

Roles & Responsibilities:

- Provide a lifetime of acceptance, nurturing, safety and stability for a child
- Demonstrate genuine respect for birth parents and accept child differences
- Support the possibility of openness with a child's birth family
- Develop a positive and professional working relationship with the Society during the adoption process

Adoptive Family Support

Adoptive families are supported by the Children's Aid Society in many ways:

- PRIDE pre-service training to learn about adoption and foster care
- In-depth discussions with an adoption worker during the home study phase
- Full disclosure of the information we have about the child to be adopted
- Regular visits from their adoption worker once a child is in their home
- Connections or referrals to community services when required
- Financial agreements because of a child's need
- The provision of supportive and informational services after an adoption has been finalized

Regional Adoption

Highland Shores Children's Aid, the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society and the Durham Children's Aid Society pool their adoption resources and work collaboratively as a team to prepare, match and support parents and children for the lifelong journey of adoption.

Did you know that Highland Shores Children's Aid has offices in Bancroft, Belleville, Picton, and Cobourg? 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 our fostering and adoption process, please refer to our website, 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!

What is Foster, Kin and Adoption Care?



Bancroft 613-332-2425
Belleville 613-962-9291
Cobourg 905-372-1821
Picton 613-476-7957

Toll-free: 800-267-0570
www.highlandshorescas.com
info@highlandshorescas.com



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Where Do You Begin?

Following your initial inquiry 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'll be invited to attend PRIDE, a 10 week pre-service training program for prospective foster, kin and adoptive applicants.

What is PRIDE? (Parent Resources Information Development Education)

PRIDE is a model for the development and support of foster, kin and adoptive families. It was designed to strengthen the quality of foster, kin and adoption services by providing a standardized, structured framework for recruiting, preparing and selecting foster, kin and adoptive parents. It also provides foster parent training and ongoing professional development.

Foster, kin and adoptive families should be qualified, prepared, developed, selected and approved to work as part of a professional team equipped to protect and nurture children and strengthen families.

What is Foster Care?

While we do everything possible to keep children with their own families, some families cannot provide safe and adequate care. When children need a stable, loving home, we reach out to the community for foster families. These families provide temporary care to children and youth.

As a foster parent you will be part of a team dedicated to each child in care. The ideal is to reunite a child with their family or kin. Where this is not possible, the plan may include adoption or long-term foster care. The stable and caring family you provide will encourage the child's growth and development. While you are fostering, the legal responsibility for the child remains with us, however, you will play a vital role in that child's daily life.

Who Can Foster?

Children in the care of Highland Shores Children's Aid have diverse needs and backgrounds. It is important that the Society recruit foster families with a range of knowledge and ability in order to effectively match families and children. It is equally important that foster families possess patience, flexibility and tolerance. Foster families come from a variety of cultural, racial and religious backgrounds, as well as a variety of age groups.

If you are a family with young or adult children, or no children, a single parent, or couple, retired, a stay at home parent, or both parents working, and have a love for children, you can apply to become a foster parent.

An educational background or experience in a child related field is an asset, but not a requirement.

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

Foster Family Support

- 24-hour support
- Support services your foster child may need such as counseling and tutoring
- Ongoing mutual support from other foster parents
- Worker support for foster families and foster children
- Regular respite from fostering for you and your family
- Financial compensation for child care costs
- Child & Youth Worker Program

Did You Know Adolescents Need Foster Families?

Did you know sharing your family can give a teen the opportunity they need to thrive? Teens need to be part of a family and they need someone who will listen. Fostering a teen means you will have an assigned worker focusing on you and your foster teen. The Society will provide training and support, and teen focused parenting programs.

Did You Know Infants Need Foster Families?

You may not realize there are infants, up to two years old, that may need a foster family. Families who choose to foster an infant should ideally have one full-time caregiver at home. Fostering infants will also be rewarding for individuals who are aware of early developmental stages and enjoy watching and assisting babies in meeting their milestones. Specific supports will also be in place for families who choose to foster infants.

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care allows children, who are in the Society's care, to be placed with a relative, an extended family member, or a member of the child's community. The Kin family provides the full-time care, protection and nurturing that the child requires. Kinship Care is considered a resource placement, and therefore Kin caregivers are required to attend pre-service training and participate in a formal assessment. Once approved, Kin caregivers receive compensation in addition to support and guidance from Society staff. See the brochure entitled *A Guide for Kinship Service Families* for more information.

What is Adoption?

Adoption is one way of building your family. The Society recruits, trains and works with adults who want to become parents or who want to increase their family through adoption. Children who need adoptive families range in age from infancy to the teenage years. Some of the children belong to a sibling group and need to be adopted together; others may need to remain in contact with an important person in their lives.

Who Can Adopt?

You don't have to be young, married, childless or wealthy to adopt a child from Highland Shores Children's Aid. You don't have to go to a certain church or have a certain education. You just have to be that special person who wants to make a permanent commitment to a child who needs a family.

Adoptive parents have many of the following qualities: patience, the desire to nurture a child in a stable environment, an acceptance of child differences, a support network, a sense of humour, a sense of inner strength or spirituality, an understanding of loss issues and a respect for birth parents.

Many of these qualities are talked about in the PRIDE training, offered by Ontario's Children's Aid Societies. This training is mandatory for adoptive and fostering applicants.