

CHANGING THE WORLD FOR CHILDREN

FOSTER CARE SERVICES



Lutheran Social Services
of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.



“The entire staff is 100% committed to families and children. They put their whole heart into what they do every day.”

– Foster Parent

Foster care is something special.

It happens when adults provide shelter, stability and love to children whose parents or guardians are unable to care for them.

It's a temporary arrangement: the goal is usually to reunite the children with their families when the situation at home improves. Sometimes, when that reunion is not possible, the goal for the children's well-being changes to adoption.

It takes a special person to provide foster care. And the rewards are special, too. Foster care can make a tremendously positive difference in the life of a child and the child's entire family.

Best of all, the gift of love can create a lasting connection and make a lifelong difference for a foster child and a foster parent.



Providing Experience and Vision

LSS has provided foster care services for decades and believes that foster care should always be part of a larger care plan that involves everyone who is important in the child's life. That may include the biological family, foster parents, treatment providers, educators and more. Each care plan benefits from the input and shared vision of all of these people.



“I do foster care because I love it. I can only do it because LSS provides the support it does.”

– Foster Parent



Becoming a Foster Parent

Becoming a foster parent includes a three-to-six month licensing process. Our experienced staff can guide potential foster parents through each step.

The process includes:

- Background check
- Detailed application
- Home study
- Training
- Health checks and more

Once licensed, foster parents can count on LSS for continued training and assistance. There are always helpful resources on our foster care webpage, lsswis.org/fostercare; plus, the LSS Foster Care team is always ready to provide support.

Help us fill the Kid's Closet

Too often, children in foster care arrive with just the clothes on their backs or a few items in a garbage bag. A brand-new duffel bag is just one of the items that a foster child can select from the Kid's Closet located in our Foster Care offices. There's no charge for the duffel bags or the contents of the closet, which also include school supplies, personal hygiene items, cozy blankets, coats and other items that can make the transition to a new home easier. To donate new duffel bags, gently used clothing or other items for foster care children, call 888-746-2850 or go to our website to make a cash donation: lsswis.org/fostercare.



Answering Essential Questions

Why are children placed in foster care?

Children are placed in foster care when they cannot safely live at home. This happens for a variety of reasons that result in the parents being unavailable or unable to care for a child. Foster care provides a way for a compassionate adult to care for the child until the home situation can be improved.

What kind of children are placed in foster care?

Children of all ages and from all kinds of backgrounds are placed in foster care. Some of them have lived in unstable environments and have emotional or behavioral challenges. Each child reacts to a foster home differently; some welcome more stability and supervision and some struggle to adjust, but most respond well to patience and consistency.

What kind of adults are foster parents?

The main qualification for foster parents is the desire to open their hearts and home to a child in need of comfort, safety and stability. Foster parents can be single or married; they can own or rent a home. There's no minimum income requirement, though foster parents do need sufficient income to support themselves (separate from the stipend provided for the needs of the foster child). And foster parents do not need to be Lutheran to work with LSS; we work with and serve people from all backgrounds and faiths.



Providing Respite Care

Respite caregivers provide care to a child who needs just a short stay in foster care or to a child whose family or foster family needs some time on their own. Respite care is often just for a night or a weekend. Providing this short-term care can help people who are interested in foster parenting gain confidence in their ability to be successful foster parents.

Taking the Next Step

It's easy to find out how to become a foster parent, the range of foster care services that LSS offers and ways to support the LSS Foster Care program:

- Visit the foster care page on the LSS website at lsswis.org/fostercare.
- Call our main Foster Care phone line at 888-746-2850.



Contact Us

LSS Foster Care

888-746-2850

lsswis.org/fostercare

Call our main number for assistance or to be connected to the LSS Foster Care office nearest to you.



FOSTER CARE SERVICES