

be a NORTHERNRIVERS FOSTER PARENT

Right now, there are children in your community who need supportive, loving foster homes and foster parents. Being a foster parent takes a big commitment, a lot of understanding, and plenty of support. That's where the **Northern Rivers Difference** comes in. We're right here in your community, and we're by your side, every step of your journey. Here's how we help:

The Northern Rivers Difference

- 24/7/365 on-call crisis support whenever you need us
- Comprehensive training, ongoing learning, and wraparound services to ensure foster parents are ready for every challenge
- Collaborative work with children, foster families, and birth families
- Focus on stability while in placement and the end goal of helping children safely return home
- Strength of a caring community of more than 250 foster homes over 21 counties
- Proven track record of success with thousands of foster homes

But the biggest part of the **Northern Rivers Difference** is our people. We live here, work here, and are committed to making this a great community. Give us a call, get to know us, and let us show you how we can work together to help children in need:

Interested? Let's talk!



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MYTH: I could never be a foster parent because I am not married and I don't make a lot of money. I don't even own my own home.

FACT: There are no such requirements. We have foster parents who are not married, who are single, who own homes, or who rent a home or apartment. The only financial requirement is that you have enough income to support yourself and your family aside from the stipend you are reimbursed for the care of a child in foster care.

MYTH: Foster parents have to stay at home with the children and are unable to have their own jobs or careers.

FACT: We have many foster parents who are stay at home, yet we have just as many who work outside of the home.

MYTH: You need to have parenting experience to be a foster parent, and I've never raised any children.

FACT: Not true! We have many foster parents who do not have children. These foster parents are responsible people who have made a commitment to children and demonstrate an ability to parent and have a willingness to learn parenting skills.

MYTH: I can't become a foster parent because I would get too attached, and it would be too hard to see them leave.

FACT: You will get attached, and it will be painful when the children you have cared for and loved leave your home. These children have suffered through a lot of pain and trauma that no child should have to face. They need the love, care and safety that foster parents provide. In some cases, some of our foster parents continue to stay in contact with the children and families they cared for.

northernrivers.org/foster-care