

Children belong in safe families – preferably their own. But sometimes parents are unable to keep their children safe and need the help of foster parents to care for their children.

These children need a foster family for a few days, weeks, months or longer while their parents remedy the circumstances that caused the children to leave their families. Some children may never be able to return home and need a permanent family to love and care for them through adoption. In all cases, children need safe strong families to succeed.

There is a critical need for foster parents for teens, sibling groups and children of color in Arizona. **There is also an ongoing need for volunteers, advocates and other supports for these vulnerable children.** Please read on to discover how you might make a difference for a child in foster care!



Children come into foster care through no fault of their own. They need members of the community to come alongside them, keep them safe, provide them with stability, and show them love.

When you choose to foster a child, you won't just change their life... They'll change yours **FOREVER.**



877.543.7633

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program • Under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI & VII), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008; the Department prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics and retaliation. The Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service or activity. For example, this means if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact your local office; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. • Free language assistance for Department services is available upon request.

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You Can Make a Difference for a Child in Foster Care!



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

877♥KIDS♥NEED♥U
1-877-543-7633

Make a Difference – Level 1 DONATE

■ **Take advantage of the foster care tax credit.** Make a financial contribution to a Qualifying Foster Care Charitable Organization, and receive a credit on your Arizona State Tax Return. For more information, and to see a list of qualifying organizations, visit the Arizona Department of Revenue site: <http://bit.ly/2n5fx3T>.

■ **Donate money or material goods to one of DCS' partnering foster care organizations.** In addition to the tax credit, you can give monetary donations or material goods (beds, clothing, backpacks, etc.) to a nonprofit organization that supports foster care in Arizona. For help in finding an organization near you, please email volunteer@azdcs.gov.



Make a Difference – Level 2 ADVOCATE

■ **Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).** CASAs are appointed by judges to represent the best interests of neglected and abused children. <http://www.azcourts.gov/casa/>

■ **Join the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB).** Advise the juvenile court on progress toward achieving a permanent home for a child in foster care. <https://www.azcourts.gov/fcrb/>



“ There are SO many ways to support foster families and children in care. I'm eternally grateful to our Foster Care Review Board for the time and effort they spent advocating for our foster daughters.
– Foster Parent ”

Make a Difference – Level 3 VOLUNTEER

■ **Volunteer at a Children's Heart Gallery Photo Shoot.** Serve as a guide for a children in need of loving adoptive families. Go to www.childrensheartgallery.org and click "Contact Us."

■ **Volunteer at holiday, back-to-school, or other events for foster children and families.** For a list of opportunities, email volunteer@azdcs.gov.

■ **Mentor or tutor a child in foster care.** For more information, email volunteer@azdcs.gov.

■ **Engage your faith-based community, neighborhood or business by collecting toys or supplies to support foster families.** For ideas, email volunteer@azdcs.gov.

■ **Host or sponsor an event for foster families.** If you own a business, you can sponsor an event or activity for one or more foster families. To connect with an opportunity near you, visit www.azdcs.gov/community-volunteer-interest-form or email volunteer@azdcs.gov.



Make a Difference – Level 4 OPEN YOUR HOME

■ **Have a foster or adoptive family over for dinner or bring a meal to them.** Help foster parents avoid burnout by asking them what types of tangible support they need.

■ **Become a foster or adoptive parent.** Children in foster care need safe and loving homes. Find out what steps you need to take to be a foster or adoptive parent at <https://dcs.az.gov/fosteradoption/steps-becoming-foster-parent>. If you want to help care for children, but can only commit to shorter periods of time, consider becoming a licensed respite provider.



“ There are a lot of misconceptions about who can be foster or adoptive parents. We're not super parents; we are normal parents. It doesn't take some super-being quality to do what we do...
– Foster Parent ”