

Just the FOSTER Facts...

- In the United States there are 517,000 children in foster care;
- Of these 118,000 children are waiting to be adopted;
- Each year 20,000 youth age out of foster care in the United States; in 2008 there were 16 from Frederick County;
- Within four years of aging out of the system, 60% of these children are either homeless, incarcerated, or dead;
- In 2008, 141 Frederick County children were in foster care: 37% are African American; 59% are Caucasian; 49% are female; 51% are male; and, 66% are age 10 and older;
- In Frederick County 63% of the children in foster care are from zip codes 21701, 21702, and 21703; 40% of these children are placed outside of Frederick County.



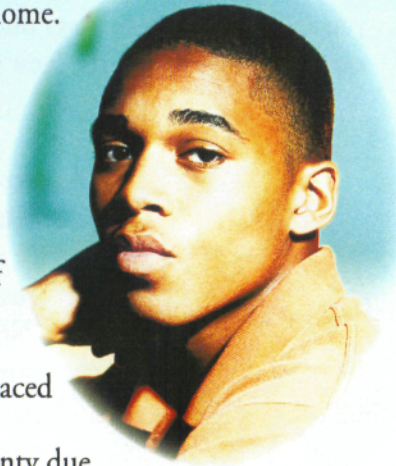
For more information,
contact: Frederick County
Department of Social Services
100 East All Saints Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
301-600-2466

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor



Each year, hundreds of Maryland children are temporarily separated from their parents due to abuse or neglect. Each one needs a safe, stable loving home.

In Frederick County, over half of the children in foster care are over the age of 12 years. Most of these children are placed outside of Frederick County due to lack of resources.



TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING
FREDERICK COUNTY'S
CHILDREN HOME!

**WOULD YOU OPEN
YOUR HOME TO
ONE OF THESE
CHILDREN?**

Foster parenting is not a lifetime commitment to a child, but rather a commitment to be meaningful during a child's lifetime.

Foster parents are people who choose to become substitute families for children in need. Foster parenting is both a responsibility and an opportunity.

Foster parenting may be the greatest challenge you and your family will ever undertake. The experience may also be the most rewarding.



As a foster parent, you will be responsible for more than just custodial care. Not only will you provide the food, clothing, and shelter but also the love, stability, guidance, structure and discipline that children need.

Becoming a foster parent should be a well thought out decision involving everyone in your family.

You can become a foster parent if you:

- Are 21 years of age or older
- Are single or married
- Live in your own apartment or house
- Agree, as well as any household members 18 and older, to be fingerprinted for a criminal background check
- Are able to meet your family's financial obligations
- Provide medical documentation that you and your household members are able to care for children
- Provide references as to your parenting ability
- Have your home inspected by the Health Department and Fire Marshal
- Complete 27 hours of pre-service training
- Agree not to use physical discipline
- Have a stable family environment
- Have respect for and interest in caring for children and families

As a foster parent, you will be part of a team of professionals who work with the child and his/her family towards the goals for the child.

As a foster-parent, you will be provided with the required pre-service training, a complete home study and follow-up support.



As a foster parent, you will be provided with ongoing training to develop and enhance the skills you have as a parent.

As a foster parent, you will be provided with support from the agency both during business hours and after hours through our crisis resources.

As a foster parent, you will have a voice with the agency and the court.

As a foster parent, you will receive a board rate for children in your care.