

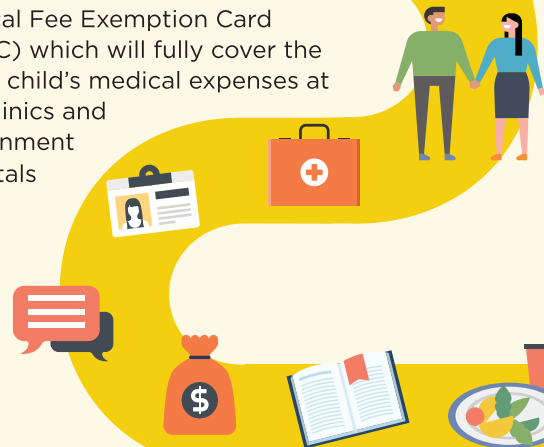
## YOU ARE NEVER ALONE.

If you become a foster parent, you can expect to receive various forms of support during your fostering journey:

- Trainings, resources and toolkits to equip foster parents with knowledge and skills to help them in their fostering journeys
- Regular support from Foster Care Workers and a 24-Hour Fostering Emergency Hotline



- Medical Fee Exemption Card (MFEC) which will fully cover the foster child's medical expenses at polyclinics and government hospitals



- Subsidies for infant care, childcare and student care
- An allowance to defray the expenses of caring for the child, such as for food, clothing, transport, school fees and other needs

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ADOPTION AND FOSTERING?**

**A:** Yes, foster children remain the legal children of their birth parents while an adopted child assumes the rights of a natural child of the family. Fostering is a temporary care arrangement and our ultimate goal is to reunite the child with their birth parents.

**Q: HOW OLD ARE THE CHILDREN WHO NEED FOSTER CARE?**

**A:** Children who need foster care can be as young as new-borns and up to the age of 18. We welcome foster parents who are able to care for children of all ages, including babies, older children and teenagers, sibling sets and those with special needs.

**Q: HOW LONG WILL THE CHILD STAY WITH YOUR FAMILY?**

**A:** The length of foster care can range from a few months to a few years, and varies from child to child depending on his/her family situation. The ultimate goal of fostering is to reunite children with their birth parents whenever possible.

**Q: CAN YOU CHOOSE WHICH CHILD TO FOSTER?**

**A:** You may indicate your preferred gender and age of the child you would like to foster during the application process. We will do our best to match you to a child of your preference, depending on his/her needs, and your ability to care for the child.



 **1800 111 2222**

 **Whatsapp 9645 8231**

 **fostering@msf.gov.sg**

 **www.msf.gov.sg/fostering**



All information in this brochure is accurate as at 11/2022

# BE A FOSTER PARENT. FOSTER HOPE.

As a foster parent, you would experience the joy of offering safety, stability and nurturance to children and young persons who need it the most: those who have been abused, neglected or even abandoned.

But more than that,  
**YOU WOULD BE GIVING THEM HOPE.**

**EVERY CHILD DESERVES  
A PLACE TO CALL HOME.  
UNFORTUNATELY, NOT  
EVERY CHILD HAS IT.**



Some children are unable to remain with their birth families and are in critical need of safe, stable and loving foster homes.

**CHILDREN IN CARE**

Children may be in foster care as they have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

**THE MSF FOSTERING SCHEME**

The best place for a child is in the family. The MSF Fostering Scheme helps children in need below the age of 18 to find foster families to meet their daily needs and more importantly, shower them with love, care and nurturance so that they have **HOPE** for a better future.

Fostering is a temporary care arrangement and the end goal is to reunite foster children with their birth families, once they are assessed to be able to care for them.

**ARE YOU READY TO BE  
A FOSTER PARENT?**

**STEP 1 • ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

**As a foster parent, you should:**

- ✓ Be married and apply together as a couple
- ✓ Be willing to ensure a child-safe home environment\*
- ✓ Be at least 25 years old
- ✓ Have a minimum household income of \$2,000 and a PCI of at least \$700\*\* (Retirees can apply to be assessed based on non-work sources of income and savings)
- ✓ Be a resident of Singapore
- ✓ Be medically fit to care for children
- ✓ Have at least a secondary school education
- ✓ Preferably have experience in caring for children

\*Examples of child-safe home environment include refraining from the use of physical punishment and installing of window grilles (for foster parents caring for foster children below the age of 13)

\*\* PCI = Per Capita Income = (Total household income) / (Total number of people in the household)

**STEP 2 • ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?**

**Ask yourselves these questions:**

- Are my family and I ready to accept a foster child into our home?
- Are my family and I ready to commit to love him/her as our own child and give them hope for a better future?
- Are my spouse and I willing to work with MSF and other professionals for the child's best interest?
- Are my spouse and I mentally prepared for the child's return to his/her natural family in time to come?



**STEP 3 • HOW CAN YOU APPLY?**

The first thing you have to do is fill in an application form. Email us at [fostering@msf.gov.sg](mailto:fostering@msf.gov.sg), call us at **1800 111 2222** or send us a Whatsapp message at **9645 8231** and request to get a copy of the application form sent to you via email or post! You can also visit [www.msf.gov.sg/fostering](http://www.msf.gov.sg/fostering) where the form is available for download.

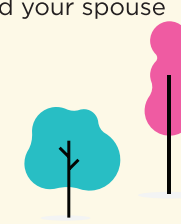
**How is the assessment conducted?**

It is of utmost importance that much effort is put into selecting the most suitable foster parents to care for our vulnerable children. Once your completed application form is received and you meet our criteria, you can expect the following as part of our assessment process:

<p><b>Collation of supporting documents and additional information</b></p>	<p>You will be contacted by MSF Officers for supporting documents and further information.</p>
<p><b>Medical and other screenings</b></p>	<p>You will be assessed on your ability to foster a child and will undergo medical and other screenings.</p>
<p><b>Home visit</b></p>	<p>Home visits will be conducted to assess your home environment and to speak to all your household members about fostering.</p>

The application process will take approximately three months to complete.

If your application is approved, you and your spouse will be required to attend trainings.



**WHY SHOULD YOU BE  
A FOSTER PARENT?**

Foster parents make an immense difference to the lives of foster children with their selfless dedication and love, giving them **HOPE** for a better future.



“ I am very grateful to my foster family. They have given me a roof over my head, clothed and fed me, and made me feel right at home from the very start... I would not be who I am today if they did not welcome me with open arms into their family. **My foster parents have always motivated me to strive to be a better person and they have given me the confidence and encouragement to put my best foot forward in everything that I do.** ”

**-Amanda\*, foster child**

\*child's name has been changed to protect her identity.

**YOU CAN HELP A CHILD WHO IS  
WAITING FOR A STABLE AND LOVING HOME.  
OPEN UP YOUR HEARTS AND HOMES  
TO THESE CHILDREN IN NEED.  
GIVE A CHILD A HOME TODAY  
BY BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT.**