

## **FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED FOR TEENS**

### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

Harborcreek Youth Services is now establishing a community-based program known as Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC). Although new to Erie County, MTFC programs worldwide are helping boys and girls, ages 12 through 17, to overcome behavioral and/or emotional problems in the context of a healthy family home.

Our aim is to provide every child in the program with

- Close supervision
- Fair and consistent limits and consequences
- A supportive relationship with at least one mentoring adult
- Limited access to peers who may be a bad influence.

### **FOSTER PARENTING**

In the home, foster parents use a structured behavior management system that is the primary tool used to encourage better behavior. The system is designed to relieve the foster parents' burden by establishing clear expectations for behavior and well-defined consequences for failing to meet expectations. The system also allows foster parents to reward positive behavior. The program supervisor is always available to assist foster parents with any problems that may arise.

MTFC is different from most other foster care programs in the following ways:

- MTFC places only one child at a time with the foster family
- MTFC uses a team approach to treatment and foster parents are essential members of the team
- MTFC foster parents implement a structured program which is customized for each child by the program supervisor
- MTFC foster parents receive an enhanced level of support from program staff. Crisis intervention is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- MTFC foster parents meet regularly with other MTFC foster parents so everyone can support and learn from each other
- MTFC foster parents receive a daily phone call to check on the child's behavior.

For more information about treatment foster care at Harborcreek Youth Services, call

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