



**Burke Center**  
*for Youth*

Foster Care and Adoption Agency

[www.burkecenterforyouth.org](http://www.burkecenterforyouth.org)

# Burke Center for Youth

← *BCFY Foster Care and Adoption Agency is a non-profit organization that seeks homes for foster children. Since 1973 BCFY has helped children that have been separated from their natural parents and placed them with families willing to provide them a loving and nurturing home. We issue a State License to provide temporary care for children that have been removed from their biological families for abuse and neglect.*



# Burke Center for Youth

*Our Mission with foster children is to run back the hands of time and help them build self respect, self reliance, and self-esteem.*

*Our Hope is to help them melt away the pain and heal for a better future.*

*Our Goal is that they move forward from here as productive, responsible citizens.*

*Our Work is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect.*

# What is *Foster Care*?

**Definition of *foster care*:** a situation in which, for a period, a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's biological parents.

- While in *Foster Care*, a child may live with relatives, foster families, or group facilities
- The goal for a child in *Foster Care* is usually reunification with biological family but may be changed to adoption when this is seen in the child's best interest by the Court system
- *Foster Care* is Temporary, and Adoption is Permanent





- The foster care system is in a crisis. Children in care are spending nights sleeping in CPS offices or shelters due to the lack of foster homes
- It takes a special person to open their heart to be able to care for foster children
- You can make a difference in the time a child spends in your home; they are safe, loved, and guided
- As a foster parent you are creating a new pathway for children, biological families , and future generations

# What Types of Children Would I Have in My Home?



- ▶ Most come from parents who abused and/or neglected them
- ▶ Many children have behavior problems
- ▶ Many children feel unwanted and have emotional problems like depression, anxiety, PTSD, learning disabilities
- ▶ Often children must go through different foster families which makes it difficult to develop bonds and trust in family values
- ▶ Children come from many different backgrounds. It is not the child's fault that their parents could not take care of them or that they experienced abuse. But, because they had these experiences, many have resorted to negative behaviors to deal with their problems and most people are not willing to take them into their homes. This usually causes low self esteem in the children and often leads to more behavior problems as a cry for help

# Children have different needs....

Children with Basic needs or  
Therapeutic needs.



Basic needs: Children needing  
basic and essential support from a  
family setting.



Therapeutic needs: Children who  
may have emotional or  
psychological difficulties and need  
added support and structure.




## What Ages of Children Would I Have in My Home?

- Ages range from infant to 17
- We will work with you to find an age range that suits your abilities
- Young adults, pregnant teens, medical fragile children

*We're committed to finding the best fit for the child and you.*



# Can I Be A Foster Parent?

- Do you have a heart  for children?
- Do you have a high school diploma/ GED or show competencies in basic areas?
- Are you mature, healthy and capable of meeting a child's needs?
- Do you have a clear criminal history?
- Do you have reliable transportation & driver's license?
- Do you handle stress well?
- The essence of being a foster parent is the unselfish giving to a child in need by providing a family environment to him or her.
- This includes nurturing, teaching, hugging, re-directing, listening, showing, prompting, disciplining, talking, sharing, holding, playing, reading, creating, imparting, growing, blessing, comforting, **LOVING.**



# Eligibility to Become a Foster/Adoptive Family:

- ▶ At least 21 years of age
- ▶ No Criminal History or History of Abuse
- ▶ Valid Texas Driver's License
- ▶ Home Inspection Approval
- ▶ Solid emotional and physical Health
- ▶ Regular Source of Income
- ▶ Approved Home Study



# What Support Does BCFY Offer?



**Monthly monetary  
reimbursement**



**24-Hour On-  
Call Case  
Manager**



**Bi-Weekly -  
Monthly family  
visits by Case  
Manager**



**Mileage  
Reimbursement**



**Ongoing  
trainings**



**12 Paid  
Respite days  
each year**

# How Do I Become A Licensed Foster Home?



**Training will be  
provided to you by  
BCFY**



**BCFY**

We will go over the Foster Home  
Placement Contract  
We will outline the expectations  
of one another should you  
decide to become a foster parent

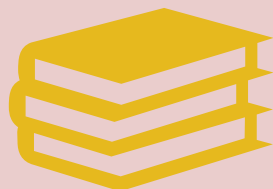
# What Training Do I Need?



Infant/Child CPR & First Aid • Behavior Intervention  
Medication Training • TBRI • Policy & Procedures

*Basic Certified Homes.* 30 Hours of Training each year

*Therapeutic Foster Homes.* 50 Hours of Training each year  
for single caregivers, or 30 hours per caregiver if there are  
two caregivers in the home.



25% through self-study

*BCFY provides opportunities for all required training*

# A Home Study will be completed by BCFY

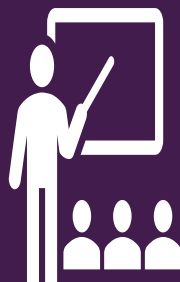
- **A criminal history, including FBI fingerprinting, will be completed prior to verification**
- **You will be asked to provide birth certificates, marriage certificates (only if married), auto insurance, a current TB test for all members of your home, etc. (a list will be provided)**
- **You will be asked about your childhood, health, significant relationships, past experiences of loss and motivation for fostering**
- **We must also verify your home meets the square footage requirements**



# How Are Children Placed in My Home After I Become a Foster Parent?



After you are a licensed home, as children are referred to our agency, we will contact you if we think there would be a good fit for the child and you.



If you are interested, you would be able to read the child's history to determine if you could meet the child's needs.

# Recreational, Leisure & Physical Activities



The Burke Center places GREAT emphasis on helping families recognize traits and unique interests in their children in order to help increase that child's self-esteem.



We want to help families help children experience life to its fullest.



Activities are used to promote health, growth, development, and independence through self-rewarding leisure pursuits.







# What Other Agencies Will You Be Working With?



**The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services**



**CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates**



**Ad-Litem Attorneys**



**Juvenile Probation Departments**



**Psychiatrists**



**Therapists**



**Medical Providers**



**Public School**

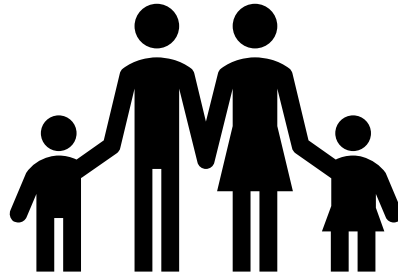
# YOU HAVE THE POWER TO:



Make a  
difference in  
the life of a  
child!



- Share your knowledge and life with a child!



- Build Children!



- Learn about others!



- Gain a sense of giving!



- Gain a sense of community!

# How Can I Support Children Without Being a Foster Parent?

- Pray for the children and those caring for them
- Become a respite worker
- Spread awareness in your community by starting a club, making a PSA, informing adults about the shortage of foster parents and volunteers
- Donate to BCFY @

[www.burkecenterforyouth.org](http://www.burkecenterforyouth.org)



# BCFY Locations

- Corpus Christi, Texas
- Harlingen, Texas
- Laredo, Texas
- Driftwood, Texas





***YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
THE LIFE OF A CHILD!***

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