

## About Our Programs

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Harborcreek Youth Services is currently seeking foster parents for two distinct types of foster care. Here is a brief explanation of the basics of each program:

- **Traditional Foster Care.** Traditional foster parents provide safe, nurturing homes for male and female children of all ages in Erie and Crawford Counties. Children are placed in foster homes by the Office of Children and Youth for varying periods of time. Children may or may not have mental or physical challenges or behavioral issues. The children's circumstances and special needs are explained to foster parents prior to placement. Foster parents may refuse to accept a child without jeopardizing their status with our agency
- **Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC).** MTFC serves male and female adolescents, ages twelve to seventeen. The program addresses the needs of severely delinquent youth for whom in-home therapy is not an option. Youth are placed individually in a family setting for six to nine months. Treatment foster parents receive exten-

sive free training prior to placement. As with traditional foster care, the child's file is shared with foster parents prior to placement. Foster parents may refuse to accept a child without jeopardizing their status with our agency.



## Basic Requirements

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Traditional and treatment foster parents must meet certain requirements that are mandated by state law. Among these requirements are the following:

- Foster parents must be at least 21 years old
- Foster parents must be physically able to care for a child and must be free of communicable disease

- Foster parents must provide references, employment history, evidence of financial stability, and other types of background information
- Foster parents and others over the age of 14 who are living in the home must obtain proof that they have no history of physically or sexually abusing children and that they have no convictions for committing certain crimes within a specified period of time.

In addition, prospective foster homes must meet certain minimum requirements, including the following:

- The home must have at least one functioning flush toilet, one wash basin, and one bath and/or shower with hot and cold running water
- An operable telephone
- An operable heating system.

Certain other requirements may also apply, depending on which type of care prospective foster parents are planning to provide. For example, an MTFC foster child must have a bedroom of his or her own. For more information about program requirements, call Nancy Zawadzki at (814) 899-7664, Extension 401.

## *Support Services*

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Harborcreek Youth Services' foster parents are given ongoing supervision, support, respite care, and a monthly stipend. Emergency assistance is available at all times. In addition, all foster parents are provided with free training. The amount of training depends on the type of program, but foster parents will have all the tools they need prior to initial placement to ensure the foster child's stay in the home is a beneficial experience for everyone.

## *About Our Agency*

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Harborcreek Youth Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and is affiliated with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Erie. Its programs are open to all youth, without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, or sex.

Our agency's mission is to help youth and families build positive futures within a Christian environment that respects and promotes individuality and strengthens community.

## *Contact Us*

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For more information about either or both of the foster parent opportunities described in this brochure, call Nancy Zawadzki at (814) 899-7664, Extension 401.

Foster parenting is a great way to make a positive impact on the life of a child in need of stability, guidance, and love. We look forward to talking with you and welcoming you to our team.



## *How to Become a Foster Parent*



**HARBORCREEK  
YOUTH SERVICES**

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