

## BE A FAMILY:

Many children come into Allendale's care from traumatic backgrounds. Their progress toward healing has brought them to a place where foster care can provide the best environment for continued growth and development.

Foster care homes are vital for children that need a safe and structured, kind and respectful, loving place to live. Foster parents provide a ray of hope in a world that has been shadowed by issues that were dangerous to the child's physical and mental health. Physical abuse, neglect or abandonment are just some of the reasons a child is removed from their home. Understandably, the child can be afraid, angry confused or heartbroken from the events that lead to their removal. But, as is always the case, every child needs a loving home where they can be safe, and can be on the road to a better life.

## TOP 5 BENEFITS OF FOSTERING:

1. Develop meaningful, healthy relationships which can positively impact a child's life.
2. Share new life experiences, and find personal growth and development.
3. Give back to a child as an expression of gratitude for what someone did in your life.
4. Be a good neighbor and contribute to the healing and reunification of struggling families in need.
5. Enrich your own family ties by leaving a legacy of involvement.



**"I would like to help kids, but am I the right person for FOSTER CARE?"**

When a child's birth family cannot provide a safe, nurturing home, another must be found. It takes persistence, patience, compassion, commitment and lots of love to make a foster family.

For some, foster parenting is a commitment for a few years. For others, it may be a lifelong mission to help one child at a time. What we see is the key to success is working together as a team; therapists, agency caseworkers, and other treatment team members, together with the foster parent, we can make sure children grow up in safe, permanent homes.

Children want a family who will provide love and stability. They want someone to be interested in understanding their point of view, to listen to their questions and work with them to find answers, and most of all to continue to respect, care, and love them even when they are not feeling or acting their best.

The Allendale Association is a private, not-for-profit state licensed child welfare agency which has offered a Specialized Foster Care Program as part of its continuum of care for children and families since 1974. Allendale provides clinical and educational support to help foster parents, including 24-hour support services.

**Helping Kids & Families**  
*learn. grow. heal.*

**ALLENDALE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM**



**FOSTER CARE SERVICES**

**Impacting Relationships**  
A Program for Promising Youth

**Allendale Association**  
**Foster Care Program**

Bradley Counseling Center  
420 West Grand Avenue  
P.O. Box 1088  
Lake Villa, IL 60046-1088

**Phone: 847.356.3322**

[www.Allendale4kids.org](http://www.Allendale4kids.org)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### Who are the foster children?

Our children have been removed from their home because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. Some have been in a number of foster homes and others have had more intensive treatment in residential facilities. Some have special medical needs, all have emotional or behavioral issues. The children generally range in age from 8 to 18 years.

### Who can be a Foster Parent?

Foster Parents are people like you!  
They are:

- Married or single
- Parents of little children, teens or adults, or they are adults with no children
- Working outside the home or in the home
- At least twenty-one years of age
- From various cultural, ethnic or religious backgrounds
- Financially stable
- Homeowners or renters
- Able to pass a criminal background check

### What do foster parents do?

The foster family provides a home environment in which a child can safely fulfill their physical, emotional, educational, spiritual and cultural potential and become responsible adults. Foster Parents are an active part of the Treatment Team. They provide food, clothing, housing, supervision, recreation, access to a quality education and all transportation to needed services such as therapy, doctor and dental visits. Most of all, foster parents

provide nurturing structure for family life, which provides stability and the opportunity to understand themselves and also to form meaningful relationships.

### What kind of training does a Foster Parent receive?

Prospective parents attend ten pre-service training sessions through DCFS and on-going training throughout their time as a Foster Parent. The licensing process takes from three to nine months to complete.

### What kind of support is provided by Allendale for Foster Parents?

- Weekly supportive visits by a caseworker to the foster home
- Clinical Consultation
- Available counseling for both the child and the foster family
- Mentoring services to enhance child's social and interpersonal functioning
- Respite care services
- 24-hour crisis intervention

### Will I receive financial help as a Foster Parent?

Yes, you will receive a monthly stipend.

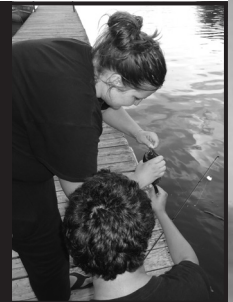
### Do I have a say in which child is placed in my home?

Yes. You can choose a child from those referred to the program. Allendale helps you decide what child will work best with you (and your family).

### Once I have a foster child, can I then adopt them?

The Allendale staff will discuss this option with you up front, so that you may know the permanency plan for the child you foster parent.

**"I chose to be a FOSTER PARENT because I never had a role model when I was growing up. It is so important because someone needs to tell you, as a child, how good you are."**



At one point in your life, someone impacted you. They may not have known it, but they changed you. By watching them, listening to them or interacting with them, you learned valuable lessons about the person you wanted to be.

You can be that role model for a young person. Your willingness to get involved and work with our team to engage a disadvantaged youth with your heart can positively impact their future.