

Ways to Help Children in Foster Care



LOOKING TO HELP CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE?

On any given day in America, more than 500,000 children and youth are in foster care. There are many ways to make a difference in their lives. Consider some of the options listed here if you would like to help change a child's life for the better.

Adoption Information Center of Illinois

120 West Madison
Ste. 800, Chicago, IL
60602
312/346-1516

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Adoption and Foster Care
Information: 800/572-2390
www.adoptinfo-il.org
aici@adoptinfo-il.org

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Se Habla Español

This list is updated every 6 months.

There are many ways to help Illinois children in foster care. Here are some options if you would like to improve the lives of these young people:

Be a foster parent.

Make a real and lasting difference by sharing your home, time, energy, and love with a child, a youth, or sibling groups in need of a foster home. Interested? Contact the Adoption and Foster Care Information Services at 800-572-2390 or visit www.adoptinfo-il.org.

Be an adoptive parent.

An adopted child or youth offers the same joys and responsibilities as a birth child. Make a lifelong commitment to the well-being and progress of an adopted child. Contact the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 800-572-2390 or visit www.adoptinfo-il.org.

Be a volunteer advocate in court.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers are trained citizens appointed by judges to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court. For more information, contact www.nationalcasa.org or call 1-800-628-3233 (national office) or 312-433-4928 (Chicago office).

Be a mentor.

Mentors make a difference. Research shows that children and youth with mentors earn higher grades and report improved relationships with their friends and families. Interested? Contact www.mentoring.org.

Contribute financially.

A donation, no matter the size, can make a big difference in the lives of families, youth, and children. Interested? Contact the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 312-346-1516 or visit www.adoptinfo-il.org.

Be a volunteer.

There are many ways to volunteer in which you can help youth in foster care. Here are some options for volunteering in Illinois:

Allendale Association. Located in Lake Villa, Allendale provides a safe, supportive place for children, adolescents, adults, and families. Volunteer opportunities include being a tutor, mentor, "Big Pal," educational surrogate or greenhouse tutor. Contact Laura Craemer at 847-245-6483 or email Volunteer@Allendale4kids.org.

The Baby Fold. Located in Normal, Illinois, the Baby Fold seeks Volunteers for tutoring and mentoring children in foster care, providing gifts for child birthdays, sorting Christmas gifts for children, and assisting with the Festival of Trees. Contact Human Resources at 309-452-1170 or email them at humanresources@thebabyfold.org.

Be a Volunteer. (continued)

Big Brothers Big Sisters. This nationwide volunteer program provides opportunities for adults to create fun and positive one-on-one friendships with youth in their communities. For more information, visit www.bbbsa.org, www.bbbschgo.org or call 1-888-412-BIGS (national office) or 312-427-0637 (Chicago office).

Catholic Charities. The Chicago office of this national organization provides volunteers the opportunity to learn to respond to calls that come in on our Maternity Hotline. For more information, contact Norene Chesebro at 312-655-7088.

One Hope United. This agency provides a full array of human services and has mentoring and tutoring opportunities throughout the Chicago metro area. For more information, call 312-922-6733.

Little City. This service organization is looking for dedicated individuals who will volunteer their time for mentoring, tutoring, or providing respite to children with developmental delays and/or emotional or behavioral issues. Contact Natasha Adams at 773-265-1539, ext. 225.

Metropolitan Family Services - Midway Center. Located in Chicago, Midway Center is looking for after-school and summer tutors for children ages six to seventeen. Training is provided, and tutors should be able to commit to one session per week for six months. Contact Monica Colfax at 773-884-2247.

Network for Good. This organization uses the Internet to help connect people with their local communities. Its web site matches volunteer opportunities with the volunteer's interests and geographic location. Visit www.networkforgood.org/volunteer.

Children's Home + Aid - Rice Child & Family Center. Located in Evanston, this residential treatment center offers opportunities for volunteers to help with homework, participate in off-campus outings, play board games, and provide a mentoring relationship with youth in care. Contact Melvin Tate at 847-424-5146.

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