

# BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT FOR THEVILLAGE



## IS THIS A ROLE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

TheVillage Foster Care program provides temporary placement in safe and nurturing homes for children who are removed from their parents' custody due to their inability to properly care for their child. TheVillage offers Treatment, Kinship, and General Foster Care services.



Your role as a foster parent can help connect a child with the future he or she deserves. It can be a short-term, temporary solution, or it can even lead to adoption or permanent legal guardianship. Sometimes it can help rebuild the child's biological family. Whatever the circumstances and challenges, foster parenting is rewarding.

## DO I QUALIFY TO BE A FOSTER PARENT?

All kinds of people can be foster parents. These are the most important criteria:

- You can provide loving care and guidance in a safe and stable environment.
- You are willing to work with a team of therapists, teachers, and other professionals to help a child.
- You are in good physical and emotional health.
- You are able to support a child's development, self-esteem, and cultural identity.
- You can support the child's relationships with the birth family.
- You can support efforts to reunite a child with his or her birth family or other guardian.
- You are willing to complete the required criminal record and child abuse checks for yourself and the others in your household.
- You are at least 25 years old.
- You are a resident of Pennsylvania.

When a child's safety is threatened from abuse, neglect, or extreme family difficulties, he or she can be placed in foster care. The tremendous sense of loss the child feels is often compounded by fear, confusion, and anger. He or she wants to know, "Why is this happening to me?"

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Deciding to become a foster parent is a big step. The team of professionals at theVillage is here to support you in every way.

### A foster parent receives:

- Training and ongoing support
- A daily stipend for room, board, and clothing
- Medical and dental coverage for each child
- Respite care
- Foster parent support groups and meetings

TheVillage places children in foster homes in Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, and Philadelphia counties.

### In addition to placements for infants and young children, there is a critical need for parents for:

- Sibling groups that need to remain together
- Teenagers, who comprise one fourth of the children in care
- Children with physical, behavioral, and/or emotional problems
- Teen mothers and their babies
- Children waiting for adoption
- Children who need emergency placement

Extra training, reimbursements, and support are available for foster parents who help children with more challenging needs.





## EVIDENCE-BASED, TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

- S** **SAFETY**  
*What do I need to feel safe?*
- E** **EMOTIONAL MANAGEMENT**  
*How do I control my emotions?*
- L** **LOSS**  
*How do I deal with the loss I feel?*
- F** **FUTURE**  
*What are my goals for the future?*

TheVillage, a leader in trauma-informed care, utilizes the Sanctuary Model as a framework for healing. This model focuses treatment around the concept of “SELF.”

Using the Sanctuary Model and trauma-informed interventions as a guide for all activities, case managers work with their clients to confront their trauma and learn to cope with and move beyond it to focus on healthy choices and the hope for a brighter future. Within this framework, the Foster Care Department offers a variety of services to support children and their families.

TheVillage is licensed as an adoption agency with the State of Pennsylvania and affiliated with the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN). TheVillage offers services in Delaware, Montgomery, Chester, Bucks, and Philadelphia counties. We offer a continuum of services that help children connect with forever families, including

behavioral health outpatient services for children and families, foster care, and parent education. Our programs are evidence-based and reflect best practices in our field. TheVillage is accredited by The Joint Commission and certified by the Sanctuary Institute. Both achievements are a demonstration of our commitment to the highest clinical standards and to methods that have shown long-term success in resolving trauma.

**“Being a foster parent is a rewarding and unique experience, a challenge, and a pleasure. It is always full of changes and new experiences.”**

**- Current Foster Parent**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Can a foster parent work outside the home?

Yes, Foster parents may need to find the same type of day care arrangements as a biological parent.

### Can a single person be a foster parent?

Yes. While it is important to place a child in a home that is a good cultural “fit”, theVillage does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.

### How do I know if I can handle the responsibilities?

Most people ask themselves this question. We encourage you to attend an information session and talk with our staff to explore your interest and the role of foster parents.

Information sessions are held each month at both the Southwest Philadelphia and Rosemont campuses of theVillage, with afternoon and evening times available. Call, email, or visit our website for more information.

**Call today to learn more about becoming a foster parent. Our experienced staff is here to answer all of your questions.**

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### theVillage: Hope in Action since 1877

**The work we do here at theVillage makes a difference for individuals, families, and communities.**

Founded in 1877, theVillage is committed to reaching the most vulnerable children and families in our communities and delivering assistance that lasts. Through trust, compassion, commitment, and faith, we work with children and families to focus on the future—defining their unique goals and paving the specific steps needed to achieve those goals with stability and wholeness. We are persistent in the face of major challenges, assisting our clients to overcome trauma and a spectrum of circumstances arising from poverty, mental illness, addiction, and abuse.

We are hope in action, healing in purpose, organized around evidence-based, innovative practices, in collaboration with individuals, families, and communities.

TheVillage is accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC), certified by the Sanctuary Institute, and is an active member of the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services.

