

# May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month

In Buncombe County almost 100 foster parents open their hearts and homes to kids in foster care, giving needed shelter to children so they can begin to heal in a safe and nurturing environment.

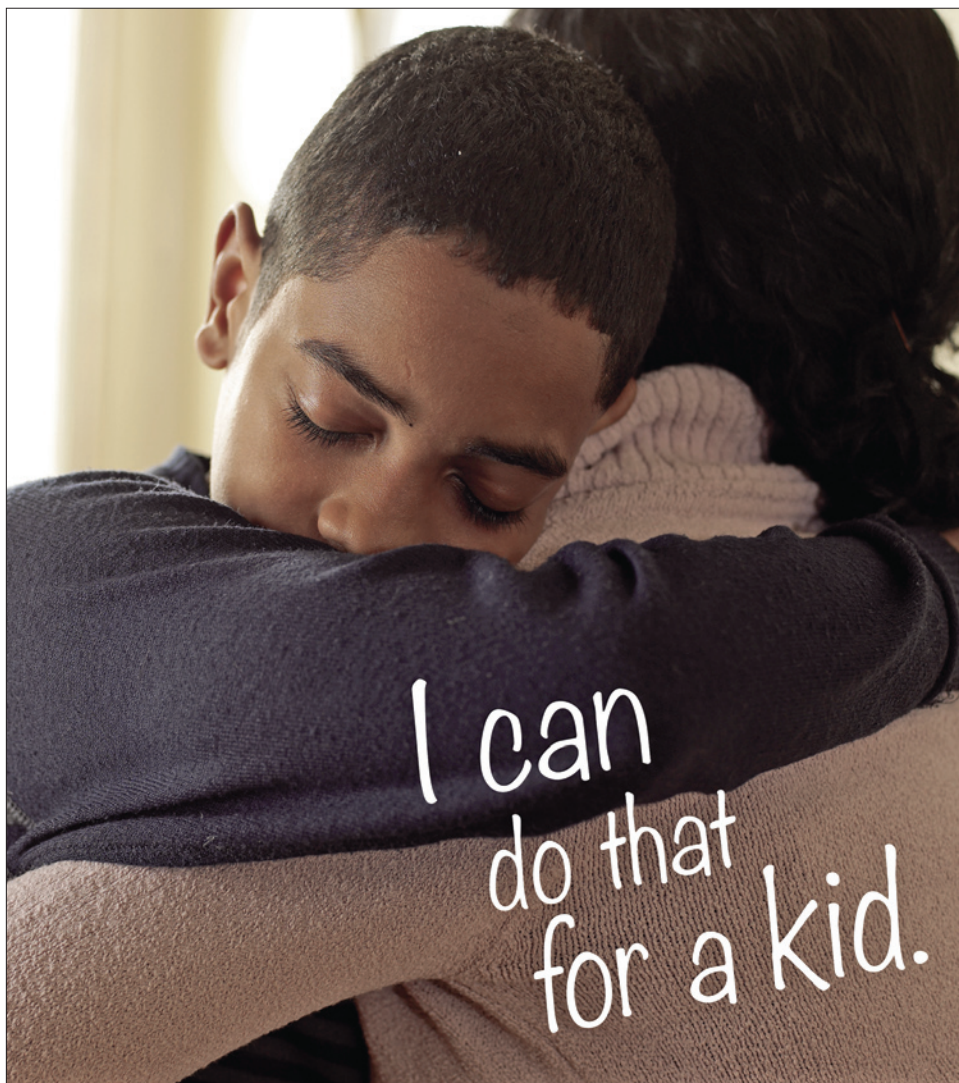
While foster care is meant to be temporary, sometimes it is not safe for a child to return to their birth family. In these cases foster parents may consider adoption. We are also grateful to those who have made this choice to become a forever family for a child.

**Buncombe County HHS wants to say "Thank You!" to the foster parents in our community.**

There are more than 200 kids in foster care in Buncombe County and not enough foster homes to support them. This means that some children must be placed in a group home or out of the state, far away from their siblings and familiar surroundings.

More foster parents are needed to give guidance and love to children who are going through a challenging time. We need more people in Buncombe County to say, "I can do that for a kid."

If you know someone who fosters children, take the time to thank them for their work.



Become a foster parent. You **can** do it!  
A message from BUNCOMBE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



*"I know what the horror stories about foster care are because I was afraid of foster care too before I went into the system. But I can honestly say that being put into foster care was probably the event that put me on the path to steer my life in the right direction."*

~ Buncombe County teen in foster care

**Being a foster parent is something you do from your heart!**  
**Here are the facts about what it takes to be a foster parent.**

*"...I know that everybody's story may be different, but my story is one that's going to end in success, and I have foster care to thank for that."*

~ Buncombe County teen in foster care

**MYTH:** A single person can't provide care for a foster child.

**FACT:** A single person can provide a loving and stable home for a child. You don't have to be rich, own a home, or any certain race to be a great foster parent. You can work full time and foster! Kids in foster care need someone with an open mind and open heart.

**MYTH:** Kids in foster care have needs that I can't deal with.

**FACT:** Many children in foster care are simply children who, by no fault of their own, had to be removed from their families due to abuse or neglect. The State of North Carolina provides a stipend to cover the basic needs of a child, Medicaid covers the child's health expenses, and your licensing agency provides supportive services to foster parents such as training and respite care.

**MYTH:** I have no control over which children I'm asked to foster.

**FACT:** You can't choose the exact children you foster, but you can request a certain age and gender for placement in your home. The two biggest needs are 1) children and youth between the ages of 11 and 16, and 2) keeping sibling groups together. Foster parents have the final say about which placements they take.

**MYTH:** I will get attached to the children.

**FACT:** It's true. You will get attached, and it might be painful when children leave. But many of these children have been through things no child should ever face, and they need the love and care that foster parents can provide.

**MYTH:** I'm not allowed to adopt the children I foster.

**FACT:** While many children who enter foster care return to their birth families, there are still children who cannot return home safely. Some of these children will need a forever home.

**Now ask yourself: Can I provide a safe and loving environment for a child?**

**Foster parents make Buncombe County a better place!**

**Call Buncombe County HHS at (828) 250-5868 if you want to learn more about becoming a foster parent.**

Email: [familiesforkids@buncombecounty.org](mailto:familiesforkids@buncombecounty.org)  
Visit: [www.buncombecounty.org/foster](http://www.buncombecounty.org/foster)