

CAREER OPENINGS:

Live-in Professional House Parents for Teens in Foster Care

- *The opportunity of a lifetime for you and your partner to positively impact the lives of youth.*
- *Do you love parenting and like to make a difference?*
- *Looking for a satisfying and rewarding career?*

We are seeking Professional Foster Parents (FT positions/multiple locations) to provide in-home, therapeutic foster care for 4-6 teenagers. The focus of our Professional Foster Parent program is to provide a healthy, nurturing home environment for teenagers whose issues require active and sustained support from a therapeutic team. Candidates need to be in a committed relationship, role models able to help vulnerable teenagers achieve their full potential, and willing to provide them a loving, stable, family home life. Several positions are available for committed couples who understand the importance of family and are willing to pursue a career dedicated to helping our teenagers develop life skills for future independence and active involvement in the community.

The agency pays a salary and benefits to one stay-at-home parent, while the co-parent is not an employee of the agency and may work outside the home. You must secure your co-parent's support when applying and both of you should be committed to creating a supportive home environment and playing an active role in the daily lives of either male or female adolescents. Housing, car, utilities and other living expenses are provided in homes in communities throughout northern New Jersey. Alternatively, if you have your own home and it is of sufficient size and meets licensing regulations, the agency would also like to hear from you as other options are available. Regular weekends off and the daily support of a youth counselor are also provided.

It is critical that prospective Professional Foster Parents understand the importance of family, are community-minded, and strive to be good role models to help positively change the lives of the teenagers for whom they'll be caring. It is helpful if they have prior experience working in a group environment with adolescents. In many instances, these young people have experienced tremendous disruption in their young lives because of multiple foster placements. They desperately need the opportunity to experience a stable home and loving family environment. Most important, they need to know someone will be there for them to take them to the doctor when they're sick, help them with that tricky math problem, eat dinner with them and talk to them about their day. The Professional Parent will also help teach them important life skills, such as laundry and basic budgeting.

The agency's comprehensive training will equip Professional Foster Parents with the specific skills to help them handle the special needs of children in foster care. The agency is there to support you every step the way and is absolutely committed to your – and the foster children's - success.

Requirements: At least 21 years of age; a minimum of a high school diploma (or equivalent); one-year NJ driver's license and a good driving history; must secure own co-parent who will reside full-time in the home provided/approved by the agency and also meet driving requirements above. Experience working in teaching, coaching, working in foster care or residential programs is a plus. This is the ideal job for empty-nesters who miss day-to-day parenting. We also welcome couples of all ages unless they have children less than 14 years of age.

Rewards: We provide a caring and supportive work environment; comprehensive training; career development opportunities; excellent benefits; rent-free living; paid utilities; agency car; and the reward of making a lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable youth. Salary: \$40,000 annualized.

About us: Founded in 1899, Children's Aid and Family Services is one of New Jersey's leading providers of specialty therapeutic foster care and adoption services. Our Professional Foster Parent Homes provide a family for teenagers. Four to six boys or girls live in each single-family home with their co-parent Professional Foster Parents who provide therapeutic care, supported by a youth counselor and other members of the agency's clinical and case management team. Many of these children have serious emotional and behavioral problems. They have not been able to stay in their family's home but are able to function well in a community setting: they attend school, participate in extra curricula activities, have part-time jobs, learn life skills, and take part in daily chores and activities as a member of their foster family. For some, the goal is reunification with their birth family; for others it is adoption, or to learn the life skills they need to be independent once they age out of foster care. Our Professional Foster Parents work with each teenager during their stay to help each achieve their goals and potential

Interested?

**To learn more about becoming a Professional Foster Parent,
please call Mya Martinez at 201 261-2800.**