

Providing Hope for Children

What the Community can do to Help

Provide Care for a Foster Child – Provide a safe, loving home, stability or in the case of adoption, permanency

- In-Home or Licensed Respite – provide relief care in a foster families' home or your own home
- Receiving/Emergency Care – provide care when a child is first removed from their home
- Short Term/Long Term Care – provide care for a child depending upon their length time needed
- Foster/Adopt – provide a forever home for a child in need of a family.

If you have interests in this area, contact Amber Sherman, Recruiter Liaison at: amber-sherman@olivecrest.org or 499-2456.

Assist a Foster Child – Provide items, opportunities or encouragement

- School: Donate supplies, tutor, help carpool and help with expenses. (ie. ASB, Yearbooks, pictures, field trips) Check with your school counseling program for specific ways to help.
- Sports: Sponsor for a team or sports camp, provide sports equipment, volunteer as a coach
- Clubs: Sponsor a membership in a club (4-H, Boy/Girls Scouts, Boys & Girls Club)
- Clothing: Provide clothing for general use or Special Events. Sponsor a clothing drive. Pick a specific item (new socks, new underwear, diapers are always much needed items). These items can be used by the Teen Closet & Clothing Perk which helps provide initial and ongoing clothing needs to children in care. If you would like to do this through your business, church or other neighborhood, contact Dru Powers, dru.powers@juno.com; 928-6697 or Derek Cutlip at derek-cutlip@olivecrest.org
- Extra-Curricular: Help provide learning opportunities (ie. Music, art, dance, swim, cooking, fishing, etc)

Assist a Foster Family – Creative ways to support the entire family, many of whom have children of their own

- Become a Big Brother/Big Sister (for more information visit www.bbbs.org)
- Babysit their children so they can go on a date in order to keep their marriages strong & Healthy
- Deliver a cooked meal OR invite them over for a meal
- Host a shower for a new foster child when they adopt (not all children come as babies)
- Provide household help such as cleaning, laundry, yard work or home maintenance projects
- Purchase Gift Cards for things like gas, groceries, clothing, restaurants or the movies
- Provide a family outing or get-away (ie. Donate a vacation rental or use of a cabin, play/sports tickets)
- Sponsor a family membership to a zoo, museum, YMCA or amusement park

- Provide items for families getting licensed. Purchase or donate a crib (newer than July 2011 to meet all safety standards), bed or other furniture items to help foster parents prepare their home for foster children. If you would like more information on this, contact Derek Cutlip, Community Involvement Coordinator at: derek-cutlip@olivecrest.org or call 290-0406 or Chris Pope at chris-pope@olivecrest.org or call 434-294-1601.
- Ask how you can help

Donate Items & Services to groups providing support to foster families

- Provide a monthly meal for a Foster Parent Support Group. If you have interests in this area, contact Amber Sherman, Recruiter Liaison at: amber-sherman@olivecrest.org or 499-2456.
- Donate door prizes to Support Groups or agencies hosting fund raising events for caregivers
- Provide trainings for foster families (this can be done through our existing network of support groups)
- Offer your building for trainings, meetings, support groups
- Host a Foster Parent Appreciation event
- Provide POR BONO work (dental/ orthodontia, counseling, haircuts,...)

Volunteer with Community Partnerships – Ways to get involved in your community

- Be an ambassador for foster care/adoption in order to help raise awareness for the needs of foster children
- Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) – speak in court on a foster child’s behalf. Contact your local Juvenile Court for more information.
- Become a volunteer drive for foster youth. Foster youth often times need to get to visits with family and other appointment when foster parents are working. If you might be interested in helping, contact Lonnie Lloyd at 363-3555 for more information.