

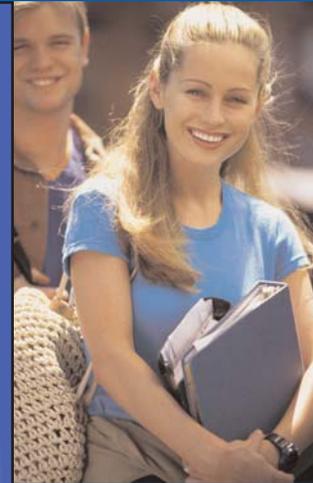
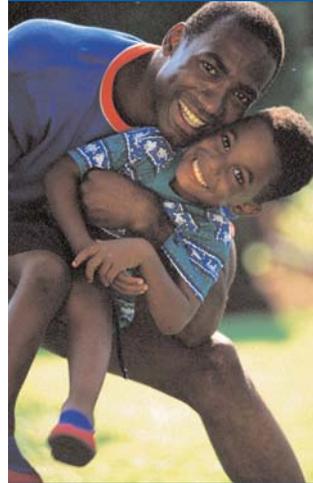
*San Bernardino County is a  
Family to Family County*

Resource families in our county strive to:

- Improve reunification results for children and their birth families.
- Reduce the number of children placed away from their own neighborhoods and communities.
- Decrease the length of stay for children in placement.
- Reduce the number of children in group home or treatment settings.
- Preserve a family-centered, culturally sensitive approach.
- Use strength-based practice, promoting the best interests of children and families.
- Maintain timely, needs driven, and solution-focused services.
- Recruitment of quality resource families.
- Work as a team with community partners to improve San Bernardino County's Child Welfare System.



*Foster Hope for a Child*

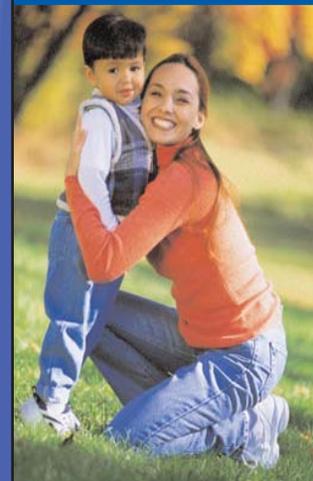
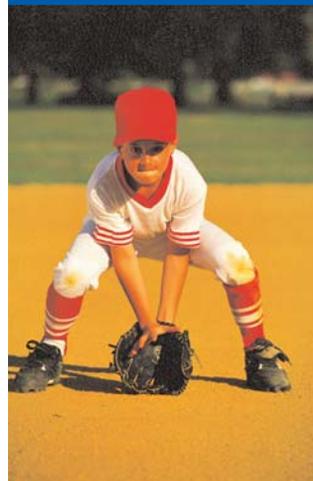


**San Bernardino County:  
A Family to Family Community**

**for Children**



**The Gift of Caring**



For further information contact  
San Bernardino County  
1-800-722-4477

In San Bernardino County, Resource Family  
Recruitment is Everybody's Business!  
1-800-722-4477

## What Does Becoming a Resource Family Mean?

**L**ove, understanding and guidance for a child who may have physical, social and emotional needs.

**O**pening your home and family to a child who has been abused, neglected, or abandoned.

**V**aluing relationships that help children and families become healthy and independent.

**E**mbracing a child by providing a secure home and family.

## What is a Resource Family?

- Resource families are foster or adoptive homes that have been trained and licensed by San Bernardino County.
- Resource families are committed to supporting and strengthening families who have a child in out of home care.
- Resource families do this by meeting with family and community support persons while the child is in their care.
- Resource families create a permanent and lifelong connection between the child's past, present, and future experiences.

## Concerns and Myths

There are several concerns and myths about foster care and adoption that may prevent many people from accepting "someone else's child."

- You can be single, married, or widowed.
- You do not have to have previous parenting experience.
- You do not have to be rich; there is no cost to you!
- You do not have to own your home.

## Do You Know?

In San Bernardino County, hundreds of children are waiting for LOVE and a sense of belonging that only a family can give. Many of these children are five years of age or older, have brothers and sisters, and don't have a permanent family home. They may have physical, behavioral, and/or emotional problems. You can help these children during times of family crisis by providing the support and care that they need. The county provides foster and adoptive families with financial assistance, medical assistance, and ongoing training. Your community's resources may provide additional services to meet each child and family's individualized needs.



## What is Foster Care?

- Foster care provides temporary homes for abused, neglected or abandoned children, who were removed from their parents or family members.
- Foster parents are invited to attend small team meetings to speak on behalf of the child and family.
- Foster parents establish a strong neighborhood support network with other foster families and service agencies.
- Foster parents mentor families to help them develop protective parenting skills and other positive life skills.
- Foster parents strengthen the foster care system by providing advice and feedback about their foster care experiences.

## What is Adoption?

- Adoption makes it possible for children to become a permanent part of your family when they cannot return to their birth family.
- Adoption entitles children to enjoy the independence, belonging and permanence that a lifelong family provides.

## Qualities

The most important qualities of resource families are:



- The desire to open your heart and home.
- The desire to love and parent a child.
- The desire to understand children.

- The ability to protect and nurture.
- The ability to be patient and flexible.
- The ability to provide a safe and stable home.
- The ability to team with birth parents, social workers and the community.

