

# ADOLESCENTS Need Foster Families



You Can Make a  
Difference in a Young Person's Life



**Highland Shores**  
**CHILDREN'S AID**  
Protect Care Empower

June 2018

## **Why does the Society Recruit and Approve Foster Families for Adolescents?**

The majority of youth entering care benefit most from a family environment. The Society believes that every youth should belong to a family. To experience healthy development and create a sense of self worth, youth need a sense of attachment to a family who cares for them. Research indicates that youth placed in group care do not feel a sense of belonging, however, there will be some exceptional youth that will need this type of care. Foster care, in the youth's own community, is always the preferred placement option.

## **Reasons for Admission / Length of Stay**

Reasons for admission of youth are varied. Youth may need to come into care due to substance abuse issues, mental health issues on the part of their caregiver, or conflict with their parents. Some youth are in care for a short period of time, while the Society works with the parent to resolve their issues that placed the youth at risk, and they are able to return home. Other youth will need longer stays in care until they are able to successfully transition to independence as young adults. Youth can be admitted for a few days, a few weeks, or a few years.

The Society's preferred plan is to have youth return home, or be placed where there is a sense of belonging for the youth, be it in their immediate family, extended family, legal custody arrangement, or adoption.

## **Who Can Foster an Adolescent?**

Youth needing foster care have diverse needs and backgrounds. It is important that the Society recruit foster families with a range of knowledge and skills to effectively match youth with families. Foster families need to be able to provide a safe and nurturing family life, filled with unconditional love and support. Foster parents must be able to promote the youth's social, emotional, developmental, and educational needs. Foster parents need to have a willingness to work with the Society as part of the team!

If you are an empty nester, a young retiree, single or married, a stay at home parent, or working person, you can apply to foster.

## **What is the Process?**

Following your inquiry call to the Society, you will complete a fostering application and have a meeting in your home. If you and your worker decide to proceed, you will be scheduled to attend a P.R.I.D.E. (Parent Resources Information Development Education) pre-service training where you will learn about the role of a foster parent, the needs of youth entering care, and supports the Society will provide to assist you in your care giving role. You and your family will then enter into a home study process which provides you and the worker an opportunity to decide if fostering is a good fit for your family. Once approved as a foster family, when the need arises, a youth is matched to your family and placed in your home.

## Roles & Responsibilities

- Provide a safe and nurturing family setting
- Meet a child's developmental needs and develop strong family relationships
- Support relationships between children and their families
- Reinforce a child's heritage and cultural identity
- Participate as a member of a professional team
- Connect children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime

## Support Services Provided for the Foster Family and Youth

Foster parents who care for adolescents need and deserve support. The Society will provide the following support services:

- Training specific to caring for adolescents
- Child and Youth Worker support specific to those challenging teen behaviors
- Support for the foster family outside of business hours
- Financial compensation, which includes a room and board payment, as well as other reimbursement, such as clothing and spending allowance
- Regular respite from fostering for you and your family
- Assignment of a Resource Worker to support you and your family
- Foster Parent Mentor to provide support to you as a caregiver

## Youth in Care Services:

- Assignment of a Children's Services Worker
- Tutoring
- Personal Counseling
- Health Care

## Top Ten Reasons to Parent a Teen!

1. No formula, diapers, bottles, or burp rags required.
2. We sleep through the night ... even if our parents won't.
3. We will be ready to move out sooner.... but we will always come home to visit.
4. We can program your cell phones & DVR's and teach you how to run your computer!
5. We will keep you up-to-date with the latest fashions and trends.
6. Once we get our permits, we can drive you to places.
7. You don't just get a child, you get a friend.
8. We can pick up after ourselves and do our own laundry.
9. We will teach you how to be more patient, understanding, kind and empathetic.
10. We all need someone to share our life dreams, achievements and holidays with.

This updated version of the list was modified with the help of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services "Caring for Kids" Campaign and You Gotta Believe's staff and youth.

Did you know that Highland Shores Children's Aid has offices in Bancroft, Belleville, Cobourg and Picton? The Society is a non-profit organization, run by a Board of Directors, all of whom are volunteers.

Highland Shores Children's Aid is composed of dedicated professionals, foster families, and volunteers, who are committed to the well-being of children and youth.

### **Society Contact Information**

To learn more about the Highland Shores Children's Aid fostering and adoption process please visit our website, [www.highlandshorescas.com](http://www.highlandshorescas.com).

We encourage you to contact the Children's Aid Society in your community, and speak to a trained professional, if you would like to learn more about fostering a youth.

On behalf of Highland Shores Children's Aid, and our children and youth in care, thank you!



# **Highland Shores CHILDREN'S AID**

**Protect Care Empower**

|                   |              |
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