

Who is a Foster Parent?

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Can be married, single or living with a partner
- Can be employed, retired or stay at home
- Must have sufficient income to meet their own family's financial needs
- Must have space in their home & their heart to provide for a child in need.
- Willing to help to prepare youth to reunite with their family, be adopted or live independently.
- Should be flexible, willing to adapt to the a youth's needs & capable of handling stressful situations
- Able to work as a member of team & maintain consistent communication with caseworkers and other professional supports.
- Willing to learn creative strategies for parenting youth who have experienced complex trauma

Foster Care Changes Lives!

The following well-known celebrities were fostered by loving adults when their own parents were unable to care for them:

Eddie Murphy's father died when he was very young, and his mother later became ill. Eddie & his brother Charlie were placed in foster care. Both later became stand up comedians & actors!

Steve Jobs, late co-founder & CEO of Apple Computers and Pixar Studios was adopted by his parents, Clara and Paul Jobs.

John Lennon of the Beatles was a foster child.

Cher was temporarily placed in foster care during a period in which her family was faced with serious financial hardship.

Lopez Lomong was one of the Sudanese "Lost Boys" who later found refuge in the United States and a loving American family through Toomey's Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program. He later went on to become an Olympic Athlete.



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Foster Care Programs



The Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program



Therapeutic Foster Care

Foster Parents Hold the Key to a Child's Success!

The “Who” and “What” of Foster Care...

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is temporary care for children who are unable to live with their birth families. However, the length of stay in a foster home can vary depending on the youth, their family, and the individual circumstances of the foster care case.

Who are the youth in Foster Care?

- ⇒ The youth in Toomey’s Foster Care represent all ethnic groups and include refugee youth born in other countries.
- ⇒ Youth can be as young as infants and can remain in foster care until their 21st birthday. However, most of the youth in our program are ages 12-19 years.
- ⇒ Sometimes youth in care are part of a sibling group, and our agency always strives to place siblings in homes together.
- ⇒ Children in foster care have experienced trauma and need support to develop healthy relationships.
- ⇒ Youth in foster care need caregivers who are patient, compassionate, flexible and willing to learn strategies specifically designed to meet their emotional and behavioral needs

Our Foster Care Programs

The Unaccompanied Refugee Minor

The Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program is a federally funded multi-cultural program. Youth may come from refugee camps around the world or flee dangerous conditions in their home country to seek asylum in the United States. The youth we serve in this program are typically 14-19 years of age, arrive in the United States without parents and have no relatives here able to provide for them. Goals of the URM Program include supporting youth in exploring and adjusting to life in America while preserving and sharing their own culture with others and preparing for self-sufficiency.

Understanding the complex needs of these youth requires patience, flexibility, and a constant willingness to learn and grow as a caregiver.

Therapeutic Foster Care

Youth sometimes need foster family care as a result of identified concerns within their own family. Their county’s Dept of Social Services makes a referral for the child to be placed in foster care while their caretakers work on resolving the issues that resulted in the child’s placement. Youth in

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) have greater emotional and/or behavioral needs which require more intensive foster parent training to employ strategies specific to highly traumatized youth, as well as increased staff support to help kids heal and thrive.

It’s What We Do: The Toomey Difference

- Smaller caseloads enable staff to provide a higher level of support
- Nurse advocates to assist medical needs
- Ongoing training & quarterly support groups for foster parents
- On-call support 24/7
- Foster parents receive a non-taxable monthly stipend for the board and care of each child placed in your home.

Interested in becoming a Foster Parent?

- * **Make an inquiry call to Toomey and speak with the Foster Parent Manager**
- * **Arrange a home visit with the Foster Parent Manager to ask questions and discuss the program in further detail**
- * **Complete an application**
- * **Attend our Foster Parent pre-certification training classes**
- * **Complete a home study, get fingerprinted, and be cleared through the state Child Abuse Registry.**

For more information, please contact Foster Parent Manager Brianna Kline at (315) 424-1845