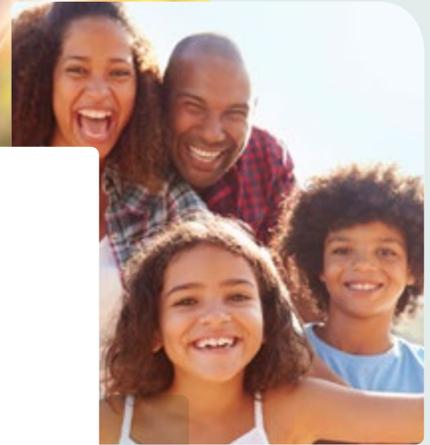
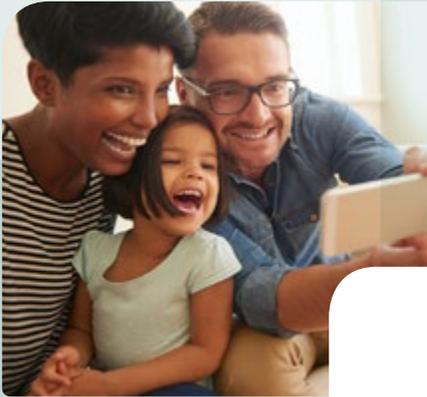


Be an Agent of Hope

Agents of Hope – Our Strongest Ally



SAFY ™
Preserving Families
Securing Futures



Diane's Story

I didn't become a foster parent with the intention to adopt, but I adopted the first two children placed in my care. I did so because they deserved a better life than they had experienced with their biological families. It made perfect sense to adopt.

Then came Jack. He was only seven when SAFY placed him with us. Both parents abused drugs. He too, deserved better than that.

After Jack was with us for a while, the home visits with his mom and dad began. He never returned without new clothes and snacks. His parents contacted us and asked us to send pictures and updates on what was going on in our family. They thanked me for taking care of Jack while they couldn't.

I attended a court date and listened to them tell the judge how badly they wanted Jack home. They talked about keeping him safe. I heard about the negative results of their drug tests, and how they were searching for jobs.

That's when I knew Jack was not going to be mine forever – he belonged to his family. Jack's parents taught me not all parents who lose custody of their children are bad people. They changed the way I see foster care. They showed me the value of supporting the parents of my foster children.

“Becoming a foster parent is one of the most gratifying experiences. Jack's parents taught me not all parents who lose custody of their children are bad people.”

– Diane, SAFY Foster and Adoptive Parent

I continue to foster children and am open to the possibility of adopting a child in need of a forever family again. I will also do everything in my power to support a biological family and give them the opportunity to get to the place where they can care for their child again. Fostering is one of the greatest rewards in life because it supports a child and a family.



Why You?

More than 3.3 million children are victims of abuse each year, resulting in over 251,000 new placements in the foster care system annually. Approximately 20 percent of these youth are removed due to severe abuse or neglect, while the remainder enters care because of parental inability to care for and protect their children. SAFY's goal for children in care is reunification, adoption, or kinship adoption. Foster Parents like you are needed to enhance children and teenager's well-being in a safe, stable, family environment.

More than **3.3 million children** are victims of abuse each year, resulting in 251,000 new placements in foster care.

21%

(or 101,840 youth) will become available for adoption.

53%

enter care with a plan to return to their family.

7%

will be placed with other relative.

Our Foster Parents

We believe SAFY foster parents are Agents of Hope, our most valuable resource and strongest ally. Both single and dual parent families make great foster parents. SAFY's foster parents make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families. They are committed and compassionate about supporting youth as they heal from grief, loss and trauma. They enrich the lives of children and help SAFY complete its mission of Preserving Families and Securing Futures. One of life's greatest rewards is supporting a child and a family. As a member of our Foster Family Network, you can help a child feel safe and provide the guidance and compassion they need to find success in school, in relationships and in life. SAFY's approach ensures parents' capacity to develop strong and trusting relationships and provide guidance and protection in a safe environment where children thrive and are able to live up to their potential.



Our Foster Family Network

“What do SAFY Foster Parents think? Motivation to Foster?”

27% Love and want to help youth

33% See improvements in youth thriving

40% Other satisfaction

94% of SAFY FP would refer someone to join Foster Family Network.



What does it mean to be a Therapeutic Foster Parent?

Therapeutic Foster Care is an intensive, treatment-based approach to caring for children in foster care to better meet their physical and emotional needs.

SAFY is there to support you every step of the way. We assist you in developing and enriching your parental skills to serve vulnerable families and children at risk for abuse and neglect. We teach our Foster Family Network how to actively participate in a child's or teen's treatment, recognizing our Foster Parents as vital members of a youth's treatment team.

Our commitment to our Foster Family Network includes:

- Extensive, specialized training and development before and after licensure
- One on one support in the home after a youth is placed
- In-home or out of home respite care (temporary breaks for foster parents)
- Financial reimbursement
- Therapy with the child, Foster Family and members of the child's family of origin, when appropriate
- 24-hour emergency on-call services
- Mentoring network led by seasoned foster parents
- Assessment and clinical interventions as needed
- Advocacy in school, court and community

While you will undoubtedly encounter questions and challenges during your time as a foster or adoptive parent, most families find the experience enriching, rewarding and life-changing.

There are 5 basic steps to becoming a licensed Foster or Foster to Adopt Parent:

Our goal is to make the Foster Parent Licensure process simple and straightforward. Our talented and dedicated staff members will walk you through the process to assist you and answer your questions on your journey to becoming a foster or foster to adopt parent.

STEP

1

Introductory session

- Learn about children and teenagers who need care
- Review basic foster parent roles, responsibilities and expectations
- Tailored to your schedule and needs – one on one and in-home sessions are available

In this step you may feel: Hopeful, Curious, Motivated, Eager

STEP

2

Complete required paperwork including but not limited to:

- Application to Foster or Foster to Adopt
- Letters of reference from those who know you
- Background checks at local, state, and federal levels

In this step you may feel: Determined, Surprised, Self-doubt, Frustrated

STEP

3

Actively Participate in Required training. Training is designed to:

- Prepare yourself for fostering a child or teenager
- Network with other parents who will be able to help you throughout your foster care journey

In this step you may feel: Surprised, Contemplative, Inspired, Overwhelmed

STEP

4

In home and family assessments (referred to as a “home study”) that includes:

- Telling your Family’s story: background, education & employment, relationships & social life
- Readiness and reasons for your wanting to foster or adopt

In this step you may feel: Anxious, Hopeful, Anticipative, Nervous

STEP

5

Receive license to foster or foster to adopt - Congratulations you did it!

You may experience feelings of:

Accomplishment, Relief, Expectation, Encouragement

Who will you encounter at SAFY on your journey?

SAFY staff members are here to support you including but not limited to:

Foster Parent Recruiter

Spreads the word about Therapeutic Foster Care, the need for foster parents, and SAFY's services in their communities. SAFY recruiters enjoy building relationships with individuals like you to help us serve more families and children in need. Your Recruiter will introduce you to SAFY and Therapeutic Foster Care, beginning with an informational session for your family.

Family Development Specialist (FDS)

Will be your main point of contact after your informational session, guiding you through the process.

Divisional Office Manager

Supports client and staff needs in your local SAFY office.

Treatment Director

The Clinical and Administrative Director of your local SAFY division, providing oversight for all clients, the Foster Family Network and staff.

Case Coordinator

Work with licensed homes after placement, providing support and coordinating treatment team members.

Clinical Therapist

Youth in therapeutic foster care may meet regularly with a clinical therapist in the foster home or in the SAFY office. Experienced, licensed SAFY therapists assist and monitor the youth's progress.

Placement and Intake Specialists

Focused on matching youth with the right foster family.

Foster Family Network

Network of licensed foster parents and respite parents are available to mentor prospective families and provide support after licensure.

Join our Foster Family Network at any of our various locations or visit [SAFY.org](https://www.safy.org)

