



Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley



# Foster Parent Quarterly

July 2019

*When it comes to placement of children, there is a shortage of foster parents willing to take teenagers. This quarters article will give you 10 reasons why it is good to take in teenagers. This information was brought to you by the website [wehavekids.com](http://wehavekids.com)*



## Foster Parents of the Quarter

**Stephannie and Jacob Neumann**

The Neumann’s have been foster parents since February of 2013. Throughout their journey, they have provided care and permanency for three children. They have always gone above and beyond for the children in their care, whether it was driving them to visit family, to counseling, or to any other service necessary for them to flourish and grow.

Each year, the Neumann’s sponsor other children to receive Christmas gifts in YSB’s Star Tree program. They have fulfilled their calling to be foster, and now adoptive parents.

The Neumann’s have decided to close their foster license and are now starting a new chapter in their lives... Stephannie recently received her Bachelor’s Degree and has been hired by Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley in the Homeless Youth Program as a Transitional Living Caseworker.

We are thankful for this family and for Stephannie’s continuation of her work with youth in the community. We cannot say enough about this family’s incredible dedication to children and the youth involved within our agency.



“Like” the agency wide Facebook page, Instagram (ysbiv17), or Twitter (YSBofILValley), or visit our agency website at [www.ysbiv.org](http://www.ysbiv.org).

*If you would like to join our Foster Parent Facebook page please contact Kelley Lumpkin for an invite. She can be reached at [kelleyl@ysbiv.org](mailto:kelleyl@ysbiv.org)*





# 10 Reasons to Foster a Teenager in Foster Care

- 1. *You may become the only family they have.*** Can you imagine aging out of the system with no one and not having family to guide you into early adulthood?
- 2. *You may be able to make that hard time a little easier.*** Foster care is not fun. It's hard and mentally exhausting not knowing how long you will be in that placement. Be that home to make all the negatives just a bit easier.
- 3. *You may be able to show them what a real home is suppose to be like.*** Average foster child is not use to mom cooking, eating at table, scheduled time to do homework. You can give a glimpse of what a home is suppose to be like.
- 4. *You may be able to teach them how not to run when they get scared.*** It's easier to run before things get bad than it is to be hurt or rejected by yet another situation. You can help them learn coping mechanisms.
- 5. *You may be able to show them what is important in life.*** Building relationships, learning politics, finding out about different careers.
- 6. *You may be the only person they will ever be able to trust.*** Imagine being a teenager, now imagine your parents have failed you. The main people you are suppose to be able to trust in life have proven untrustworthy. Give them a chance to trust someone.
- 7. *You may be able to talk them into listening to that counselor they hate so that they don't end up like their parents.*** For some foster children counselors change every time the foster home does. So now 32 placements and 30 counselors later they didn't see the value of listening to their advice. This is an opportunity to help them learn why they should spend some time listening.
- 8. *You may be able to make sure she doesn't have to walk down the aisle alone.*** No one should have to go through these things without someone. Be that someone!
- 9. *You may finally be their last stop in foster care.*** Being a last stop can be the saving grace. You can be the memorable last stop to make all the other stops before it worth it.
- 10. *Or just maybe you can show them that someone out there will love them for just being them!*** Because when it comes down to it, isn't that all that matters? Don't all people deserve to feel loved no matter what?

# Summertime, Summertime, Sum-sum- **SUMMERTIME!** Suggested reading and entertainment for summer...

When was the last time you lost yourself in a good book? If it's been awhile, why don't you make a promise to yourself that this summer you are going to read a book. Did you know that reading has several benefits such as stress relief, mental stimulation, increase knowledge, memory improvement, leads to better writing skills and lastly reading is contagious. Below are suggested books found on [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) under the topic of "foster care, non-fiction". Enjoy!!



- \* **The Connected Child** by *Dr K Purvis*
- \* **The Garbage Bag Suitcase: A Memoir** by *Shanandoah Chefalo*
- \* **On Their Own** by *Martha Shirk*
- \* **Beyond the Foster Care System: The Future for Teens** by *Betsy Krebs*
- \* **The Foster Parenting Toolbox** by *Kim Phagan*
- \* **Breaking the Silence** by *Casey Watson*
- \* **Castaway Kid** by *RB Mitchell*

**“Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are”**

- Mason Cooley

There are also real stories made into movies...



- \* **The Blindside** (with Sandra Bullock)
- \* **Evelyn** (with Pierce Bronson)
- \* **I am Somebody's Child: The Regina Louise Story** (a Lifetime Movie)
- \* **The Fosters** (TV Series)
- \* **Instant Family** (with Mark Wahlberg)

**“Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire”.**

...from the movie 'Schindler's List', the rabbi says to Oskar Schindler

## ***Resources***

**Kane/DuPage  
County**  
Learning Tree

**Will County**  
Heart Haven Out-  
reach/H20

**McHenry/Lake**  
HUG  
(Helping Us Grow)

## ***Parenting Issues/ Concerns***

**All Ages:**  
[parentfurther.com](http://parentfurther.com)  
[healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)

**Birth to 3 years:**  
[zerotothree.org/  
parenting](http://zerotothree.org/parenting)

## ***Recruiting***

Do you know anyone interested in an Informational meeting about fostering? Possibly a church group, social group or just a group of friends to learn more about foster care? Call your licensing worker.



# **Training, Training, Training**

Traditional and Specialized Foster Parents, please remember to check your CPR/First Aid certification expiration date. Most certifications are good for 2 years. Below you will find contact information for different areas in the state to take a refresher course.

<b>Rockford</b>	815-963-8471, 815-874-3514
<b>McHenry</b>	815-347-2853
<b>Fox Lake</b>	630-290-5846
<b>Crystal Lake</b>	815-459-0309
<b>South Elgin</b>	815-893-0207
<b>Aurora</b>	630-256-4000, 630-256-5000
<b>Ottawa</b>	613-580-2588
<b>Princeton</b>	815-875-1861
<b>Addison</b>	630-833-2852
<b>Oakbrook Terrace</b>	312-841-9580
<b>Hinsdale</b>	630-974-6966
<b>Lisle</b>	224-422-4728

