



There is no greater responsibility than parenting a child. Surely there is no greater joy.



CHILD

For more information about the CHILD initiative, please contact:



Texas Department of Family
and Protective Services
Mail Code E 557
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, Texas 78714 9030

1-800-233-3405

www.adoptchildren.org

P20621 0000 February 2004

NOTE: The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) has changed its name to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) resulting in the following e mail address format change for all employees: firstname.lastname@dfps.state.tx.us

Congregations Helping In Love and Dedication

"The greatest gift that we can give is our time. When we give time, we are giving a portion of ourselves. The essence of love is how much we give of ourselves."

—Rick Warren; Taken from *The PURPOSE-DRIVEN@LIFE*, by Rick Warren
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Sometimes, it takes a congregation to raise a child. For the first time, the State of Texas is asking for your help.

About CHILD

Congregations Helping in Love and Dedication (CHILD) is a unique collaboration between Texas' faith-based communities and Child Protective Services to find loving homes for children who have come into the state's care due to abuse and neglect.

The goal of CHILD is to recruit and license as foster parents at least two families from each participating congregation. Additionally, each congregation will have the opportunity to develop supportive services for their foster families. These services could include respite care, reduced tuition for day

care, tutoring and after-school programs, transportation, celebrations for special occasions, and enrichment activities.

The CHILD faith-based recruitment program was made possible through the passage of Senate Bill 1489, 78th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. The Governor signed it into law on June 20, 2003.

About Our Children

Children are placed in foster homes because they have been removed from their own families due to abuse, neglect, or other family problems that endanger their safety. The children may:

- ◆ range in age from infancy to 18 years old;
- ◆ have special medical, physical or emotional needs;
- ◆ belong to any ethnicity or race;
- ◆ be a part of a group of brothers and sisters who need to be placed together.

Children may be placed in adoptive homes if efforts to reunify them with their birth families are unsuccessful. Children whose parental rights have been legally terminated may be adopted by relatives, a foster family, or an adoptive family.

About the Need

Child Protective Services (CPS) needs foster parents for children of all races and ethnicities, ages newborn through 17. CPS also is seeking adoptive families for a wide range of children with a special emphasis on older children and sibling groups.

About Fostering and Adopting through CPS

The general requirements to be a foster or adoptive parent are that applicants:

- ◆ must be at least 21 years of age,
- ◆ can be married (for at least 2 years) or single,
- ◆ be willing to attend pre-service training and participate in a home study, and
- ◆ must allow criminal history and child abuse background checks.



Foster parents receive a monthly reimbursement to help offset the cost of providing foster care for expenses such as child care, food, clothing, recreation, transportation, and housing. Medical benefits are provided for all foster children through Medicaid.

In some cases, financial assistance is available to adoptive parents. Assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis and depends on the financial resources of the adoptive family and the needs of the child.

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else."

--Charles Dickens