

STARR BATTLE CREEK FOSTER CARE

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Currently, 17,773 Michigan children need temporary homes where they can feel safe, secure and loved. Many are victims of abuse or neglect, and some have been abandoned by their birth families. Starr Commonwealth is looking for families who are willing to take a starring role in a child's life.

To be a successful foster parent, you must love children and want to help them succeed. You must meet the requirements for licensing by the State of Michigan and go through initial and ongoing training. You must be willing to cooperate with birth parents who are working towards reunification with their children.

Potential foster parents must be:

- At least 18 years old
- Be of good moral character (required to pass background, criminal history and reference checks)
- Express a willingness to care for children
- Demonstrate an understanding of care which must be provided to foster children
- Have adequate time to provide and supervise children
- Have a defined source of income
- Be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy

Starr Commonwealth is looking for many different types of homes and foster parents who can care for:

- Youth 0-17 years old
- Older foster children learning to live independently
- Sibling groups
- Children who are neglected or abused

Youth Profile:

The majority of children entering Starr Battle Creek's Foster Care program come from single parent homes, most presenting family histories of abuse, neglect, judicial system involvement, academic problems and family instability. 78.5 percent of youth enter foster care with behavioral issues.

Training and Support:

- 12 hours of training are required before licensure
- 24 hours of ongoing training is required annually
- Starr Commonwealth works with other agencies to ensure training opportunities are offered and support is given
- Several support groups are offered as well as ongoing support from the foster care team, including 24/7 crisis intervention.

Starr Foster Parent Satisfaction Survey Results report:

Starr staff supported me through the licensing process: 90%

My input is included regarding the children in my care: 82%

The training/education prepared me to succeed as a foster parent: 91%

I am made aware of continued training opportunities on a timely basis: 94%

I feel help is available should I be in a crisis situation: 82%

I feel supported by my therapist/case manager: 82%

I would recommend Starr Foster Care to other adults interested in becoming foster parents: 86%

Continuum of Care

Starr provides a comprehensive continuum of programs that meet the individual needs of youth and families at every stage – from residential to foster care to community-based – with family-centered and child-focused services.



Starr Commonwealth is internationally recognized as a leader in transformational programs for children, families, schools and communities. Founded in 1913, Starr's treatment philosophy is rooted in seeing something good in every child, which serves as the guiding principle in its strength-based approach. Starr offers a full spectrum of community-based early intervention and prevention services along with specialized residential programs. Through the Starr Institute for Training, parents, clinicians, educators and childcare professionals now have access to Starr's highly successful and innovative techniques aimed at bringing out the best in every child.

