



FAMILIES FORWARD

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Family-Centered Practice

The Child Welfare Information Gateway defines Family-Centered Practice as “a way of working with families informally and formally amongst various service systems in an effort to enhance their capacity to care for and protect their children”. The main focus of this type of practice surrounds both children’s safety and needs in regard to their families and communities. Family-centered practice develops on the families’ strengths in an effort to achieve the best outcomes. The “families” who are a part of this type of practice include: birth, blended, kinship, foster, and adoptive families.

A large facet of family-centered practice is working with an individual family in an effort to be sure all family members are safe and that their well-being is taken care of. This type of practice uses a function-based focus to come up with solutions and to work on strengthening families effective functioning. Additionally, this practice engages, empowers, and works with families on making decisions and creating goals. It allows the service providers to develop a relationship with the parents and families through establishing trust, communication, and respect. This practice strives to supply individualized, culturally responsive, flexible, and relevant services for all families. It pairs families with joint comprehensive community-based networks along with support systems and other various services.

A family-centered practice is crucial when working within the child welfare system. Within child welfare, we look at individuals and families to assess needs and strengths, provided appropriate services, and assist with finding resources specific to each family. Family-centered practice works with families of various family units such as, birth, blended, kinship, foster, and adoptive families. The key elements of this practice focuses on providing the necessary resources, support, and solutions for the families we work with to ensure the safety and well-being of not only the children/youth but ultimately the families too.

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COLORFUL LIFE CLUB DONATION

A very special thank you to the seniors of the Colorful Life Club at Northville High School for their very generous coloring book donation! This donation supplied our foster children with unique and individualized coloring books that allow them to create beautiful art and express their feelings through coloring. Thank you so much Northville high school's Colorful Life Club!



Shout Out to Our December Donations

Forever Families extends a huge thank you to everyone who supported us by bringing holiday cheer to our children in care. Whether you were a business such as the Livonia Chamber of Commerce or an individual donor; whether it was a donation of various gifts, monetary, or simply giving your time to unload, sort, and wrap gifts, etc., please know that we greatly appreciate you all and your form of gifts from the bottom of our hearts.

One Family's Foster Journey:

Tyler and Katelyn– Fostering Since 2019

Why did you choose foster care?

We decided to become foster parents because we wanted to start a family. We spent many years dealing with infertility and we knew not having kids wasn't an option for us. We know there are many kids out there who need a safe home and loving parents. Our main goal was to foster to adopt and we were open for any age but really looking for school age.

Tell us about your current placement!

Our current placement has been our only placement we have ever had. A month or two after being licensed we got a call that a 16 year old male needed an emergency placement for a week then he would be going to a residential home. We agreed and took him. Well it only took a week, and we knew we wanted him to stay with us. We knew he was special and needed a family and somebody to fight for him. That was back in 2019 and he is still with us today. He is 18 years old and going to graduate this year, we are starting the graduation party plans and all that fun stuff! We also welcomed a baby girl that was an adopted embryo in October of 2021 and he has become the best big brother we could ever ask for. It has been amazing to see the change in him over the past two years.

Any advice for prospective foster parents?

Our best advice is to reach out to the caseworkers when you need help, attend the support groups and even partake in family therapy. I believe the family therapy has helped our foster son open up to us more. It took a good year before he felt like he could trust us. We still have our ups and downs but what family doesn't? We are so excited about his future and watching him grow more. Can't wait to see him walk across the stage for his diploma and for him to see how proud we are of him. He is the most resilient young adult I have ever met.

What else are we up to?

- We currently have 88 foster children in care.
- So far in 2022 we have:
 - Reunified 1 child with their birth parents.
 - Finalized 4 State Ward adoptions.
 - Licensed 3 foster homes.

Don't forget about your training hours!

The monthly support group for foster parents is the 4th Saturday of the month from 9-11 am.

Remember you earn 2 training hours every time you attend a support group, and have an opportunity to receive a prize by attending support groups.

Check out our upcoming trainings, and support group dates & topics for 2022:

1/22/2022: IEP/Education

2/26/2022: Court

3/26/2022: Resources

4/23/2022: Cultural Comp

5/28/2022: Self-Care

6/25/2022: LGBTQ/SOGIE

Don't forget to check out our monthly blog post on our website!