

# STARR BATTLE CREEK FOSTER CARE

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## Overview:

- **General Philosophy:** Strength-based, Positive Youth Development
- **Community-Based Programming:** Provides 24/7 crisis intervention and staff supervision
- **Population:** Males/Females, ages 0-18 years, Abused/Neglected and Juvenile Justice
- **Foster Home:** Placement in a foster home determined by age, maturity, foster parent experience and capacity
- **Program Length:** Varies by individual treatment needs and permanency planning goal

## Starr treatment model:

- **Life Space Crisis Intervention:** Staff trained in verbal crisis intervention and skill development.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Staff are trained in techniques through The National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC) to help youth who have been subjected to traumatic events.
- **Education:** Youth attend local community schools. Workers provide academic support and monitoring.
- **Individual & Family Counseling/Home Visits:** Foster Care Counselors meet with and help the foster family and youth define appropriate treatment goals. Biological Parents also participate when parental rights have not been terminated. Visits are encouraged and coordinated if approved by the referring worker.
- **Psychiatric Services:** Youth will be referred for psychiatric services as needed.
- **Medical and Dental Services:** Medical needs are met by a community-based, licensed doctors and dentists. Emergency medical care provided at local community hospitals.
- **Ansell Casey Assessment:** For youth ages 16+, provides information from the viewpoint of youth. The Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment gives a clear idea of the independent living skills that youth have already mastered and in what areas assistance is needed.
- **Life Skills:** Formal and informal education and training in the development of life skills for each age-appropriate student.
- **Substance Abuse Education and Counseling:** Available for students when needed.
- **Advocacy:** Advocate and link youth to community resources to stabilize families.
- **Motivational Interviewing:** Staff are trained in techniques geared to increase the child's internal motivation for change.

- **Transportation:** Youth and their families are provided transportation services when needed to accommodate home visits, parental/sibling visits, doctor visits and court hearings.
- **Scholarships:** Post-secondary academic scholarships are available. Students must apply by the posted deadline and be in good academic standing to be considered.
- **Cultural Competence:** Cultural diversity is evident in all of Starr's programs, and Starr staff work with youth to promote a loving and accepting atmosphere.
- **Follow up:** Youth or caring adult are surveyed 3, 6, and 12 months post discharge to determine continued success. Referrals are provided at that time if needed.

## 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.

