



Foster Means

**FAMILIES
HELPING
FAMILIES**

Find all the information, ideas,
and resources you need at:
rcbo.org/foster

FOR FAMILIES

Become a Foster Family

Is your family called to be a foster family to children in need? Even if you are not sure, you can learn more, find real answers, and hear other foster/adoptive families talk about their experiences. Families who learn about the children in need, and the support resources available, are far more likely to say yes to fostering!

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Become a CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are trained volunteers who represent and advocate for youth in the dependency court system. CASAs make a life-changing difference in the life of a child while helping make decisions that are in the child's best interest.

FOR PARISHES

Host a Foster Fair

Foster Fairs invite key, local organizations working with children in foster care. The Diocese can provide: speakers for Masses or meetings, prayers and resources, and contact with quality foster care agencies.

Promote foster care in your parish throughout the year in the following ways:

- Include intercessions or a blessing for foster youth, foster and adoptive families during Mass.
- Place these bulletin inserts so families learn about foster care.
- Place posters where they are visible to all.

FOR SCHOOLS & RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

Host a Drive

Foster youth often lack basic necessities and ways to carry their belongings. Students can collect practical items such as: jeans, pajamas, socks, prom dresses, backpacks, or duffel bags.

- **Involve the Family**—Send flyers home with students to encourage family discussion;
- **Learn More**—Invite a speaker to talk with your students and parents to hear stories about fostering and learn how families in your parish can help.

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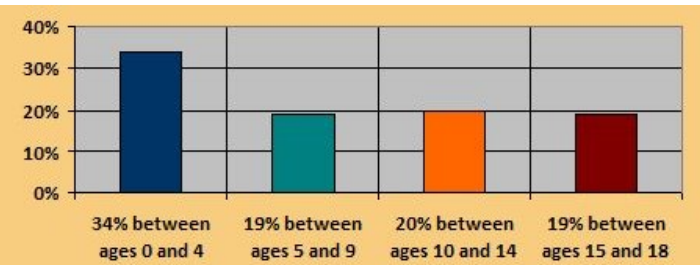
THE NEED

There are approximately 2,200 children in care at any given time.

The Office of Life, Justice & Peace is working to promote foster care and adoption in Orange County.

The statistics for foster youth are shocking:

- Approximately 55% are Hispanic, 32% Caucasian, 0.06% African-American, 0.04% Asian, 0.01% Native American/Alaska Native, 0.02% Other
- Currently, there are over 90 sets of brothers and sisters (two children or more).



- There are 267 young adults, ages 18-21 which is roughly 12% of the children in care
- 38 youths are teen parents
- For example, as of publication date, there are 83 children at Orangewood Foundation Foster & Community Youth Services, with 22 preschoolers, 19 kids between the ages of 5 and 10 and 42 kids between the ages of 11 and 17.

THE SOLUTION

Families in Our Parishes Want to Be Foster Parents and Support Resource Families

All young people need the security and support of a loving family to succeed. There are families already trained to care for foster youth in our parishes and many others who are waiting to be asked.

Catholics understand that the needs of foster care youth are inseparable from the wider context that makes for a stable safety net to protect the life and dignity of the human persona. Foster youth are in need of a loving family and stable environment in which to address and overcome trauma and to flourish.

Foster care creates an environment where everyone can participate. Foster care both encourages adoption and creates systemic change. For many children, foster families provide a way out of multi-generational poverty.

Foster care is a family ministry, reaching families not already involved in parish ministry. The most likely candidates are families with school-age children at the parish school or in the religious education programs.

To schedule Mass announcements and a resource table at your parish, please contact Cenia Martinez at (714)282-6029, cmartinez@rcbo.org

Presented By:

