



SPECIALIZED FOSTER CARE

HOST HOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND OTHER SPECIALIZED NEEDS

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

dfs Foster Parents provide a stable home environment for children. They help teach the child to become a part of a family and learn to develop positive self-esteem. The children served in **df**s Foster Care are generally children who are older, have mental health or medical issues, have a history of multiple placements, and/or need specialized training or care.

Foster Parents work closely with staff to address the child's problems and meet all the child's needs; support continued involvement of the natural family; and participate in the Pennsylvania Foster Parent Association.

Foster Parents receive 36 hours of pre-licensing orientation, specialized training to meet the needs of the child placed in the home, 25 hours of annual retraining and supervision and support of casework staff.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Specialized Foster Care is a placement service therefore service is provided 24 hours a day. Caseworkers monitor the foster care placement by conducting home visits to discuss current issues. Family participation is very important to the successful placement therefore, the Caseworkers will work with you to arrange the best possible time to conduct necessary meetings.



FEE SCHEDULE

All referrals for placement are received from County Children and Youth Services and/or Juvenile Probation. Currently there is not a fee or co-pay that is the responsibility of the client or foster family.

Individuals may apply to become Foster Parents by contacting the **df**s office or by filling out the online pre-application questionnaire at www.diversifiedfamily.org/employment/preap/pfosterparent.asp.

BENEFITS

Children receive services which assist them in changing their lives towards a more positive focus and learn to make the best use of their abilities and talents.

SUCCESS RATE

Current satisfaction rating from all children receiving services is 91%. Foster Parents expressed a Satisfaction Survey rating of 88%.



ADOPTION SERVICES

If you are interested in adopting a special needs child please contact our agency.

We also complete pre-placement home studies for prospective adoptive families as well as provide post-placement monitoring.

MORE INFORMATION

Additional information about these services can be obtained by contacting Nancy J. Tusinac, M.Ed. Program Director at 724-346-2123 ext. 5529.

WHY CHOOSE dFs?

- ▶ We **have been providing services** to people with intellectual disabilities for **25 years**.
- ▶ **Family is our middle name.** We welcome everyone as a member of our family.
- ▶ Clients and their families are well-satisfied with our services with a **5-year satisfaction average of 89%**.
- ▶ We provide services **close to home** in Mercer, Crawford, Beaver, Butler, Venango, and Lawrence Counties.



Services are provided and admissions and referrals made without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, ancestry, religious creed, handicap or and age.

dFs is an EEO employer.

Celebrating Our 25 Years of Service

FAST FACTS ABOUT dFs

- We have been serving Mercer County for 25 years.
- We have a volunteer governing Board of Directors which is made-up of community members, clients & family members.
- We have helped over 250 children through our specialized foster program, 17 of whom have been adopted.
- We serve over 175 families each year through our services to people with intellectual disabilities & children & youth.
- We provide a variety of residential services in 10 group homes and a supervised apartment building.
- We provide pre-vocational services to people with intellectual disabilities at our adult training facility and also provide supported employment.
- We employ 145 people and put almost 2.6 million dollars back into our community through employee wages.
- Approximately 96% of the people we serve are in the low income bracket.
- Approximately 13% of the people we serve represent a minority group.
- Our clients gave us high marks for satisfaction with our services, with a 5 year average of 90%.
- Our annual budget is approximately \$5 million
- We are a regional provider, serving clients from several counties including: Crawford, Lawrence, Beaver, and Venango Counties.
- Donations to us are Tax Deductible – we are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.
- Office hours are 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday



SPECIALIZED CHILDREN'S SERVICES FOSTERCARE & ADOPTION

REMEMBER HOW IMPORTANT YOUR
PARENTS WERE TO YOU?

CHILDREN ARE WAITING...
WILL YOU HELP?



DIVERSIFIED FAMILY SERVICES

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P.O. BOX 1027

HERMITAGE, PA 16148

PHONE: (724) 346-2123

FAX: (724) 346-0366

www.diversifiedfamily.org