

ATTENTION SOUTH CAROLINA AREA friends:

After being recommended by SC Representative Ann Thayer, I was recently appointed by Governor McMaster to serve on the Anderson County DSS Advisory Board. My husband and I were licensed foster parents through Anderson County DSS from 2015-2021 and we have fostered 7 and adopted 5 children from foster care in the last 7 years.

This NEWS is two-fold:

- 1) To make you aware of some local needs; and
- 2) to ask you if you are willing to stand in the gap and provide assistance to the vulnerable children living right here in Anderson County.

There are currently 214 children in the Foster Care Program in Anderson County and an additional 432 families being served through the Family Preservation Program within Anderson DSS (this is where they remain in their home while parents receive services or they are placed in a family member's home (through kinship care)).

Of those 214 foster children in care, over half (68%) are placed in areas outside of Anderson County, some as far away as Florence. We need at least 100 new foster homes to meet the current needs in our community. (See below for ways agencies you can contact TODAY to learn more!)

Additionally, there's a need for Foster Care Communities to be formed to come alongside these families and support them as they care for these precious children. Find out how your church can get involved with that here:

<https://fosteringthefamily.org/>

My family attends Concord Baptist Church and we have several members currently working on getting the training offered through Fostering The Family to form a Family Advocacy ministry within our church family so we can get busy providing support to fostering and adoptive families in the community.

The need is great, but I believe if we come together as a community, we can greatly impact these children and their families for generations to come! There are many ways to serve - please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have. (See next page)

Immediate Needs:

- (1) **More Foster Families**
- (2) \$5-\$10 gift cards for food – often when children come into care, they are hungry and until placement is found, they need to be fed (suggestions below for places):
 - a. QT (for snacks)
 - b. Zaxby's
 - c. Chick-Fil-A
 - d. Mama Penn's
 - e. The Clock
 - f. Cook-Out
 - g. Burger King
 - h. Krispy Kreme
 - i. Any restaurant in the Anderson Area – fast food or other
- (3) \$50-\$100 gift cards for clothes – suggestions below:
 - a. Ross Dress For Less
 - b. Hamrick's
 - c. TJ Maxx
 - d. Target
 - e. Wal-Mart
 - f. JC Penney
 - g. Plato's Closet
- (4) If your organization or a group of friends/colleagues would like to get connected to help meet other needs here in Anderson County, sign-up here: <http://meettheneed.org/accountlink.php?affiliateConnectId=584081&organizationId=584081&orgtemp=584081>

Contact me today: KRCleveland523@gmail.com or 706-982-5433 (mobile)

See next page for organizations to contact for more information on becoming a foster family or supporting them:

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Because every child
deserves a home.

You Won't Do This Alone!

- Medicaid for the foster child
 - Daily board rate provided by DSS
 - 24-hour on-call support
 - Daycare vouchers provided by DSS
 - Respite care
 - Dedicated & experienced support team for your family
 - Service Coordinator for community resources and activities
 - Listening ear when you need it
 - Family/Friend as an alternative caregiver
- (Yes, you can still have a life!)

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27 (NIV)



CONTACT US

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LEARN ABOUT FOSTER CARE

- An estimated **424,000** children are in foster care in the United States
- There are over **4,000** children in foster care in the state of South Carolina
- South Carolina needs more than **1,000** foster homes
- Median age of children in foster care is **6¹/₂** years old
- Children waiting for homes:
 - 2,300+ are 0-2 years old
 - 1,400+ are 3-12 year old
 - 900+ are teens
- 70% of foster kids would like to go to college
 - Only 3% graduate from college
 - 25% won't graduate from High School
 - 70% of girls will become pregnant before 21
 - 60% of boys have been convicted of a crime
 - 50% will develop substance dependence
 - 20% will instantly be homeless after 18

*Based on 2020 statistics

Hope,
Homes
& Healing



FOLLOW OUR MINISTRY



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HOW CAN I HELP?

Pray for our ministry

Join us in prayer to grow the ministry

Donate to our mission

Head to our website to give generously

Share our vision on Social Media

Help us spread our message

Attend a ministry tour

Come see our vision in person

Attend a Zoom interest meeting

A no-obligations talk about being a foster parent

Invite us to speak at your local business

We would love to tell you more about us

Invite us to your church

Share our ministry with your congregation

Use your gifts and talents to volunteer

God always finds ways for us to give

Sign up for Amazon Smile (it's FREE!)

Donate:

Go to OasisOfHopeSC.com

Click the Donate button

PayPal and Credit/Debit accepted

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www.OasisofHopeSC.com

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HeartfeltCalling.org

1-888-828-3555

 **The Bair Foundation**
Child & Family Ministries

(864) 281-0058

<https://www.bair.org/become-a-foster-parent/>



(800) 868-2624

<https://conniemaxwell.com/what-we-do/foster-care/>

Additional Foster Care Licensing Agencies & Organizations:



(800) 868-2624

<https://conniemaxwell.com/what-we-do/foster-care/>



(800) 344-5498

<https://growinghomese.com/become-a-foster-parent/>



(704) 637-2870

<https://lscarolinas.net/foster-care-treatment-parenting/>



(864) 233-9727

<https://makeadifferenceathome.com/>

changealife@thementornetwork.com



New Foundations
Home for Children

(864) 225-1628

<https://www.newfoundationschildren.com/connections-foster-care>

info@newfoundationschildren.com



<https://www.safy.org/become-a-foster-parent/>

info@safy.org

Call: (800) 532-7239



(864) 938-2100

<https://thornwell.org/programs/foster-care/>

info@thornwell.org



1-800-882-5513

<https://scvap.com/become-a-foster-parent/>



(864) 567-3566

foster.sc@nightlight.org

<https://nightlight.org/south-carolina-foster-care/>