



Wynter and Kade are adopted siblings through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan.

The Need for Licensed Foster Care Homes

in Southeast Michigan

- Foster homes are needed for children of all ages, ranging from infants to 18 years of age.
- There is a critical need for homes for siblings, school-age children, and teenagers.
- There is also a need for foster homes for children who have medical needs and/or disabilities.
- CCSEM aspires to facilitate 24 adoptions yearly, open 10-12 licensed foster homes yearly and continue to increase our capacity to serve young adults through our Supervised Independent Living programs.



Providing Help. Giving Hope.
ccsem.org

Foster Care Explained

- Foster care is a **temporary placement** for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.
- CCSEM works with birth families to rectify the primary issues that caused children to be removed from their home. Children are generally placed in foster care with the **goal of being reunited with their birth families.**
- A variety of factors contribute to **determining whether or not children return to their birth families.** These include the parent's success with their treatment plans, as well as recommendations made by the agency, the court system, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Quarterly reviews of goals—family team meetings—are coordinated with the family's CCSEM foster care worker.
- Children in foster care may display **emotional distress and negative or inappropriate behaviors resulting from past trauma.** Foster children often experience difficulties in school and may require special education services.
- Foster children may remain in a foster home for a short period of time or on a long-term basis. Placements may last a few days to more than a year. **Several factors determine how long the child will remain in the foster home.** One reason a child may be moved from foster care is an appropriate relative to the child has come forth to become the child's custodian or guardian. CCSEM tries to place children with relatives whenever possible.
- **When children cannot be returned home due to safety concerns,** adoption will likely be considered so the child has the chance of a permanent home in which to grow up. CCSEM's main priority is ensuring the safety and well-being of the children.

Responsibilities of a Foster Parent

- Foster parents provide a home environment intended to encourage the child to grow mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially. You will be a member of a team that helps the child heal and repair their relationships with birth parents and siblings.
- Foster parents work closely with CCSEM and especially with the child's foster care worker. Foster care workers are responsible for monitoring the child's placement and assuring the child is receiving proper care and services. The foster care worker is also responsible for developing a treatment plan with the child's birth family.
- Children placed in your home will have regular, court-ordered visits with their biological parents, other adults from whose care they have been removed, and their siblings if they are not placed together. It is important for you to work with the foster care worker and family to decide the location and time of these visits. The court decides whether the visits will be supervised.
- Children who regularly visit with their family have a greater chance of being returned to their family. As a foster parent, it is equally as important to ensure that children are transported to their parenting visits.
- Children in foster care are removed from their families due to an abusive or neglectful situation. This can include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse or neglect, such as not providing enough food, or leaving alone children who are unable to care for themselves. Foster parents are required to ensure a child or children placed in your home are receiving regular medical and dental examinations. Some children require therapy and treatment to help them through past trauma or losses.
- Foster parents and their CCSEM foster care worker meet monthly in the foster home to discuss the needs and progress of the child or children placed in the home during which they discuss one-on-one with the foster care worker any concerns about the child.

For more information call Michele Karrick at 248-552-0750 extension 3959 or email karrickm@ccsem.org.



Qualifications to Be a Foster Parent

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must be able to complete a criminal background check.
- You must provide proof of income and financial stability.
- You must complete a pre-licensing training prior to having a child placed in your home.
- You must provide letters of reference.
- You must have adequate bedroom and play area space in your home.
- You may rent or own your house.
- You can be single or married.
- You must be willing to follow CCSEM's behavior policy, which does not permit any form of physical discipline.
- You must be willing to be part of the team and be open to working with birth parents, therapists, caseworkers, attorneys, and other service providers.
- You need to be able to transport children to and from a variety of settings including the foster care agency and to appointments.
- Medical clearances must be completed on every member of the household. Additional clearances may be needed if a family member has any mental health issue.