



ONE TO ONE IS
OUR SPECIALTY



make a difference
surround one foster family

- 3 Greetings from the Vice President of Foster Care
- 4 What is therapeutic foster care?
- 5 What can you expect from Sunrise?
- 6 Qualifications
- 7 Steps on the journey
- 8 Frequently asked questions
- 10 Continuum of care



One godly family can make a dramatic difference, even in the darkest of circumstances. Jesus put it this way: "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world - like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:13 NLT)

Our Lord is telling us that we, like salt, should make a difference in the situations we are in. Just as a little salt can either improve or worsen the flavor of something, a little influence can go a long way. The truth is, you are you—the only you in all the world. Nobody can do the things that God has called and gifted you to do. Edward Everett Hale puts it this way:

*I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything;
but still I can do something;
and because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

There is only one you. You're the only person with your exact history, your precise series of events in the pilgrimage and sufferings of life that have brought you to this place. You're the only one with your personal convictions, your skills, your compassion, your touch, your voice, your style, your sphere of influence – you're the only one.

Warmest regards,

Kenny Williams

Kenny Williams
Vice President, Foster Care

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF FOSTER CARE: FAMILY FOSTER CARE AND THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

In **FAMILY FOSTER CARE** programs, like the one operated by the state, parents are licensed to simply provide shelter and care for children without a home. The training, supervision, support and reimbursement are less because the children need less care.

Sunrise Foster Care is a **THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE** program. This means that our foster parents are specially trained to care for children with more medical or behavioral needs. Examples include children who have medical needs such as diabetes, epilepsy, or physical impairments, children who are developmentally delayed, or who have emotional or behavioral disorders, often as a result of gross abuse or neglect. This may include symptoms resulting from prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol, ADHD, attachment disorders or other mental health concerns. Some children are considered hard to place simply because they are a teenager, or they are from a large sibling group that needs to stay together.

FOSTER-TO-ADOPT

Our first goal is to return foster children to their families when that is possible. However, if a foster child who has been in your home for some time becomes available for adoption or a child enters your home and their biological parents' parental rights have already been terminated, you can discuss your interest in adopting him or her with the caseworker. At that time, you would have to meet all of the regular requirements for becoming an adoptive parent.

If you are interested in adopting, this is a great way to get to know a child before you bring him or her into your home and also to adopt without the hefty costs of private adoption.

Sunrise has celebrated more than 200 adoptions in just the last few years.



WHEN YOU FOSTER FOR SUNRISE, YOU'RE JOINING A TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN CRISIS. AS PART OF TEAM SUNRISE, YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Sunrise staff serve as the liaison between the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the foster child's legal guardian, and you, the foster parent.
- The long-term experienced staff at Sunrise provide assistance in developing goals, planning for the child's treatment, and assist in advocating for the foster child in the legal and educational systems.
- During the certification process, Sunrise staff provide free pre-service training to prepare foster parents for their first placement.
- Sunrise staff are on call 24/7/365 to provide intensive support whenever you need it.
- Sunrise offers foster parents a variety of ongoing training formats, including web-based, group classes, and in-home training to ensure that our team of foster parents can easily access and learn everything they need to know.
- We provide you with daily reimbursement to help cover the costs associated with adding a person to your home.
- In addition to the reimbursement, you will also receive assistance with school supplies, birthday and Christmas gifts, and liability insurance.
- Sunrise offers respite care, allowing you to enjoy time away without the added burden of obtaining child care.
- Throughout the year, our foster families are invited to a variety of activities, such as family picnics, holiday celebrations and retreats and often receive tickets donated from arts or entertainment venues.

TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT FOR SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES, YOU MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Be married or single
- Live in Kentucky
- Have a valid Driver's License
- Have reliable transportation and automobile insurance
- Be of good enough mental and physical health to care for children
- Own or rent a home that is safe and free from hazards
- Have space for an additional child in your home
- Complete criminal background and child abuse checks
- Be willing to complete the pre-service training and participate in a home study.

A SUCCESSFUL FOSTER PARENT EXHIBITS THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

- Stability
- Maturity
- Commitment
- Dependability
- Flexibility
- Sense of humor
- Realistic expectations
- Problem solver
- Enjoys children and wants to be an advocate for them
- Is a team player and would be willing to work with the child's support system, including social worker, birth family, foster care staff, teachers, and counselors.



IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU, WE WANT TO MEET YOU!

YOU'VE MADE CONTACT WITH SUNRISE AND HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATIONAL PACKET. NOW WHAT?

- 1 IN-HOME INFORMATION MEETING** with a Sunrise trainer – Sunrise staff are eager to answer your questions! During this meeting they will also get to know you, and discuss in more detail the program requirements, the application, and the training process.
- 2 BACKGROUND CHECKS AND APPLICATION PROCESS** – Sunrise staff will walk you through the application paperwork process and run a series of background checks on any adults living in your home.
- 3 PRE-SERVICE TRAINING** – Sunrise's flexible training occurs on weekends, evenings, or whenever is best for you. During the training, you'll learn about Sunrise's policies and procedures, ways to encourage and discipline your foster child, how to incorporate the child into your family, and how to make your family and your foster child a successful team. You may also have the opportunity to meet current Sunrise foster parents and talk to them about their experience.
- 4 HOME STUDY** – Sunrise staff will meet with your family in your home, interview each family member, ensure all necessary paperwork has been completed, check the safety of your home, and work with you and your family to determine what type of child will best fit in your family.
- 5 APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION** by foster care program director. Now you are an official member of Team Sunrise!
- 6 READY TO ACCEPT A CHILD!** The length of time between certification and actually receiving a child or children into your home will depend on whether each child referred to our program fits your criteria for acceptance. Each child and each situation is unique. Feel free to address any concerns with your Sunrise Foster Care Specialist before accepting a placement.

Q HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT A PLACEMENT?

answer: Sunrise Children's Services staff helps foster families identify the right type of children for their homes. Through the training process and conversations with our staff, you will learn more about your parenting style and what children you feel like you can handle. Other factors like your biological children, your house's bedroom situation, and your lifestyle may play into your decision.

Q DO I HAVE TO TAKE ANY CHILD YOU SEND ME?

answer: No. Sunrise staff will call to present information about a child who we think matches your household. You always have the choice of accepting or rejecting the placement. Saying "no" to a placement doesn't affect our willingness to call you about other children in the future. We respect your right to do what you think is best for your family.

Q DO WE GET TO MEET THE CHILD BEFORE HE OR SHE MOVES IN WITH US?

answer: Most children need to be moved within 24 to 48 hours of their referral. This means you'll usually meet the child for the first time when the foster care specialist moves him or her to your home. All known information about the child will be shared with you at the time we ask you to consider the referral. When time allows, we try to arrange visits before moves.

Q HOW LONG WILL A CHILD STAY IN OUR HOME?

answer: The length of stay will vary from child to child. Some children need only a few months of care, while others remain in placement until age 18.

Q HOW WILL OUR CHILDREN REACT TO FOSTER CHILDREN?

answer: If you've prepared them well during the pre-service training and home study process, there should be few problems. It's not unusual for your children to be a bit jealous at first, just as they might be jealous of sharing you with a new baby.

Q CAN I WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME?

answer: You can. The expense reimbursement a foster family receives is simply reimbursement, not a replacement of salary. As long as the guidelines for care of the foster child are met, foster parents can maintain their jobs.

Q DOES THE CHILD HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE?

answer: Children come with medical coverage provided by the state. You will not need to provide insurance for the child's health needs. Your foster care specialist will provide information on healthcare providers to use for your foster child.

Q IS THERE A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN MY HOME?

answer: How many foster children you have depends on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the amount of care each will require and the size of your home.



SAVING CHILDREN ACROSS KENTUCKY

Sunrise Children's Services helps children in crisis shine. We are a safe haven for children and teens who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Whether providing safe and loving foster homes, residential treatment programs or in-home services designed to keep families together, Sunrise is at work in the lives of thousands of children across Kentucky.

SUNRISE'S CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR ABUSED, NEGLECTED AND AT-RISK YOUTH INCLUDES:

- Therapeutic foster care statewide
- Community Counseling
- Foster-to-Adopt Services
- Seven residential treatment facilities for adolescents 12-18 years old
- Three psychiatric residential facilities for boys ages 9-18
- Family Support Services
- Youth Support Center

Through these varied services, Sunrise provides care to approximately 600 children daily, amounting to several thousand each year.



ONE TO ONE IS OUR SPECIALTY

Can **ONE** person make a real difference in the life of a child in crisis? How about **ONE** church or **ONE** service club or **ONE** group of corporate volunteers? At Sunrise Children's Services, we love the number **ONE!** This year, we're launching an entire initiative, in celebration of **ONE.**

“WHAT I REALLY NEED IS SOME **ONE** WHO REALLY CARES.”



- Surround **ONE** family who makes the decision to become foster parents.
- **BE THE ONE** who surrounds that foster family with prayers and support.
- **BE THE GO-TO-ONE** who commits to stand alongside that foster family when emergencies occur.
- **BE THE RESPITE ONE** who surrounds that foster family, one night a month, so the parents can have a date night.
- **BE ONE** who donates to Sunrise so that its statewide ministry can grow and serve more children and youth in ways that honor Christ.

“ GOD HAS PLACED A TREMENDOUS BURDEN ON MY HEART FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED AND ABANDONED. ”



As a public school teacher, I've seen the brokenness and wiped away the tears of children who only want to be loved. Through the Sunrise Foster Challenge, Kentucky Baptists have the opportunity to live the gospel. I can think of no better way to be the hands and feet of Jesus than by taking care of the children nobody else wants."

Michelle Chitwood

Michelle and her husband Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, have three children: Daniel, Anna and Cai, who was adopted from China. Michelle also teaches 7th grade in Mount Washington, KY.



855.33iCARE • sunrise.org



We hold ourselves to the highest accountability standard. We are the only non-profit private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by the Joint Commission, the premiere health care accreditation organization in the country.