

Can I be a foster parent?

YES!

By meeting the following requirements and making the decision to open up your heart and your home, you can bring hope to a child who needs you.

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Take 27 hours of pre-service training
- Pass criminal and child welfare clearance checks
- Have a source of income other than foster reimbursement
- Own or rent a home that meets all state requirements
- Be willing to work as part of a team with children, families, Saint Francis staff, and other professionals



Take the first step

Call **918.404.3835** today or go online to www.fostercare-ok.org. We will help you decide if becoming a foster parent is right for you.



About Saint Francis Ministries

A voice for the vulnerable since 1945, the mission of Saint Francis Ministries is to provide healing and hope to children and families. We honor human dignity and potential through our programs and services to more than 11,000 youth and families in Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.



www.saintfrancisministries.org



Saint Francis Ministries is
Joint Commission accredited.

REV/4-26

Foster Care Homes Program



HOPE STARTS HERE

Oklahoma children come to foster care from all walks of life and from every community. Many have experienced trauma, so they come frightened, confused, and anxious.

Foster parents open their homes and hearts – helping children heal, trust, and hope again.

Children in care range in age from birth to 18, mostly school-aged. Most enter foster care due to abuse or neglect. We strive to keep sibling groups together, and teens in their home community.

Whatever their story, each child in foster care needs a safe place to stay and a family to provide for their individual needs.



Foster parents build hope

Just as children come from all walks of life, so do foster parents. You don't have to be wealthy, live in a big house, or be married. You simply need room in your heart and in your home to give children a safe space to heal and build hope.

Foster Family Care

Foster parents provide a temporary home and quality care for children. Working with birth parents, they help prepare children for the day they can safely reunite with their families.

When children cannot go home, they assist with the transition to placement with relatives, to an adoptive home, or entry into self-sufficient adulthood.

Foster parents provide daily care and support aimed at promoting healthy physical and emotional growth, recovery from trauma, and hope while children are separated from their family.

Respite care

Respite care providers give foster parents planned time off for rest and renewal. These providers care for children for shorter periods of time. Their assistance is invaluable.

Rewards and Benefits

Foster parents:

- Positively influence a young person's life
- Keep children safe, within a family environment
- Serve their community
- Participate on a professional team
- Enrich the quality of their own life through foster parenting

Saint Francis foster parents receive:

- Advocacy and assistance in navigating the foster care system in Oklahoma, with 24/7 support.
- Free, professional, and ongoing training
- Respite/relief care
- Tax-free compensation
- Mileage reimbursement for medical trips more than 25 miles
- Medical cards for foster children
- Paid daycare for working foster parents
- Online resources and support with easily accessible tools and training
- Recruitment bonus for referring another foster family
- The joy of providing healing and hope to a child in need



"We're not down here on Earth just for ourselves; we're here to help others. I can't change what a kid has been through, but I can still be present for him. I'll help and support him, and together we'll do our best."

— Sheryl & Otis McHenry, Saint Francis Oklahoma Foster Parents