

What if we need a break?

If you have something coming up where you cannot take in a new child (extended trip, family emergency, or just need a break to focus on your own family for a little while), just let us know and we won't call with referrals until you are ready again.

What if it just doesn't work out?

It's OK - - - maybe providing in-home care just isn't for you or maybe it just wasn't a good fit. Your family always has the final say as to when and what child enters your home and when they leave if it is not working out. Sharing your family with a child in need can be very rewarding. Don't be afraid to try.

Is there really a need here in my home town?

Yes, unfortunately, children are faced with many problems. We would much rather place a child in his or her own home town or at least in the same school district. The child is already facing a great deal of turmoil. Going to the same classroom every day or keeping the same friends is helpful.

Can I really make a difference?

Yes! You can share what most of us take for granted, a safe and loving home. A place where children are treated with respect can get a good night's sleep and a full belly.

Northwest Family Services (NFS) is recruiting Host Home and Foster Care Families in Woods, Alfalfa and Major Counties to provide emergency and long-term in-home care to children.

These children may have run away from home or been pushed out due to changes in their family. Others are in the state's custody because their home situation is unsafe. Sometimes families need a cooling-off period to work out a conflict or there may have been an accident or illness leaving the child's primary care giver unable to care for the child for a period of time.

NFS has been dedicated to helping families in crisis since 1977. As our Host Home or Foster Care Family you will become part of our team. Our journey together will begin with the application process (background checks, home study and training). Once certified we will continue to work together as children are placed in your home (phone & in-home support, daycare, doctor's appointments, counseling). As children reunify with their families or enter a permanent placement we will reassess and prepare for the next child. Together we can make a difference in a child's life and in the overall welfare of our community.

When special people touch our lives, then suddenly we see. How beautiful and wonderful our world can really be. They show us that our special hopes and dreams can take us far. By helping us look inward and believe in who we are. They bless us with their love and joy through everything they give - - When special people touch our lives, they teach us how to live.
-Amanda Bradley



"Helping Hands Across Northwest Oklahoma"

Could You Be the Family to Make a Difference in a Child's Life?

Host Home/Foster Care Information



Northwest Family Services

620 Flynn Street

Alva, OK 73717

580-327-2900

FAX: 580-327-1337

(Serving Alfalfa, Major & Woods Counties)

For More Information On Becoming A

Host Family Contact:

Amber L. Maier, MS, LPC

Host Home / Foster Care Supervisor /
Counselor

amber@northwestfamily.net

What is a Host Home/Foster Home?

NFS utilizes a Host Home model to provide emergency overnight care to children in need of a safe place to stay. Host/Foster parents must be at least 21 years of age and be able to pass a background check. Homes are certified in accordance with OKDHS foster home regulations. This allows you to provide care to both children in state custody as well as parental placements. As a Host/Foster Home you will provide the basic care every child needs (housing, food, supervision and love). The Host/Foster Home Supervisor will work with you and the child to coordinate the rest, this may include: purchasing clothing/hygiene products, counseling, dental/medical care, visitations with biological family, court, school/extracurricular enrollment, daycare and other identified needs.

How old are the children needing overnight care? Ages birth to eighteen years old. We work with you to determine what age/gender child will be the best fit into your family. When NFS has a child that might fit we will call and give you the opportunity to accept the child into your home.

We have our own children. Can we give another child all they will need?

Only you can answer that. Is your home big enough? Is everyone in the home willing to have another child come into the home? Talk to others who have been a Host Home. Ask Questions.

How long does care last? You choose between providing three different levels of care. Some provide only respite care for other homes (an occasional weekend or overnight to help out another family). Some provide emergency care, less than 30 days. While others enjoy long-term foster care, greater than 30-days. How long a child stays in your home depends on what your family is able to provide and the needs of the individual child in care.

Is there any training involved?

Yes, each family is required to complete 27 hours of pre-service training as part of the certification process and then 12 hours annually. This is done through face-to-face contact, online sessions, videos, and readings. Training is scheduled in cooperation with the host/foster family's schedule.

Is there any reimbursement?

Yes, NWFS will reimburse host homes \$25.00 per day for expenses incurred when you have a child in care (\$30.00 per day for infants). After 30-days in care the rate may decrease to the state rate depending on the circumstances. Since this is reimbursement (and not a wage) the IRS does not consider it taxable income. As a foster home you are reimbursed at the state rate based on the age of the child.

What if we want to go out for a special dinner or take a trip?

You can get permission to take the child with you or the child can be placed with an approved alternative caregiver.

How often do you contact the host home parents? NFS staff will maintain daily contact with both you and the child. Some contacts will be by telephone and some will be in person. We are your support team and are here to help.

What if a child in care gets sick or is injured. Are we liable?

The children in host/foster care may be in DHS custody, thus DHS will assume medical expenses. For children not in DHS custody their parents/the agency will cover medical expenses. Your homeowners/car insurance, foster care insurance and NFS liability insurance should also cover any accidents.

We're a dual career family. Don't you need a stay at home mom or dad?

Yes & No -- Both situations work. Children in host/foster care can go to day care or they can spend the day with one of the host parents at home or on the farm. School age children may only need after school care and teens may be involved in extracurricular activities or have a job after school. We will work with you to identify what children will work best for your family.

Our children are grown. Aren't we too old for this? How old do you feel? Some folks are ready for a new challenge at any age. What matters is your true desire to provide a safe/loving home for a child.