

Washington County DSS

May is Foster Care Month

Washington County Department of Social Services continues its collaborative relationship with Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth for the provision of Foster Care services. By doing so, the resources available to youth in care, their families, and foster parents are able to access a wide variety of a state-wide network operated through Berkshire. For foster parents, this means more training and support can be provided to them. For youth in care, this means a wide catchment of placement options is available so that youth can “bump” up/down when different levels of care are needed.

For casework staff, it means a role that involves less direct service and more quality assurance oversight of the direct work being done in conjunction with the Berkshire Family Specialist Team. While the Berkshire catchment remains the first option, the agency is still able to access other foster care services by contracting with local voluntary agencies to include but not limited to Northeast Parent and Child Society, Parsons Child and Family Center, and St. Anne Institute, to name only a few.



FOSTER PARENTS CHANGE LIVES

Do you have a love for children?

Do you have room in your home and a big heart?

If so, Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth would like to talk with you to discuss what it takes to become a foster parent.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact :

Cate England # 610-4788
cengland@berkshirefarm.org

or Ciara Tabor #390-0878
ctabor@berkshirefarm.org

FOSTER HOMES RECRUITMENT

We are seeking qualified, capable, competent families interested in becoming Foster Parents to children in Need.



If you are even a LITTLE interested, or know someone who might be, PLEASE read on!



What does it take to be a Foster Family?

- ◆ Be supportive and committed to your own family
- ◆ Have good self-esteem and an open mind
- ◆ Have good communication skills and a strong support system
- ◆ Be warm, welcoming, caring and patient
- ◆ Be in good health
- ◆ Be willing to help children toward permanency, including visits with family resources
- ◆ Have emotional room for others
- ◆ Have the ability and the willingness to work with the Agency
- ◆ Be active in the community
- ◆ Be good listeners
- ◆ Be consistent

What does the Agency expect from Foster Families?

- ◆ Provide a comfortable bed of his/her own
- ◆ Provide a place to store personal items
- ◆ Shop for the children's clothes, arrange medical and dental care
- ◆ Assure privacy when it is wanted
- ◆ Take the child to appointments and extracurricular activities
- ◆ Register the child for school
- ◆ Make it possible for the child to have access to community services

Will I be paid?

- ◆ It is not a job and does not pay a salary
- ◆ There is a daily reimbursement for the cost of caring for the child
- ◆ There is a monthly clothing allowance for each child
- ◆ Each child receives an allowance from the Washington County Children's Committee
- ◆ Medical costs will be covered

How to become a Foster Family?

- ◆ Attend our GPS II/MAPP Foster Parent Training Program
- ◆ Be cleared through the State Central Registry for Child Abuse and Maltreatment
- ◆ Have a substance use evaluation
- ◆ Have a physical examination, including a TB test
- ◆ Have your home inspected by Code Enforcement

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Contact: Cate England, Berkshire Home Finding Program Coordinator 610-4788
or

Ciara Tabor, Berkshire Home Finder for Washington County 390-0878

www.berkshirefarm.org