

# Does your *home* have a lot of *heart* and a little more room? Provide children a Home *with* Heart!

*Foster care* is an opportunity for stable, committed and loving adults to provide temporary, out-of-home care for children who have been removed from their families of origin due to neglect and abuse. *Resource Families* are Relative Caregivers and Foster Caregivers who are committed to the wellbeing of a child in foster care.

**Foster care relies upon Homes *with* Heart.** We understand that children need more than just protection. They also need stability, nurturing and comfort during a particularly distressing time. Fostering families partner with our Children and Family Services team to offer children and their parents a positive, committed relationship within a stable, and loving family. This is often the first step in a child's and a family's journey towards healing and hope.



It is in the best interest of a child to be reunified with their birth family whenever it is safe to do so. Resource families play a vital role in this process. Quality caregivers are individuals who seek to mentor, support, and nurture a child unconditionally during what can be a traumatizing and chaotic time in his/her life.

Resource parents participate with the child in activities that will assist in the child's social, educational and physical wellbeing, and engage them as full members of their families. Children in foster care are just like any other children – they just have a different story. They range from ages 0-21, come from all areas of the county, and are diverse in ethnicity, race, and language.

Children in foster care have one important thing in common: they are all children, (yes, even teens), who need families to love and support them. No child outgrows the need for family meals, bedtime tuck-ins, homework help, a listening ear, and one who says, *"I will care for you, no matter what."*

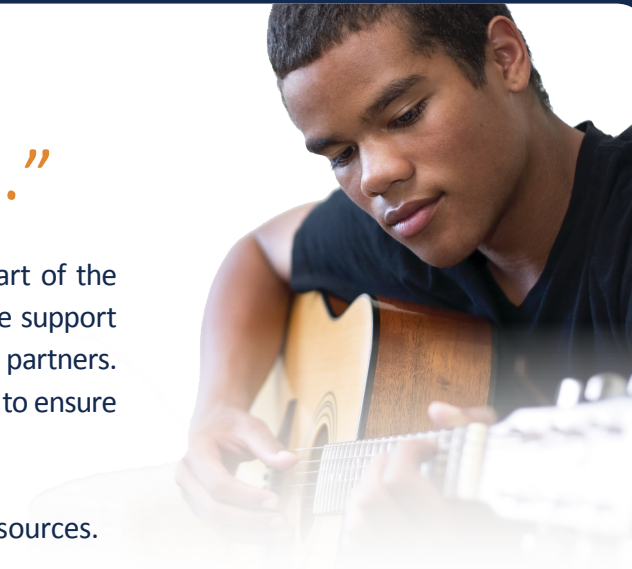
**We Need More Homes *with* Heart, Please Call Us Today at 805.654.3220!**



*"We are with you every step of the way..."*

As a Resource parent, you are not alone. When you become a part of the Foster VC Kids and Strengthen VC Families teams, you will have the support of Children and Family Services staff and our network of community partners. We will work with you and provide you with resources\* and support to ensure stability and quality of care for children in your care.

\*Visit [fosterVCKids.org/become-a-foster-parent](https://fosterVCKids.org/become-a-foster-parent) for additional resources.



## A Child in Ventura County *Needs* You!

Will you consider taking the first step toward changing a life?

### 5 Steps to Becoming a Resource Parent:



**Complete Resource Family Orientation**  
(Registration is required)



**Complete the 21st Century Caregiver Training Series** (including First Aid and CPR Certification)



**Complete the Resource Family Application**  
(including a well exam/physical and TB Test)



**Complete Fingerprinting and Background Check**



**Complete Comprehensive Resource Family Assessment**

Once you receive RFA approval, you will have the opportunity to open your home with heart to children in need of love and support.

### The Resource Family Approval or "RFA" Program was designed to:

1. Implement a unified family-friendly and child-centered approval process to replace the existing multiple processes for licensing foster family homes.
2. Approve Relatives and Non-Relative extended family members as foster care providers, and;
3. Approve families for legal guardianship or adoption.



For questions regarding your application or the approval process, contact RFA Staff at 805-654-3422 or 805-654-3214.  
For general foster care questions, contact Foster VC Kids staff at 654-3220.

## What is *foster* care?

Foster care is an opportunity for stable, committed and loving adults to provide temporary, out-of-home care for children who have been removed from their families of origin due to neglect and abuse.

This is a challenging and frightening time for children of all ages and their birth families. Resource Families provide nurture and unconditional support while we help to stabilize families as they seek reunification with their children. When family reunification is not possible, Resource Families are integral to helping us ensure children have long-term forever homes and families.

## Who can be a *Resource Family*?

Individuals must be over 18, but can be single or married, own or rent their residences, come from a range of careers and vocations, may or may not have biological children, and have sufficient income to support their own expenses/financial obligations. Quality Resource Parents are also willing to support children in maintaining bonds with their birth families, work as part of a team, and are respectful of children's rights. All Resource Parents are required to remain in compliance with state regulations related to foster care facilities and to complete ongoing training annually.

## What are the resources available to *Resource Families*?

**Resources include:**

- Monthly reimbursement and medical/dental insurance to assist you in providing for the basic needs of the children in your care. The basic monthly rate is based upon the age and special needs of the child. Families caring for children within the Intensive Therapeutic Foster Care program (ITFC) receive a higher rate of care.
- A Resource Family retention and support specialist will assist you in navigating the child welfare system, address challenges in the home, and provide linkages to community resources and support. You will also receive free training and education through Children and Family Services, and regular networking opportunities.
- Financial support for camps, recreational and educational support through agreements with our community partners.
- Resources to support the child's material needs such as clothing, toiletries, diapers and bedding.
- iFoster.org membership for fostering families and relative caregivers to access free and discounted goods and services.
- Up to 12 hours/month of free respite childcare through Channel Islands Social Services.
- Therapeutic support services for our Resource Parents to help them foster healthy relationships. Referral to additional support services for the child such as therapy, behavioral services, and developmental interventions.
- Bi-monthly newsletter with county updates, featured resources, networking, and training opportunities.
- Peer support and mentoring.
- Additional financial resources for special circumstances.

## Fostering *stability*

Children's needs, behaviors, strengths, and challenges vary from child to child and may be influenced by the experiences that led to them being removed from their homes. The goal is to encourage and foster growth in positive ways, to help children and families recognize their strengths, and to support and comfort them during challenging times.



*FosterVCKids is a member of the California Quality Parenting Initiative*