

Concerns & Myths

Many potential foster and adoptive parents have questions that may hinder them from embracing "someone else's child." Here are some common concerns:

- Do I need to be wealthy?
- Is it possible to be single?
- Must I have prior parenting experience?
- Can I genuinely love a child who isn't biologically mine?

It's important to note that individuals from diverse backgrounds and various income levels have successfully cared for and loved children by becoming foster and adoptive parents.

Reality

It is true that in raising a child you take a risk. But this is true whether the child is yours by birth or foster care/adoption. Over the years, thousands of families have fostered/adopted children who have grown up to become happy, successful, well-adjusted adults. You can love someone else's child and help him or her to become a happy, healthy, self-confident adult.

Myth

Older Children in Foster Care are "Troublemakers"

Older children in foster care may have had tough experiences. However, they are strong and capable of building lasting, loving relationships. No child or teen asked for adults to let them down so they could live in the foster system. Most teens wish for a stable family where they can belong and grow into successful young adults.

Older kids can heal and thrive in a stable home with patience, understanding, and the right support. Older kids and teens need family members, role models, and a foundation for life. These amazing individuals bring unique perspectives and strengths to their families. Adopting a teen from foster care makes for an incredibly rewarding journey.

How Can I Help?

To further our mission, please consider the following actions:

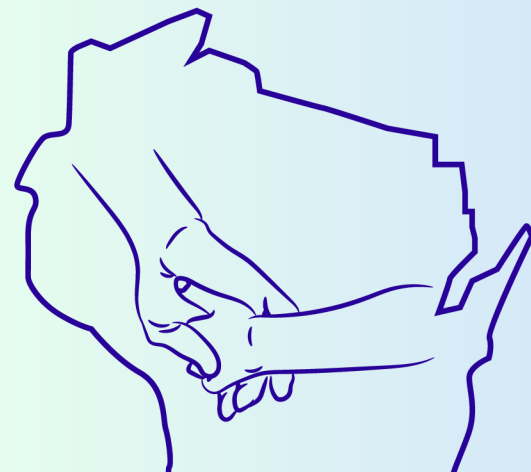
- ****Contribute:**** Offer your time, skills, or financial support to help families stay informed.
- ****Advocate:**** Raise awareness about the effects of foster care and communicate the needs of young people to lawmakers.
- ****Encourage:**** Foster children's creativity by providing diaries or memory books that allow them to reflect on positive experiences.
- ****Lead:**** Share valuable skills, such as cooking or budgeting, through workshops to equip teens for adulthood and teach them marketable abilities.
- ****Promote:**** Assist us in connecting with friends, philanthropists, and businesses to help spread our story.
- ****Support:**** Respite care providers give resource families a temporary break when emergencies arise or for just a few well-deserved days away from children and family responsibilities. Talk to your local child protection agency about how you can become a respite care provider.

WFAPA

- WFAPA is a volunteer-based association driven by peers, dedicated to supporting and advocating for foster and adoptive parents.
- WFAPA advocates for legislative reforms that support children in out-of-home care.
- WFAPA hosts one to two conferences each year, recognizing that education is vital for stability in foster and adoptive homes.
- WFAPA promotes networking among foster and adoptive parents, as valuable knowledge can be gained from sharing experiences and ideas.
- WFAPA raises public awareness and casts a positive light on foster and adoptive parenting, exemplified by The Traveling Quilt, which shares the stories of Wisconsin's foster and adoptive children.
- WFAPA publishes and emails four newsletters annually.



Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.



WFAPA

"The training I received at the WFAPA conference was invaluable."

ANONYMOUS QUOTE

Regarding WFAPA Conference



Opening Your Home and Your Heart to Children in Need

FOSTER CARE

Foster Care is the temporary placement in your home for a child who has been removed from his/her biological home due to abuse or neglect. The goal for most foster children is to return to their biological parent(s) when the circumstances that led to the foster placement have been resolved. However, when children cannot return home, they find permanence through adoption, guardianship, or kinship care.

KINSHIP CARE

Kinship Care is a placement for a child with either an appropriate relative or "like kin".

RESPIRE CARE

It is a vital support service to full-time foster parents who do not have natural supports to care for foster children when they need a break. As a respite foster provider, you have the option to care for children according to your schedule and availability.



Foster & Adoptive Support & Preservation Program

FASPP's mission is to meet the needs of foster and adoptive parents statewide through a network of peer driven support and information which will help to preserve foster and adoptive families.

The program is designed to give the caller an accurate timeline of events during the investigation, a connection to someone who will listen, and a chance to vent your emotions in a safe and healthy way.



FASPP is not a legal entity and no legal advice will be given by the volunteers. FASPP can also offer avenues to explore in regards to training, conferences, and tip sheets.

For questions or concerns in the in the following areas, please call:

Norma, Chairperson - 920-922-9627

- Advice on General and Allegations

Melissa - 608-333-6650

- Focuses on Fostering Younger Children

Lauri - 715-816-4152

- Advice on General and Foster

For more information, please go to our website, www.wfapa.org and click on FASPP.

Visit us online!

www.wfapa.org



"It was great to be with people who really understood what I was going through."

Anonymous Quote

Regarding Attending WFAPA's Conference

Every child in foster care, no matter their situation, deserves at least one adult in their life who can validate their importance, value, and the love they deserve.

Will you step up to be that supportive adult for a child in foster care?



Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect

SAAN: A Peer-Driven Support Network.

SAAN is a support network led by peers, designed to alleviate the trauma experienced by foster and adoptive families during an allegation, all while maintaining the integrity of the investigation.

Understanding Foster Care Dynamics

Foster parents open their homes to children who arrive with their own histories and challenges. Consequently, foster and adoptive parents face a greater likelihood of allegations being made against them.



SAAN is dedicated to providing you with information and support throughout the investigation process.

"As an adoptive parent, I was enlightened with the guidance and information provided by a SAAN representative."

ANONYMOUS QUOTE

Regarding SAAN and FASPP Support Network