

Q. How often do you contact the host home parents?

A. We will contact you daily when you have a child in your home. We are your support team and we are always available to help you.

Q. Is there really a need here in my home town?

A. Yes, unfortunately, children are faced with many problems these days. 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.

Q. Can I really make a difference?

A. Yes! You can share what most of us take for granted, a safe and comfortable home, where people sleep undisturbed at night and where 3 meals are served each day.

Q. What if it just doesn't work out?

A. Its OK - - - maybe providing shelter care just isn't for you. Then again, you may find it very rewarding. Don't be afraid to try.

Host Homes

Northwest Family Services, Inc., is recruiting Host Home Families in Woods, Alfalfa, and Major Counties to help provide care for children who are in need of temporary, emergency shelter.

These children may have run away from their homes or are pushed out due to changes in their family. Others are in the state's custody because their home is not a safe place. Sometimes families need a cooling-off period while they work out some issues 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.

Host Homes provide lodging, supervision, food, some transportation, and other support services for children receiving emergency shelter.

Northwest Family Services staff members work with the Host Home Families to provide counseling and coordination of services for children receiving emergency shelter.

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

**Northwest
Family Services,
Inc.**

**Host Home
Information**



Northwest Family Services
620 Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717
FAX: 580-327-1337
580-327-2900

**For More Information On
Becoming A Host Family Contact:**
Amber L. Maier, MS, LPC
Shelter Supervisor / Counselor
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Questions & Answers

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

A. Yes & No -- Both situations work. Children in shelter 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 go to a job after school or may be able to spend a few hours with minimal supervision.

Q. How long does shelter care last?

A. Usually a few days to two weeks. Our maximum is 30 days.

Q. We might want to go out to eat Saturday night. What about our shelter child?

A. Take him or her along – he's probably hungry too. Or, if it's an adult group, hire a sitter, leave a meal, and go out for the evening.

Q. How old are the children needing shelter care?

A. They can be birth to age eighteen, usually they are in elementary school or middle school. The Host Home can specify what age group would work best in your home.

Q. We already have 2 children at home. Can we give other children the attention they will need?

A. Only you can answer that. Have a serious family talk about becoming a shelter care family. Talk to others who have been involved. They can give you an accurate picture. Usually shelter care involves normal family activities.

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

A. The children in shelter care may be in DHS custody, thus DHS will assume medical expenses. For children not in DHS care the parents bear medical expenses. Your homeowners insurance should also cover any accidents which happen. NWFS also provides professional liability insurance for malpractice.

Q. What is on call?

A. The time when you have agreed to be available (within an hour of Alva) for intakes. The frequency of on call duty depends on your schedule, your agreement with the agency, and how many host homes are currently certified. We are all very flexible, covering for each other as needed.

Q. Is there any reimbursement?

A. Yes, NWFS will reimburse you \$25.00 per day for expenses incurred when you have a child in shelter care (\$30.00 per day for infants). Since this is reimbursement (and not a wage) the IRS does not consider it taxable income.

Q. Is there any training involved?

A. Yes, each host family is required to complete 12 hours of training each year. This is done through actual training sessions, videos, and readings. Training sessions are scheduled in cooperation with the host families.

Q. OK, A child is placed in our home, now what happens?

A. A NWFS staff member will maintain daily contact with both you and the child. Some contacts will be by telephone and some will be in person. NWFS has a staff member on call at all times. The child will also receive counseling and a medical examination.

Q. Our children are grown. Aren't we too old for this?

A. How old do you feel? Some folks are ready for a new challenge at any age. What really matters is a true desire to provide a safe temporary home for a child in need.