

## Children Waiting to be Adopted

Wednesday's Child,  
88-TO-ADOPT-ME,  
[www.adopt.org/wednesdayschild](http://www.adopt.org/wednesdayschild)

The Heart Gallery,  
[www.freddiemacfoundation.com/heartgallery](http://www.freddiemacfoundation.com/heartgallery)

## Foster Parenting Associations

Foster and Adoptive Parent  
Advocacy Center (FAPAC)  
[www.dcfapac.org](http://www.dcfapac.org)

D.C. Metropolitan Foster and  
Adoptive Parent Association  
(D.C. MFAPA)  
[www.dcmfapa.org](http://www.dcmfapa.org)

Faces of Northern Virginia  
[www.facesofvirginia.org](http://www.facesofvirginia.org)

Maryland Foster Parent Association  
(MFPA)  
[www.mdkids1.org](http://www.mdkids1.org)

## Post Adoption Support & Counseling

Post Permanency Family Center  
[www.adoptiontogether.org/  
ThePostPermanencyFamilyCenter](http://www.adoptiontogether.org/ThePostPermanencyFamilyCenter)

Center for Adoption Support and  
Education C.A.S.E.),  
[www.adoptionsupport.org](http://www.adoptionsupport.org)

On any given day in the Metropolitan Washington region, nearly **5,000 children** are living outside of their birth homes in foster care. Almost a third of these children in our community **will not go home** and instead, must wait for someone to adopt them.



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Metropolitan  
Washington  
Foster-Adopt  
Recruitment

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District of Columbia • Frederick County • Prince George's County • Montgomery County • City of Alexandria • Arlington County • Fairfax County • Prince William County

## What is Foster Parenting?

Foster parenting is providing a safe temporary home for an infant, child, sibling group or teenager who was removed from their birth home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment by the caretaker. However, by offering a child the support, guidance, love and nurturance they deserve, even for a short period of time, you can make a lifetime of difference.



## Families Helping Families

By becoming a foster parent you help a child, that child's family, and society at large. The primary goal of foster care is to reunite the child with their birth family. Foster parents are there to soothe the child as the social worker and courts try to transition the child back to their birth home or try to locate a viable relative who can care for them. Children in family foster care return to their birth homes only when the agency and court system deem it safe for the child to be reunified.

When reunification attempts fail, foster parents are the safety net. When or if reunification and relative placements are unsuccessful, foster parents are often invited to adopt the children they were fostering.

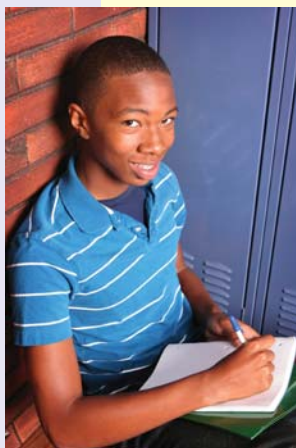
## What is Adoption?

Adoption is the process of assuming permanent legal custody of a minor, to provide them with a stable permanent home, when it is deemed that the child's birth family is unable to safely care for them. For a child to be available for adoption, the birth mother and father's legal parental rights must be terminated.

## Prevent Another Child From Aging Out

Children "age-out" of foster care when they reach the age of 18 or 21 depending on the jurisdiction. To age-out means that the agency discontinues recruiting an adoptive parent for the child, and instead the child is introduced to life skills and how to make it on their own.

Statistics show that children who age-out of foster care are disproportionately represented in the homeless population, among those that are incarcerated or rely on public assistance. Too many young people who age-out of foster care do not complete high school, and even fewer attend trade school or college.



## Take the Next Step

Contact your local agency and ask about foster parenting and/or adoption.

### District of Columbia

Child and Family Services Agency:  
202-671-LOVE (5683)  
[www.cfsa.dc.gov](http://www.cfsa.dc.gov)

### Maryland

Frederick County Department of Social Services:  
301-600-2466  
[www.fcdss.info/fca.htm](http://www.fcdss.info/fca.htm)

Prince George's County Department of Social Services:  
301-909-CARE  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/dss](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/dss)

Montgomery County Health and Human Services:  
240-777-1664  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/kidsneedyou](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/kidsneedyou)

### Virginia

City of Alexandria Department of Human Services:  
703-838-0803  
[www.alexandriava.gov/FosterCare](http://www.alexandriava.gov/FosterCare)

Arlington County Department of Human Services:  
703-228-1550  
[www.arlingtonva.us/fostercare](http://www.arlingtonva.us/fostercare)

Fairfax County Department of Family Services:  
703-324-7639  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/dfs](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/dfs)

Prince William County Department of Social Services:  
703-792-7500  
[www.pwccgov.org/FosterCare](http://www.pwccgov.org/FosterCare)