

"Ready to Foster" Campaign has Launched!



Earlier this month, CT DCF's Foster Care Division, launched its new "Ready to Foster" campaign, which sets out to recruit caregivers and empower families across Connecticut to take the first step to foster.

The "Ready to Foster" campaign is a strong reminder that sometimes, family

is more than just your own. It can be a child in your neighborhood who needs a safe and secure home, if only for a short time. It can be another family in your community that needs your family to step up for them in a time of need. There are thousands of children who need care in Connecticut, and hundreds of families who need help. By becoming a licensed caregiver, you can provide a child with the chance to heal, grow, and succeed.

The nearly 3,200 children in DCF's care and custody come from diverse backgrounds and face a variety of challenges. This includes children with complex medical needs, teenagers and babies, as well as children on the autism spectrum and children with specialized behavioral health needs. What they all have in common is the need for a supportive environment where they can feel safe and valued without losing the connection to their parents.



"Ready to Foster", which serves as a rally cry for all of Connecticut, will run television, radio, social media, digital media and more. Keep an eye out!



Ready to Foster Campaign Video Still. Full Video: youtu.be/jK2d0eQleyw

A Night Out at the Ballpark: Celebrating Our Foster Families

On Saturday, July 13th, the Department of Children and Families treated 160 caregivers and their families to a special night out at a Hartford Yard Goats baseball game. The event was the official campaign kickoff with the debut of the new "Ready to Foster" television spot in front of the crowd of an estimated 6,500 fans. The event was filled with excitement and community spirit as families came together for an evening of fun and recognition.

A highlight of the night was when Israel Reyes, a dedicated CORE caregiver known for his outgoing and boisterous personality, threw out the first pitch. Israel and his wife have been licensed foster care providers since March 2020.

Israel explained why he and his wife were 'Ready to Foster' four years ago, "Just knowing that you are making an impact on a child's life no matter the outcome makes being a foster parent one of the greatest jobs around."



The couple has cared for multiple children, including twins reunited with their biological parents, and Luca F., who they are currently planning to adopt.

Known for their inclusive view of family, which extends to church, community, and biological ties, the Reyes family embodies the principles of Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI). It was truly a night to remember, celebrating the dedication and love of our foster families.

Are you Ready to Foster? Become a foster parent and make a difference in the life of a child.

Every month, on average, an estimated 131 children enter the care and custody of DCF. Of the more than 2,100 licensed caregivers, only 200 are currently available to foster - because there are more children - who are in need of homes - than there are licensed providers to foster them.

This is where you come in. The children and families of Connecticut need you.



"Our goal with this campaign is to encourage individuals to move from an idea to taking that first step, because they are ready to open their hearts and their homes. We also hope to inspire individuals who had not previously considered fostering to realize that they are capable of it. The bottom line is, if you know and agree with the importance of "family", then you are Ready to Foster!" said Natalia Liriano, Director of the Foster Care Division.

The CT DCF Foster Care Division offers comprehensive support and training to all licensed caregivers. You will not be alone on this journey. From initial orientation to ongoing support, there will be help every step of the way to ensure that you have the resources and assistance you need to provide the best possible care for your foster child.

Learn more about the process, ask questions, and take the first step toward making that difference by calling 1-888-KID-HERO or visiting ctfosters.com.

