

# FOSTER HEALING

BECOME A FOSTER FAMILY



## If not you, then who?

Oaklawn Foster and Adoption Resources trains resource parents to provide therapeutic care to youth who have been removed from their biological homes. It is our goal that every resource family and our youth learn and grow from their experience with our program.

Our program is designed to provide safe, loving homes to our youth who are unable to live with their biological family. Youth may have experienced significant trauma and display severe emotional and/or behavioral problems. It is specifically designed not only as a supportive environment, but also an environment that actively and coherently addresses

the overriding needs of the youth. The goal of our program is to reunite youth and their parents whenever possible.

### Requirements for Resource Parents

- At least 21 years of age
- Complete 20 hours of resource and adoptive parent training
- Become trained in CPR, First Aid, and Universal Precautions

### Required Paperwork

- Criminal history check
- Personal references (4)
- Written home study
- Application
- Other state required forms

### What Resource Parents say about being licensed through Oaklawn....

“Do it, if you really want to make a difference in a child’s life.”

“Every child has a heart and needs a loving home.”

“Just give it a try, Oaklawn will be there to help you along the way.”

“There are lots of kids that need a home.”

“It’s very rewarding. Sometimes it is later down the road, though.”

“You will never be alone, you always have multiple staff to call if you need help or have a question.”

### Inspirational message by Barbara Barnes

They took the child that no one loved.  
The broken and the bent  
They took the child that had no home  
The scarred, the weak, the spent  
They took the child with twisted mind  
The angry and the bruised  
They took the child with flesh defiled  
The physically abused

They gave the child sweet laughter joy  
And songs meant to be heard  
They gave the child a family  
And God’s most precious word  
Some they lost to dark despair  
To worlds they could not know  
But some stored love and happiness  
To keep and then sow

**Foster and Adoption Resources**  
Homes for children ... Opportunities for families



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## Frequently asked questions

### **Do I need to own my own home?**

Resource parents may own or rent a house, an apartment, or a mobile home, as long as the home has enough suitable space for the number of foster youth that may be placed. The home must pass an environmental safety check and if the home is not on a public water system, the home must pass a water inspection.

### **Does each foster youth have to have a separate bedroom?**

The foster youth must have his/her own bed, but does not have to have his/her own bedroom. The bedroom must have at least 50 square feet of space for the youth's belongings and must have at least two exits, such as a door and window.

### **Can older or retired people become resource parents?**

There is no maximum age to be resource parents as long as they are in general good health and free from communicable diseases.

### **Why do youth come into foster care?**

Most youth come into foster care through no fault of their own due to substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect on the part of the caregiver. Others come into care due to their own behavior or due to a physical or emotional disability.

### **Do resource parents get paid to foster children in their home?**

No. Resource parents receive a "per diem," which is a reimbursement to cover expenses. The state of Indiana has four categories of standardized rates, depending on the child's age.

### **Can I decide the ages and behaviors of youth that I accept into my home if I am a licensed resource parent?**

When you meet with the licensing family case manager, you will complete a checklist indicating the types of behaviors and ages of youth that you feel comfortable accepting into your home. A resource parent should never accept the placement of a youth that they feel they may not be able to manage.

### **Do I have to have a phone in my home?**

Yes. Resource parents must have a phone in their home, either a land line or a cell phone, in case of any emergency that may arise with foster youth.

### **Do I have to have my own children to become a resource parent?**

No. Many resource parents do not have children of their own.

### **Contact us:**

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