PERFECT! WE ASK THAT

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE ABLE TO
LOVINGLY CARE FOR AND MEET THE NEEDS
OF THE CHILD.

IN THEIR HOME YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MILLIONAIRE. YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE 5 DEGREES IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ABLE TO COME TO EVERY PTA MEETING AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL. **WHATSOEVER "PERFECT" IS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IT.**

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**I'M NOT SURE
I CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE.**

YOU CAN. BY FOSTERING A CHILD,
YOU'LL

TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF
THE MOST VULNERABLE IN
OUR SOCIETY.

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I CAN'T BE
A FOSTER PARENT
**BECAUSE I GET
TOO ATTACHED.**

WE DO GET ATTACHED, AND IT MAY BE PAINFUL WHEN THE CHILDREN YOU LOVE LEAVE. HOWEVER, WHEN CHILDREN ARE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES, **WE SHOULD REJOICE AND BE HAPPY.** THESE CHILDREN HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH THINGS NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE TO FACE AND THEY NEED THE LOVE AND CARE FOSTER PARENTS PROVIDE WHEN THEY OPEN THEIR HEARTS AND HOMES.

FOSTER CARE IS NOT TO FIND THE PARENTS A CHILD, IT IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE, LOVING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN THAT NEED IT, FOR AS LONG AS THEY NEED IT.

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DO YOU HAVE ROOM
IN YOUR HEART
TO BE A FOSTER PARENT?

VISIT

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OR

CALL US TODAY

TO FIND OUT MORE!



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