



our promise

Cabarrus County Human Services commits to:

Treating foster families with respect

Answering questions

Sharing resources

Responding when called upon

Disclosing the foster child's known needs and challenges

Providing ongoing support to meet those needs and challenges



Cabarrus County Human Services is here to connect you with the resources you need to make an informed decision about becoming a foster parent. Please, call and speak to a representative to learn more about our foster care program, register for a training, request a presentation or speak with a family that has been through the experience.

phone: 704-920-1400

email: foster@cabarruscounty.us

website: www.cabarruscounty.us/foster



Foster in Cabarrus



open your **heart**

share your **home**

help families **heal**

what is foster care

Foster care is a temporary living arrangement for abused, neglected and dependent children who need a safe place to live when their parents or another relative cannot take care of them. Foster parents are partners in the rehabilitation and reunion of local families.

THE NEED

The need for foster families is real and it's right here, in Cabarrus County. Human Service's first priority is to keep families together, but for hundreds of local children, from infants to 21 years of age, that's not a safe option. The circumstances that bring children to foster care are often beyond their control; their families face issues, such as illness, substance addiction and/or homelessness. When our agency determines a child is not safe, and a judge agrees, Human Services assumes custody of the child and finds a foster home for him or her.

Each child has a unique background, personality and strength, but each foster child needs a safe and stable home environment. Some children in foster care require extensive care for physical or emotional challenges and



some require help with undisciplined and delinquent behaviors. Many foster children do not have a strong sense of belonging or self-worth. Many are victims of physical or sexual abuse. All children in foster care require special care, support and nurturing.

While children are in foster care, the birth parents work with professionals to resolve their family issues. When possible, Human Services licenses relatives as foster parents. Length of stay in foster care varies from a few days to much longer. The foster family, Human Services and the birth family work together to return children to their own homes as quickly as possible. In cases where the child becomes free for adoption, the agency may consider foster parents as adoptive parents.

THE COMMITMENT

Cabarrus County Human Services works to recruit families that reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of our area. Our foster families are part of an inclusive community that supports each other through the foster process.

Human Services provides ongoing support, training and licensure for families to care for abused and neglected children temporarily. Potential foster parents receive



training on topics, including child abuse and neglect, working with birth parents, and helping foster children deal with the issues they face. Classes also help potential foster parents gain insight on life as a foster parent, including how parenting another child may affect their family.

Foster parents must:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Have a stable home and income
- Submit finger prints and pass a criminal records check
- Maintain a drug-free environment
- Complete all required training and receive licensure from the State of North Carolina

Foster parents receive financial compensation from the agency for a child's room, board and other living expenses. The amount of financial compensation payments are determined by the State.

fostering connections

Cabarrus County Human Services connects prospective foster families with foster families so you can get candid answers to your questions.