



Ways You Can Help Foster Children & Foster Families!

Even if you can't become a foster or adoptive parent yourself, there are lots of ways to support the children and families in your community.



Put together [“starter kits”](#) for children and youth who first come into foster care. Starter kits are backpacks filled with the basics— toothbrush, pajamas, socks, toiletries— as well as a soft toy or art supplies to help make those first days easier.

Become a mentor to a youth leaving foster care. Contact [Facing Foster Care in Alaska](#) , a group dedicated to giving foster youth a voice, to learn more about mentor programs around the state.

Do you know a youth who came out of the foster care system and who is away at school? Put together a care package for him or her. Everybody likes cookies!

Donate gift certificates for youth or foster parents who mentor or train new families as a sign of appreciation.

Make a cash donation to ACRF—Alaska Center for Resource Families to help with May Foster Parent Appreciation Month activities in your community.

Buy or give gift cards to buy a book explaining adoption to a child being adopted from the foster care system.

Donate scrapbook materials or gift certificates to Michael's or JoAnne's to help families put together “Lifebooks” for children being adopted from the foster care system.

- Donate money toward helping a youth in foster care go to camp this summer, or buy a Scout Uniform, or take a music class or buy athletic gear.
- Donate gift certificates to fast food restaurants so kids who are waiting for pick up or having visitations have something to eat during those long waits in the waiting room.
- Donate a laptop computer for children and teens in foster care. Contact [Facing Foster Care in Alaska](#) or Rep. Les Gara's office at (907) 269-0106 to find out more about this program.
- Think about adopting. Learn more about your options in our publications [Paths to Adoption in Alaska](#).
- Donate to [Facing Foster Care in Alaska](#) to help support a youth from around Alaska to attend a quarterly retreat to learn leadership and build skills to succeed in the world.
- Join the [Foster Wear](#) program if you have a business that sells clothing or products useful for families. It offers foster families a discount so that they can stretch the foster care payment and help children and youth get suitable clothing.
- Donate passes to events or tickets that resource families can use for fun and recreation.
- Support your employees who are foster or adoptive parents by having a family friendly workplace.
- Become a voice for children in court by becoming a Court-Appointed Special Advocate or CASA. Find out more from [Alaska CASA](#).
- Ask your church to sponsor an evening where you cook a meal for foster parents and offer child care to give these hard working families a break.

