

## Who are the Caregivers?

### CT Fosters' caregivers are:

- Responsible, mature, and healthy adults capable of meeting the needs of the children in care
- Flexible, creative, patient, easy-going, stable, resourceful, understanding
- Married, single, or divorced
- Of any sexual orientation/identification
- All racial/ethnic/religious backgrounds
- Not required to have parenting experience
- Families who have parenting experience are a great resource for children of all ages. Many families who are "empty nesters" most often foster an older child or sibling group. Adults previously in care have a unique perspective
- Are well supported! In addition to your natural support network, CT Fosters supportive relationships with foster care support staff, child's social worker, CAFAF liaison, foster parent peer mentor, CAFAF support line, support groups, and ongoing training & conferences
- Guided every step of the way

# Mobilizing Love, Unifying Families



Department of Children and Families

[www.CTFosters.com](http://www.CTFosters.com)



## What is Fostering?

**Children are separated from their parents only when they cannot remain at home safely and reunification with parents is always the top priority.**

Children may be placed with relative caregivers to minimize their trauma. When relatives or kin are not available to provide temporary care, the department relies on trained foster parents unrelated to the children. Caregivers are provided with training, support, respite, and a stipend to help cover the cost of caring for a child.



## Who are the Children?

Across the county there is a chronic shortage of individual or families willing to care for children in foster care. Each child needs safe, loving, and supportive caregivers willing to provide care until they can return to their family. In some situations, reunification is not possible, and children need someone willing to permanently adopt them into their family.

**Too many babies born with special medical needs waiting to bond with a caring adult. Too many children are growing up in the system with social workers attending the school concert or track meet instead of a caregiver. Too many children are being transported to therapy by staff instead of a caregiver.**

Too many young children unable to verbalize the trauma are without caregivers who understand the reasons behind their behavior. Too many children bouncing night to night in different homes waiting for a temporary family. Too many adolescents not given a chance by adults willing to guide them through mistakes. Too many youths are not accepted for who they are.

Too many sibling groups getting split up. Too many children placed outside of their culture. Too many children leaving their hometown and school for a foster home across the state.

## Why CT Fosters?

These scenarios are Connecticut's children waiting. In addition to the 3,000 currently in care, every day in CT nearly 4 children each day need a foster home; children from every background, every community, every age; many are adolescents, many are African-American and Hispanic, many are sibling groups.

Most families involved with the child welfare system remain intact but are at high risk for separation. Caring for vulnerable parents who need support related to poverty, homelessness, racial disparity, substance abuse and mental illness. Many families are struggling with life and parenting children with special needs is that much more challenging.

**Who has been your support in times of need? How have you learned to be resilient? What resources do you have? Who believed in you when you were struggling?**

Many families say fostering is the most enriching and challenging experience of their lives. The journey of fostering and adopting from foster care is filled with unique stressors that requires support and training. CT Fosters works together to protect, nurture and love.



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