



## Get Involved!

*May is National Foster Care Month*



### if you only have a few *minutes*...

- **Learn the facts about foster care and gain a better understanding of the needs of those touched by this issue.**  
About Foster Care [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)
- **Make a financial contribution to support the personal enrichment or education of a young person in foster care.**  
Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan [www.rowellfosterchildren.org](http://www.rowellfosterchildren.org)  
Orphan Foundation of America [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)
- **Make a contribution to a national organization working to improve public policy and heighten public awareness.**  
Foster Care Alumni of America [www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)  
National Foster Care Coalition [www.nationalfostercare.org](http://www.nationalfostercare.org)
- **Send a "Shout Out of Encouragement" to a foster youth or foster care alumni.**  
Foster Care Alumni of America [www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)  
FosterClub [www.fosterclub.org](http://www.fosterclub.org)  
Orphan Foundation of America [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)
- **Be inspired to make a difference! Read more about former foster children from all walks of life who are enjoying positive, accomplished adult lives thanks to the relationships they shared with caring adults.**  
Success Stories [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)  
FosterClub All Stars [www.allstars.fosterclub.com/advocacy/about-fosterclub-all-stars](http://www.allstars.fosterclub.com/advocacy/about-fosterclub-all-stars)
- **Send a care package to a foster care alumni attending college.**  
Orphan Foundation of America [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)
- **Wear a Blue Ribbon during May in support of National Foster Care Month. Attend a local ribbon-tying ceremony to advocate on behalf of the children in foster care in your state.**  
NFPA Blue Ribbon Campaign [www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)  
NFCM Online Store and Featured Events and Promotions [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)

- **Donate goods such as suitcases, books, games, computers, sports equipment, musical instruments, clothing, and school supplies to young people in foster care.**  
National Foster Parent Association [www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)
- **Spread the word! Feature the National Foster Care Month logo and Web site link on your personal and/or organizational Web sites. Help raise awareness and encourage others to get involved on behalf of the 463,000 American children in foster care.**  
Link to us at [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)

### if you only have a few *hours*...

- **Child welfare supervisors can sharpen their leadership skills by applying to participate in an online leadership academy for supervisors.**  
National Child Welfare Workforce Institute [www.ncwwi.org/super.htm](http://www.ncwwi.org/super.htm)
- **Volunteer to help a foster care program in your state. Your contribution to these agencies will mean brighter and safer tomorrows for children and youth in your state and across America.**  
CWLA member agencies [www.cwla.org/members/members.htm](http://www.cwla.org/members/members.htm)
- **Volunteer with a local foster care program to provide personal, social and academic enrichment opportunities for youth in your community.**  
Foster Care to Success, a national service movement sponsored by Orphan Foundation of America [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)
- **Recognize a person or organization helping foster youth in your community. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in praise of someone making a difference in the life of a child in foster care.**  
National Foster Care Month Toolkit [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)
- **Help young people in foster care (and their caregivers) improve their financial literacy and gain practical money management skills.**  
Foster Youth Money Guides [www.aecf.org/orderpublications.aspx](http://www.aecf.org/orderpublications.aspx)
- **Are you a young person who wants to support other kids? Join a youth-led effort to raise funds and public awareness in your community to benefit kids in foster care and to fight child abuse and neglect.**  
Advocacy Club [www.advocacy.fosterclub.com](http://www.advocacy.fosterclub.com)

- **Make presentations to your faith-based congregation, civic group, PTA, and other neighborhood associations.** Encourage your community to come together to find families and resources that help young people in foster care thrive.  
National Foster Care Month Toolkit [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)
- **Become a virtual mentor for a young person in college.** Expand the circle of support for a youth in foster care as an e-mail/online pen pal.  
Orphan Foundation of America [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)

## if you have a few *weeks*...

- **Child welfare administrators can apply to participate in the Leadership Academy for Middle Managers** to increase their effectiveness in leadership, workforce development and succession planning.  
National Child Welfare Workforce Institute [www.ncwwi.org/midman.htm](http://www.ncwwi.org/midman.htm)
- **Become a licensed respite care provider** as a way of providing support to foster families in your neighborhood.  
National Foster Parent Association [www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)
- **Tutor a child.** Because they must change schools frequently (or sometimes have social/behavioral challenges to overcome), youth in foster care may benefit greatly from extra academic support. See below or contact local foster care agencies, Boys and Girls Clubs, and YMCAs and YWCAs to ask about how to become a volunteer tutor.
- **Help young people in foster care organize a youth leadership or support group.**  
FosterClub [www.fosterclub.org](http://www.fosterclub.org)
- **Encourage business leaders in your community to support young people in foster care.** Ask your company to distribute this *Change a Lifetime* menu of ways to get involved (available for download at [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)) to educate and involve employees and customers. Collaborate with the National Foster Care Month Partners and local child welfare agencies to develop cause-marketing promotions for the month of May and throughout the year.  
Change a Lifetime Menu  
[www.fostercaremonth.org/GetInvolved/ChangeALifeTimeMenu/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fostercaremonth.org/GetInvolved/ChangeALifeTimeMenu/Pages/default.aspx)  
National Foster Care Month Partners  
[www.fostercaremonth.org/TheCampaign/Partners/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fostercaremonth.org/TheCampaign/Partners/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Learn how to help a youth in foster care explore career options, acquire new job skills, and find employment or a résumé-building internship.** Contact the Independent Living Program in your area or visit any of the links below to find more information and how to get involved.  
Locate a State Independent Living Coordinator  
[www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/resources/ilcoords.php](http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/resources/ilcoords.php)

- America's Career Infonet [www.acinet.org/acinet](http://www.acinet.org/acinet)
- America's Job Bank [www.ajb.dni.us](http://www.ajb.dni.us)
- America's Service Locator [www.servicelocator.org](http://www.servicelocator.org)
- CareerVoyages [www.careervoyages.gov](http://www.careervoyages.gov)
- Career One Stop [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- It's My Life [www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/#IML](http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/#IML)
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative [www.jimcaseyyouth.org](http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org)
- Occupational Information Network [www.online.onetcenter.org](http://www.online.onetcenter.org)
- WorkforceUSA.net [www.workforceusa.net](http://www.workforceusa.net)
- Youthrules! [www.youthrules.dol.gov](http://www.youthrules.dol.gov)

## if you have more *time*...

- **Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent.** Caring families are especially needed for older youth, siblings, and children with special needs.  
National Foster Parent Association [www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)  
North American Council on Adoptable Children [www.nacac.org/howtoadopt/AAgencies.html](http://www.nacac.org/howtoadopt/AAgencies.html)  
AdoptUsKids [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)
- **Mentor a young person.** Research shows that children and youth with mentors earn higher grades and improve their relationships with friends and families.  
National Mentoring Partnership [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org)
- **Make a Permanency Pact.** Supportive relationships with caring adults make all the difference in the world especially for older youth leaving the foster care system.  
FosterClub [www.fosterclub.org](http://www.fosterclub.org)
- **Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).** CASA volunteers are trained citizens appointed by judges to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children.  
National CASA [www.nationalcasa.org](http://www.nationalcasa.org)
- **Dedicate yourself to a career that helps children and families by becoming a professional social worker.** If you're right for the job... it's the best job in the world!  
National Association of Social Workers [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)
- **Stay informed year-round.** Be a change agent. Become a member of the National Foster Care Coalition and join leading child welfare agencies and individuals across the country in improving the lives of youth in foster care.  
National Foster Care Coalition [www.nationalfostercare.org/membership/index.php](http://www.nationalfostercare.org/membership/index.php)