How to Become an Applewood Foster Parent

- Contact Naeome Harris, Applewood Centers Foster Care Recruitment Specialist, at 216-696-6815
- Schedule an appointment for orientation
- Complete an application and background check
- Participate in Home Study interviews (conversations designed to get to know you and your family better)
- Attend 40 hours of trauma-focused parental training classes

Requirements

- Must be at least 21 years of age, in good health, and maintain sufficient income to meet the needs of your household
- May be single or married
- May live in a house or apartment (own or rent)
- Must have sufficient bedroom space (at least 2 bedrooms)
- Must have reliable transportation

Applewood Centers is a private, non-profit agency providing behavioral health, social services and educational services for children and youth from birth to age 21 and their families. Services are provided from the agency’s offices, residential center, clients’ homes and through The Gerson School, public/private schools and other locations throughout the community.

Applewood Centers is licensed and certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), and licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education. We are accredited by the Joint Commission and American Psychological Association. Funding is provided in part by United Way Services, Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, and Lorain County Board of Mental Health.
What is Foster Care?

Becoming a foster parent is a very special decision to make. It is not a job – it is a way to provide outreach in the community, and help youth through the many difficult challenges of developing and maturing into young adults.

The foster care program at Applewood Centers provides homes to youth of all ages who have behavioral and/or mental health issues. Unfortunately, many come from situations where there was neglect, abuse, and unsafe environments. As a result, the foster youth in our program are in need of adults to show they care and provide guidance, support, and love.

Respite Foster Care

A respite foster parent is a licensed foster parent who only takes part-time or emergency placements. The application, home study and training process is the same, however instead of being on a full-time resource families list, you are placed on a respite resource list. This is a great way to explore foster care or support foster families by providing them with a break. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to support a youth in their time of need.

Training and Support

At Applewood Centers we recognize that becoming a foster family or adoptive parent takes a community effort. We take pride in providing the tools and support needed for our parents to be successful caregivers and offer the following:

- Monthly stipend to support the foster youth in your home
- Ongoing training
- In-home support for caregivers and youth
- 24-hour a day on call service
- Priority access to counseling and Psychiatry services at Applewood
- Foster parent support group, social events, and educational seminars

Adopting a Foster Youth

Foster care is a temporary placement of a youth into a foster home in order to allow the biological parents time to fix problems that caused their child(ren) to be placed in foster care. Although reunification is the goal, it is not always possible. In these cases, the youth may be adopted. Many Applewood Centers foster parents have adopted children who were previous foster youth in their homes. We guide you through the process of providing a youth a forever home.

“Every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”

- Rita F. Pierson, educator, counselor, and assistant principal