

# Fostering in SDG

Our goal is to keep families together in their own homes, however in situations where that is not possible, we turn first to a relative, extended family member, or a member of the child's community.

Foster care is a temporary support to children and youth who for one reason or another, cannot remain in their own family home.

Foster parents provide a vital service to our communities, creating a safe environment for children and youth to grow and learn. Those who care for foster children provide more than a home - they create hope during a critical stage of development.

**COVID-19 Update: We are still taking applications for people who want to become foster parents and are prepared to accept placement of children/youth in their home during the pandemic. All Group Information Sessions will be held virtually during COVID-19.**

## Current Opportunities

### Who can foster:

- Families or individuals who are single, married, living in a common law or same sex relationship
- Working, retired or at home

### Our priority right now:

- Homes that can take on full time temporary placements; or
- Homes that can sign up for emergency after hours placements; or
- Homes that have the ability to be of support to other foster families when support is needed.

### Homes we are looking for:

- All age groups
- Homes for siblings
- Homes for adolescents

### Specific Cultures/Identities and Communities we are looking for:

- Indigenous
- African Canadian/Black heritage

- LGBTQ2S+
- French language
- Muslim
- South Asian
- Other racialized/marginalized groups

## Group Information Sessions

*Note: Our Group Information Sessions will take place online until further notice*

We invite you to join one of the group information sessions to learn more about fostering if you meet all of the following requirements:

- You reside in the Cornwall & SDG region;
- You are financially self-sufficient;
- You have a stable family and personal relationships, including being with/without a partner for at least two (2) years;
- You have safe space in your home to welcome a child/youth from different backgrounds; and,
- If interested in fostering a wide range of ages.



### Upcoming Group Information Sessions:

**Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021** from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm online via Microsoft Teams

**Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021** from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm online via Microsoft Teams

**Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021** from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm online via Microsoft Teams

**To register** for an information session, please forward the following information

to [karine.charron@cwcas.ca](mailto:karine.charron@cwcas.ca)

- First and last name (if a couple, both names are required)
- Telephone #
- Email address

- Date of session

**Please Note:**

1. **If a couple, both individuals must attend a session together.**
2. By registering, you are providing consent to enter the aforementioned information into our database.
3. Spots are limited and are reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

## Steps to Becoming a Foster Parent

1. Your first step in the fostering process is attending a **group information session**. These sessions are designed to inform you on the process of becoming a foster parent.
2. After the group information session, **individual sessions** will be scheduled for those interested in knowing more about fostering.
3. After the individual information session and if you meet all the requirements, and no barriers have been identified, you will be provided with an **application package**.
4. You will complete the application package and return to the Society. This package will indicate your desire to foster children and youth and provide us with the details of your fostering preferences.
5. All foster homes must undergo the **S.A.F.E. Home Study - Structured Analysis Family Evaluation**. This is a comprehensive set of assessment tools to determine your eligibility, suitability and readiness to become a foster parent.
6. **P.R.I.D.E. Training (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education)** is a mandatory provincial training program offered to all prospective foster parents in Ontario. It is a 27-hour series of training delivered over a three-month period and provides an informative, thought-provoking look at fostering.

## Could you be a foster parent?

To become a foster parent, you don't need to be married, have children or own your own home. You do need to have a love of children and time to devote to a child, physically as well as emotionally. As the agency works to bring children and families back together, foster parents are also involved with the child's biological family through visits, meetings and by being supportive.

Becoming a foster parent is an important decision that can positively change the path of a child's life, as well as your own life and the life of your family. As an agency, we have a variety of supports available to help make fostering a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

**Call us today at 613-937-2559 or email [karine.charron@cwcas.ca](mailto:karine.charron@cwcas.ca) to learn more about fostering.**