

SPOTLIGHT

Foster Parents Needed!

As of August 5, 2018 the state of Kentucky has 9,608 children living in out-of-home care (foster care). The number of children in need keep growing, but there aren't enough homes to place children. These numbers indicate a crisis in our state, in our communities - and everyone's help is needed.

Many people are hesitant to become foster parents. Some people are hesitant because they're afraid to get attached to children and then have to let them go. This is difficult—to love and care for a child and to let them go. But, that is exactly the role of a foster parent—to provide the best love and care for a child for a limited period of time and then to let them go.

Foster care is designed to help struggling families get assistance and make changes to improve their lives—it's not punishment for bad parenting. If it were punishment for bad parenting, most parents at one time or another would have their children in foster care.

Many people are hesitant to foster because they "don't know what they're going to get." Also true, that children coming into foster care have had at least one, usually three or more adverse childhood experiences and they could have some resulting behavior and medical challenges.

At KIFS the case manager walks with the foster parents every step of the way; we are always available by phone for questions and concerns. Foster parents are provided training and supportive services to handle a variety of situations. But overall, raising children is hard work, whether or not they've had traumatic experiences. And yet, raising children is the MOST IMPORTANT WORK any of us can do.

There is SO much good a person can accomplish through foster parenting. Lives are changed for good. Communities are strengthened. Cycles of abuse and poverty can be broken. We can be the change we wish to see in the world.

Visit our website to learn more about becoming a foster parent—www.kifs fostercare.org.

To make a difference
in someone's life you
don't have to be
brilliant, rich,
beautiful, or perfect.

You just have to
CARE.

KIFS In The Community

- Sept. 28th—Grant Co. Career Expo
- Sept.—Nick and Jessica take EDMR training. Stay tuned to learn more!

Training Fun at the Park

At regular intervals foster parents take ongoing training. The training provides useful tools and information to help them provide the best care and support for children who have experienced traumatic life experiences. At KIFS, while the parents are in class, the kids PLAY!

At our last training in August all the children in attendance went to the park to play, to just be kids. Jackie took a group to play volleyball and James took a group to play basketball. Krissie was on bathroom break duty and Fay watched those playing on the playground.

It's a powerful experience to watch all the children come together to play and even share stories of their experiences with one another. This time together can be therapeutic—children being present with children like themselves. Most foster children, even though there are far too many, don't encounter many other foster children at school. Foster children can feel isolated and alone in their experience. Meeting other children like themselves is helpful.

At this particular training, it was a joy to watch our oldest children welcome and radically include a new child. By the end of the training, no one would have known these children met for the first time earlier that day.



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Kentucky Intensive Family Services

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information.

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James leading children in a game of volleyball.



Hanging out and getting to know each other.