



Work of Heart Respite Program

“ *The Work of Heart program has given me the opportunity to share my home and heart with children in the foster care system. Being allowed to share my weekend by providing respite care has provided me and hopefully the children positive memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you for letting me touch the lives of our future one weekend at a time!* ”



Adoptions Together's *Work of Heart* Volunteer Respite Program was developed in cooperation with the Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) and was formerly managed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Why Volunteer with the Work of Heart Respite Program?

- There are over 6,000 children in foster care in the DC Metropolitan area who need the support of caring adults. Over 3,000 are in DC alone.
- Foster parents need time to rest and rejuvenate. Volunteers can give them that time by providing respite care.
- Providing respite care helps promote placement stability and longevity. A consistent, loving home is healthier for children than multiple moves and transitions.

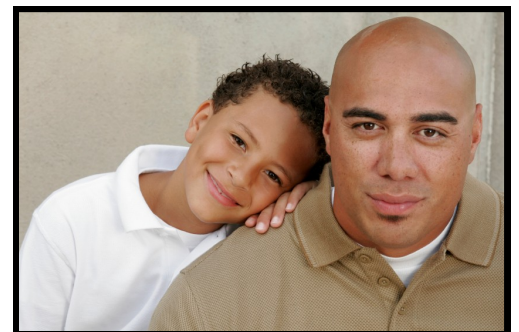
Who Should Become a Volunteer Respite Provider?

Becoming a Volunteer Respite Provider is a great opportunity if:

- You have a busy schedule but still want to help children in your community.
- You have thought about becoming a foster parent, but aren't sure if ongoing foster parenting is for you.
- You want to be a mentor or advocate for a child in foster care.

Basic Requirements for a Volunteer Respite Provider

- Enjoy caring for children.
- Single, married or partnered.
- Emotionally and physically stable.
- Willing to be a part of a professional team.
- Rent or own an apartment, condominium or house.
- Successful completion of orientation, training and the home study process.



Find out more:

Visit us at www.adoptionstogether.org

Or call us at 1-800-669-HOPE (4673)

10230 New Hampshire Avenue Suite 200 | Silver Spring, MD 20903

Every Child, Every Family,
Every Step of the Way

**ADOPTIONS
TOGETHER**

Did you know...

Foster parents in DC have to provide around the clock care to children in foster care. Only another foster parent can provide care to foster children. When care is provided, the primary foster parent has to pay the respite foster parents for services. The Adoptions Together Work of Heart program offers **free** respite care services to foster parents in the DC Metropolitan area. The program is designed to give foster parents a break at no cost to them while trained volunteers provide care.

The Work of Heart program needs caring volunteers who are interested in giving back to their community and volunteering their time to change the life of a child in foster care. This is the perfect program for people that have a strong desire to provide care to a child in foster care, but are not ready or able to make a full time commitment as a foster parent.

The need for caring respite care providers is ongoing, the benefits to the children and foster families are immeasurable, and the rewards of helping are endless!

There are many causes for which you could choose to spend your precious time. Thank you for considering the Work of Heart Program.

“ *The Work of Heart program has been very beneficial to our caring for our 2 Foster Son's. The program has allowed both my husband and I to have quality time together and has allowed the boys to experience free time in meeting new friends in a learning/activity environment.*

We can't thank the program staff and volunteers enough for their time and teaching skills in demonstrating "each one, reach one" for children who are in need.

—Lewis and Anna, Foster Parents



Mission:

Adoptions Together builds healthy lifelong connections for every child and advocates for continuous improvement of systems that promote the well being of children.

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