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**Foster Care  
Frequently Asked Questions**



**Foster Care**  
90 Stanley Lane  
Greeneville TN

**Free Will Baptist Family Ministries**  
90 Stanley Lane  
Greeneville TN

*Changing Families One ♥ at a Time...*

## Therapeutic Foster Care Children

### **Who is Free Will Baptist Family Ministries-Foster Care?**

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries (FWBFM) is a therapeutic foster care provider for the State of Tennessee. We subcontract with the Department of Children's Services to provide foster families for children who need therapeutic foster families.

### **What is therapeutic foster care?**

Therapeutic foster care is a foster care program where foster parents have received specialized training to enable them to provide care for a wide variety of children and adolescents, usually those with significant emotional or behavioral problems. Parents in therapeutic foster homes are more closely supervised and assisted than parents in regular foster homes. Children placed in therapeutic foster homes have greater needs than children placed in regular foster homes.

### **Who are the children in our care?**

The children in our care are all in the custody of the State of Tennessee through the Department of Children's Services. We receive referrals from the North East and East Tennessee Region. The average ages of our children are from 10-18. We also serve the juvenile justice population, which are children who have juvenile charges and/or alcohol and drug related issues. FWBFM also has a residential program that refers children once they have completed their program and are able to join a foster family.

### **What are the children like who need therapeutic foster care?**

The children in our care come from homes where abuse, abandonment or neglect has occurred. Due to the trauma they have experienced there are many behavioral issues as well as diagnoses.

### **Am I able to choose the type of child placed in my home?**

Yes. You will have the opportunity to express to staff the type of child you wish to have placed in your home. You will also have the opportunity to learn about the child prior to placement. We also understand that over time the types of children families wish to have placed may change and we ask you keep us informed so we can meet your needs.

## Therapeutic Foster Care Program

### **What if the placement is not a good match for my family?**

We strive to provide a quality match on the first placement. However, there may be times when removal may be requested. We will provide services and support to assist in keeping a placement stable.

### **What type of support does FWBFM provide to foster families?**

We provide 24 hour on-call assistance, intensive case management, and a staff of caring individuals who desire to see our families and children become successful.

## Additional Information

Request your copy of the Foster Family Application today by calling (423) 470-2122 or on our website at [www.fwb\\_fm.com](http://www.fwb_fm.com), section "Foster Parenting." Return the completed application to:

FWBFM-Foster Care  
90 Stanley Lane  
Greeneville TN

Please contact the Director of Recruitment and Training to find out about the next Gathering Love course being offered or to answer additional questions.  
Call (423) 470-2300.

Thank you for your interest in learning how to give love!

## Therapeutic Foster Care Families

### **If I am a foster parent with another agency may I transfer to FWBFM?**

We respect other programs in the area and do not want to take away from them. However, if you desire to transfer to our program the same requirements for new families will be expected. An application must be completed in its entirety. In addition, we will need to complete a new home study to include home inspection, family interviews, background checks, and proof of training from the agency of transfer. The transfer is not immediate and may take up to one (1) month depending on cooperation regarding paper work and the home study process.

### **Are there guidelines in FWBFM program we will need to follow?**

Yes, we believe children thrive given structure and guidelines in the home. Guidelines help provide a safe and caring environment for the children. You may request a copy of these guidelines to review.

## Therapeutic Foster Care Program

### **What makes FWBFM a therapeutic foster care program?**

FWBFM provides additional training for our foster parents during the Gathering Love course that is focused on addressing trauma and behavioral issues.

### **What is the goal of foster care?**

The goal of foster care is to work towards reuniting families. Foster care provides a stable home environment that meets their needs and allows them to address future needs.

### **How long will the child be in my home?**

Children in our program can be in the home from only a few days up to years. The goal for permanency is one factor in the length of stay. Children who are in the juvenile system may stay until they have completed their court ordered requirements.

## Therapeutic Foster Care Children

### **Will I know what the child's issues are before they are placed in my home?**

We strive to obtain comprehensive information about each child prior to placement. However, there are times in which all the information is either not presented to us from the Department of Children's Services or additional behaviors/information is revealed by the child at a later time.

### **How many children can be placed in my home?**

The Department of Children's Services has clear guidelines concerning the amount of foster children that can be placed in the home. Each child in care deserves the least-restrictive, family based setting. Depending on if you have children living in the home and the amount of living space designated for children will determine if you have one or two therapeutic children in the home.

### **Do the children in your care have insurance?**

Each child is eligible for TN Care through the state. Foster Parents are not required to purchase insurance for the children placed in their home.

### **How often are babies or small children referred to Free Will Baptist Family Ministries?**

Rarely. Younger children and babies are not frequently referred to our agency, but occasionally a teenage mother and the child are placed.

### **Are we able to adopt through Free Will Baptist Family Ministries?**

Foster children in our program are able to be adopted once the child is in full-guardianship of the State of Tennessee. We will assist in the process but do not specialize in adoptions. We do not complete private adoptions or adoptions outside of Tennessee.

### **What types of service do I provide the children placed in my home?**

We desire each child to be a part of the family they are placed with and cared for as one of their own. Each family is responsible to provide transportation for the children placed in their home, to schedule and attend doctors appointments and therapy appointments, participating in their education and schooling, as well as advocating for the child.

## Therapeutic Foster Care Families

### **What is the cost to become a foster parent?**

There is no cost to become a foster parent with FWBFM! We provide the Gathering Love free of charge to our families. You do need to provide your own transportation. In addition we also provide the necessary physical examination through a local licensed provider. Time, love, and commitment are all we ask for!

### **What are the qualifications to become a foster parent?**

Applicants must be US citizens, residents of Tennessee for more than six (6) months, applicants may be single or a married couple, and must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older. In addition each foster parent must be able to physically care for a child and be able to financially provide for their family without the help of the offered stipend. Those convicted of crimes against a person, sexual offenses or those who have been indicated in abuse investigation are not eligible to be approved as foster parents.

### **How do I become a foster parent with Free Will Baptist Family Ministries?**

First, an application must be completed and returned to Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. The application will be reviewed and the applicant will be contacted. Second, each family will attend and complete the Gathering Love course offered by Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. This is a twelve week course that prepares the family for taking a child into their home. Third, a home study will be conducted consisting of interviews with each family member and a home inspection during the Gathering Love course. Background checks will be completed, including fingerprints and a drug screen. Full cooperation is necessary in the completion of all paperwork and throughout the course and home study process. Gathering Love is offered every ninety (90) days.

### **What types of foster families are needed?**

We need families willing to bring children and teens into their home and to provide a safe and caring environment. We also need families who are willing to parent teenagers, sibling groups, children who will be reunited with their families, and children who are transitioning from our residential program.

## Therapeutic Foster Care Families

### **What if we as parents have full-time jobs?**

All foster families are required to have an income outside of foster parenting that covers their monthly expenditures. The monthly stipend provided is to care for the needs of the child and is not to be used as an income. Depending on the age of the child, child care can be accessed. Supervision is required for all children.

### **Is there reimbursement for caring for children placed in my home?**

Yes. Families receive a generous monthly tax-free stipend for caring for the children placed in the home. This stipend depends on the level of the child, which is decided through the state.

### **Once I am a licensed foster parent when will a child be placed in my home?**

The process to become a licensed foster parent will take approximately four (4) to five (5) months depending on cooperation with the course and home study process. Once you are licensed it is only a matter of time before a client is placed. This depends heavily on the amount and types of referrals Free Will Baptist Family Ministries receives and the type of child you desire to have in your home.

### **Are there requirements to fulfill once I am a licensed foster parent?**

Yes. Each foster family is required to complete fifteen (15) hours of additional training each year. Free Will Baptist Family Ministries provides this training to our families as well as a mandatory monthly meeting. This mandatory monthly meeting is designed to keep our families informed and to offer the yearly training requirements. Every year each family will also have an annual evaluation completed to assure we are maintaining proper documentation on our families. All foster families must provide FWBFM with updated copies of insurance, drivers license, family changes, finances, etc. throughout the year.

### **Will I have to complete paperwork when I foster a child?**

Yes. Daily notes will need to be completed for each child, as well as documentation regarding medication, finances, medical treatment, etc. Training is provided to ensure quality documentation for our clients.