

To learn more about becoming a Foster Parent Contact Pamela Barnett, Foster Care Coordinator at 740-439-5555.

To find out about specific children waiting for adoption, contact Wendy Curtis, Adoptive Care Coordinator at 740.439.5555.

These children are real. They draw pictures and need help with homework. They like to ride their bikes, listen to music, and splash in puddles. They need real families to belong to.

Please help them by fostering or adopting.



Children are the future of our communities. It is up to all of us to make sure that every child has a family to help him or her grow and be safe.

Children who have been abused, neglected, or are dependent need caring people to open their hearts and homes as foster or adoptive parents.

If you are someone who could help a child in need

Contact Pamela Barnett,
Foster Care Program
Coordinator or Wendy Curtis,
Adoption Program Coordinator
at (740) 439-5555 or
800-296-3511.

<http://www.guernseycountycs.org/>



Guernsey County
Children Services

274 HIGHLAND AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE OHIO 43725
740 439-5555



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

Guernsey County
Children Services

**Thinking
About
Becoming a
Foster Parent
or
Adopting
a Waiting
Child?**



Foster Families

Sometimes children can't stay at home because their parents are unable to care for them. The court may decide it's best for a child to stay with relatives or a foster family until they are able to return home.

Usually, a relative's home is the first choice for a child who needs temporary care. If this is not possible, he or she may need to stay in a foster family's home.

Children do best when they can stay in their own school, keep their friends, and see birth parents often.

Guernsey County Children's Services tries to place the child in a foster family within the child's community. Agencies support foster families and train them how to help a child and the birth parents.

Foster families care for the children until the court decides the child is able to return home. They often work directly with the birth parents, teaching them skills and encouraging them. Most children return to their birth parents within a year, often sooner. Sometimes it takes longer. Foster parents agree to care for the child for as long as needed.

Foster families receive payments and medical coverage to help meet the daily living needs of the child.

Adoptive Families

Children need stability in their lives. Without it, they can't grow and feel good about themselves. Sometimes, the court may decide it would not be in the child's best interest to return to a parent or relative. If this happens, the court will usually order the children's services agency to find another permanent home for the child as soon as possible. The agency then looks for an adoptive family for the child.

Did you know.....

- * There is **no upper age limit** to be an adoptive parent
- * There is **no cost** to adopt
 - * **Ongoing money is available** to support your adoption



All children need safe, stable families in which to grow. For some children who are abused, neglected, or dependent, this may mean a foster or adoptive family. On any given day in Ohio there are more than 19,000 children in foster care and more than 3,300 awaiting adoption. Foster and adoptive parents love, guide, and nurture children. All types of foster and adoptive parents are needed. Ohio especially needs those who can care for teenagers, sibling groups, and African American children.

As a foster or adoptive parent:

- ◇ You may be married, single, or divorced.
- ◇ You may have other children.
- ◇ You must be at least 21 years old.
- ◇ You may own or rent your house or apartment.
- ◇ You must be able to meet your own financial needs, but you will receive foster care reimbursement to help meet the child's daily living needs while the child is in foster care.
- ◇ You will receive training to help you parent children who have been separated from their birth families.
- ◇ You and a social worker will determine your parenting strengths during a home study.