



Making a Difference for Foster Children and Families

Page 1 of 1

Whether you have time to spare or only want to make a donation, here are some ways to make a difference for a foster child in your community:

- Volunteer to help tutor a foster child, especially in reading.
- Share your music, dance, mask making, story telling or other art talents with foster children, offering them free lessons or mentoring.
- For teens, offer apprenticeships, training and job opportunities.
- Help organize local recreation camps or other activities for foster children, or offer scholarships to existing camps or activities.
- Donate for special occasions such as holidays, birthdays, or graduation. Arrange a scholarship fund for foster children graduating high school.

There are many ways to connect with children in Foster care and help give them a head start on a secure and successful life.

Support Foster Families in Your Community

- You don't have to become a foster parent to take in children for a few hours a week, or a weekend. Respite care—which gives foster families a break from the responsibilities of caring for the child—can also be arranged. Have only an afternoon a week? Offer to help transport a child to after school appointments.
- Donate clothing, baby supplies, car seats, high chairs, toys, luggage or school supplies to local foster parents or foster parent associations. Involve your coworkers, church or service organization to organize care packages for children entering foster care.
- If you own a business, offer discounts, specials or free services to local foster families. If you have a special skill – carpentry, handiwork, etc. – offer to donate some time to a local foster family to improve their home for the children.
- Offer to help support and organize local foster parent appreciation events such as banquets, picnics or potlatches. Or begin by simply thanking foster parents you know.
- Get involved with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and receive training to help you serve as an advocate for children in the Alaska court system. Contact the Office of Public Advocacy's CASA Program at 907/269-3500.
- Consider becoming a foster parent. Or help recruit people you believe would make good foster parents. Contact the Alaska Foster Parent Training Center at 1-800-478-7307.



Community Resource Kit

Alaska Children's Trust 1-800-643-KIDS

Alaska Child Abuse Prevention Network. akchildabuseprevention.org