



## **COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION**

### **What does foster care services involve?**

Foster care services include the provision of temporary care of children when there is necessary separation from their biological families. Biological families still maintain legal rights of the children, but the state takes the role as temporary custodian for the children. Foster families provide for the individual needs of the children through the strength of family living and through family and community supports. If you are a foster family, the agency has either temporary or permanent guardianship and responsibility for the children. The goal of foster care is to provide opportunities for healing, growth, and development leading to healthier infants, children, youth, and families, with safe nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime.

### **What does it cost to foster a child and how do the finances work?**

The agency provides monthly financial support for children in foster care. Foster parents receive a reimbursement check monthly to help cover the cost of the child's food, shelter, clothing, personal allowance and other daily living expenses. The current daily reimbursement rates for foster care are listed below. These rates can be subject to change, based on the reimbursement rates provided by the state/county. A Heart with Hope Family Services, Inc. reimburses a higher rate than the state requires.

### **A Heart with Hope Family Services Rates**

Basic Level:	\$30.00
Moderate Level:	\$50.00
Specialized:	\$60.00

### **Why do we need special training?**

Fostering a child is not the same as parenting a child born to you. Over time, you may need to talk with that child about the birth family, or help the child manage feelings about being in foster care. The training we provide through the PRIDE program will help you help the children placed in your home. Children who have been abused and/or neglected have special needs your children may not have. Through training you will be better prepared to care for children who are in foster care.

### **How long does it take to become a foster parent?**

Some people think that because there is a shortage of foster families, becoming a foster parent happens quickly. There are too many children who have experienced the tragedy of abuse and neglect, so we do need many competent foster families. However, the children need us to be careful about who becomes foster parents. We don't want the children to be hurt any more than they already have. The licensing/training process will take from one to three months, depending on the flexibility of your schedule to attend training sessions, as well as your promptness in completing necessary paperwork.

How soon a child is placed with you depends on a number of factors. For example, if you are willing and able to foster older children, males or females, brothers and sisters, or younger children with medical problems, you probably will be able to have a child placed with you more quickly. The more open you are to the type of children you will accept in your home the sooner you are likely to have children placed in your home.