

Making a Difference... Foster Parents

FOR MORE INFO:

Washington State's Foster Parenting/Adoptive Parenting Recruitment Information:

1-888-KIDS-414 (1-888-543-7414)

Idaho CareLine:

2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588

www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov



DURING THE YEAR OF 2006, APPROXIMATELY 799,000 children were in the foster care system in the United States and approximately 10,000 were from Washington State. Most of these children are in care because of parental abuse or neglect and no extended family to step forward to care for them. Virtually all of these children have experienced the abuse and neglect for many years before being removed from their living situation. The average age for children in care is between 10 and 11 years old. By this age, the majority of these children have also experienced homelessness, hunger, failure in school, and an overall feeling of being “different” from other children.

Spokane County has not escaped this growing National problem and the need

for local foster parents is immense. Everyone recognizes the problem but seemingly is under the assumption that other families are better suited to be foster parents. The truth is that foster homes range from married couples with no children of their own to single parent homes. Some foster parents take children understanding the placement maybe for up to a year or longer. Other homes take children for emergency short term care while others take youth into their homes for an occasional weekend, affording the regular foster parent(s) a few days off to “regroup”. Being a foster parent is challenging as these children in need of care have developed “survival techniques” that may not exactly fit the established norms of the foster home. Foster chil-

dren tend to be exceptionally mistrusting of adults in general and slow to let down their guard. Although, the rewards for parents and the child are endless.

Because of overwhelming workloads on State Social Workers, many children are placed in foster homes licensed by private agencies. Service Alternatives, Inc is one private agency licensing foster homes around the state of WA, ID and OR under Regular, Specialized and Therapeutic homes. We offer a wide range of supportive services to our homes and the children in our care. You are the key to a child’s future, they are waiting. To get started in Spokane, Colville, Moses Lake, and surrounding areas please call 1-888-523-4390.