

# Myths & Facts about Foster Care



FOSTER *care.*  
& ADOPTION

**Myth: Children who are in foster care are just waiting for a family to adopt them.**

**Fact:** The word "fostering" has been popularized for pets who are in need of a forever family. However, when it comes to children, they are typically in foster care while their parents work on being able to bring them back home. Foster parents provide a safe and loving home during this time. If reunification is not possible, the foster family will often be given the opportunity to adopt the children in their care, and many do!

**Myth: Children in foster care are "bad" kids.**

**Fact:** Children enter foster care because of abuse, neglect, or their parents inability to properly care for them - NOT because of their behavior.

**Myth: Most children in need of foster homes are babies and toddlers.**

**Fact:** Children in foster care range from 0-21 years old. However, currently the need locally is almost exclusively for older children and teens.

**Myth: Foster parents are just in it for the money.**

**Fact:** Foster care is not meant to be a career path, and potential foster parents are carefully screened to make sure that they are able to cover all of their household expenses without depending on any additional income from foster care. In fact, foster parents do not receive an "income" - they receive a small per diem stipend which is used to cover the basic expenses for the children they are caring for.

**Myth: You have to be \_\_\_\_\_ to be a foster parent.**

**Fact:** Foster parents must be at least 21 years old and have safe background checks. They can be single, married, same sex couples, own or rent their home, have a stay at home parent or work outside the home. They do not need to have previous parenting experience.



**Questions?** Call our office at 610-821-7706 or email Angie at [angie.gillen@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:angie.gillen@use.salvationarmy.org)