



The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

VISION

Think of the Child First!

MISSION

We provide leadership and advocacy for Delaware's children.

Our primary responsibility is to provide and manage a range of services for children - who have experienced abandonment, abuse, adjudication, mental illness, neglect, substance abuse; and we endorse a holistic approach to enable children to reach their fullest potential.

Through our Division of Family Services, we provide services that encompass child abuse and neglect investigations and treatment, adoption and foster care services. We exist to help children achieve their fullest potential. While all of our services are important to the children of Delaware, the focus here is on how you can help some of our most vulnerable citizens; the foster children of Delaware.

FACTS:

- ❖ Foster families provide young people with safe, secure and stable homes when their parents or guardians cannot.
- ❖ There are approximately 700 children in some 400 foster homes throughout our state.
- ❖ The median age for a foster child in Delaware is 9.5 years.
- ❖ Many of these older children are not strong candidates for adoption and will eventually age out of the system after they become 18.
- ❖ Foster care stipends range from \$13 a day to \$55 a day.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ...

- ❖ Sponsor foster children to attend trips to art museums or cultural events such as the children's theater or ballet
- ❖ Provide gift certificates to book stores, toy stores, etc..
- ❖ Purchase tickets to a local circus or festival
- ❖ Adopt-a-Foster Care Cluster (geographical grouping of foster parent homes)
- ❖ Sponsor a trip to the Franklin Institute, Washington, DC, the zoo, etc..
- ❖ Host a barbecue for foster families
- ❖ Provide tuition for summer camp
- ❖ Orthodontia
- ❖ Help with graduation and prom expenses (i.e.. pictures, cap and gown, tickets)

- ❖ Purchase memberships to Boys and Girls Clubs
- ❖ Provide uniforms for associations such as Cub Scouts, karate, baseball, etc..
- ❖ Purchase a computer
- ❖ Provide or pay for tutoring
- ❖ Write a check payable to the State of Delaware for those "nice to have" supports, i.e.. trip to national wrestling event, school sponsored trips, cheerleading camp.

The list is as long as your imagination. Think of something you would provide your own children or grandchildren, and add it to this list!! Please help us to think of a child in foster care and provide him or her with the little things to ensure safety, stability, self-esteem and a sense of hope!

For more information, please call Kiya Crippen at 302-633-2662.