

**HELPING  
VULNERABLE  
CHILDREN THRIVE**

A STORY ABOUT TREATMENT  
FOSTER PARENTS



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES





*There are thousands of children in the state of New Jersey that are in desperate need of a loving family. Most have a background of neglect and abuse, and often have emotional issues as a result. They have often spent most of their young lives being uprooted, and as a result have simple yet profound dreams. They yearn for a mom or dad to be there for them day after day, to take them to the doctor when they're sick, help them with their homework, go to their ball games, and listen to their joys and concerns.*

*Children's Aid and Family Services provides extensive training to its treatment foster parents to help them learn how to care for children with behavioral, emotional, and/or learning issues. Therapy, psychiatric services, case management, and educational monitoring are several of the ongoing support services provided to treatment foster families, along with 24-hours a day, seven days a week emergency assistance. Further, treatment foster parents receive a higher monthly stipend than traditional foster parents because of the special therapeutic care they give, and Medicaid provides medical and dental coverage for the child. Following is the story of one family's experience fostering:*

My name is Michelle, and I'm a working mom raising a 9-year-old foster son. Josh came to live with

my husband and me when he was 7, after having endured a terribly traumatic childhood. It was an adjustment for all of us, at first, and I won't say it was always easy. Josh had a hard time trusting we would be there for him, and tested us on more than one occasion. But the agency was with us every step of the way, and provided tremendous support. We also got help from other treatment home parents, and have formed really close relationships with many of them.

Since becoming foster parents two years ago, my husband and I have never felt such an overwhelming sense of purpose. We've grown to love Josh so much, and marvel at how he's thrived emotionally and physically, and how much confidence he's gained. He's opened our world and brought so many good things into it. As a matter of fact, my husband and I are planning on adopting Josh.

I wish other loving families with room in their hearts and home for a child would find out more about fostering a vulnerable child. They have the chance to play a major role in guiding and shaping the future of a child that truly needs it.

All names have been changed to protect client privacy.

**BE A VOLUNTEER, FOSTER/ADOPT A CHILD OR DONATE TODAY**