



Consider fostering and take the next step!



Our Kids

Call us at 847-356-3322



Need you!

Join our Families & Foster!



Allendale

Bradley Counseling Center

420 W. Grand Avenue

Lake Villa, IL 60046

*A Quick Guide to One of the Greatest
Gifts You Can Give a Child in Need*

Allendale

**BENEFITS, MYTHS
& FACTS**

**SPECIALIZED
FOSTER
CARE**

www.allendale4kids.org

Did You Know?

There are more than 400,000 children in the U.S. in the foster care system—including 18,000 in IL. While many of these kids live in foster homes, others as a result of the lack of foster homes, remain in residential facilities after completing treatment—like some of the kids in treatment in Allendale's Residential Care & Treatment Program.

Meanwhile, there are people who have long thought about becoming a foster parent, but never followed through. If you're one of them, now's the time to learn what is involved and find out if it's really for you.

Why?

Because there is an urgent need for committed foster parents—and it's the greatest gift you can give a child in need.

Fostering a child is life-changing!

The Benefits of Fostering Youth & Children:

Once placed in secure, structured, loving foster homes, many kids eventually flourish. However, there are many benefits for foster parents and families, too, including the following, expressed by our own foster parents:

- *Seeing the kids' joy and that they are happy, whether in the home permanently or short-term*
- *Making an impact in the lives of Youth in Care and watching them grow, succeed, and thrive*
- *Bringing the foster families closer as a unit, helping them grow, as well, which helps the foster parents and household members be "less judgemental" giving them a new perspective that lets them learn to have more love for the biological families and learn selflessness, compassion by re-evaluating the motives of others*
- *Watching their communities rally to help the foster family with things such as supplies, child care, donations, etc.) - it creates a village!*

Top 3 Myths of Fostering:

Perhaps one of these common misbeliefs have stopped you from exploring fostering in the past. Here's why it's time to dismiss these myths:

- **"Won't Qualify"** – *Actually, foster parents come from all walks of life. You don't need to be married or own a house to qualify. It's more about being committed to helping a child overcome trauma.*
- **"It's Expensive"** – *Actually, foster parents receive monthly board payments to cover food, clothing, allowances, and transportation. Additional funds are often available to cover specific activities as well.*
- **"I'm Not Equipped for This"** – *Actually, foster parents not only receive extensive training, but ongoing clinical and educational support from a team of experts. You'll have someone to call 24/7.*

You are never in this alone!

Facts About our Allendale Foster Kids:

Kids are placed in foster care when their family's home is deemed unsafe as a result of abuse or neglect. Their temporary legal guardianship is assumed by the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) who then contracts with private agencies like Allendale Association.

Allendale Association, a private, not-for-profit, state-licensed child welfare agency, has offered a Specialized Foster Care Program since 1974. It's called "specialized" because our kids need a higher level of care. Often, they've already experienced numerous foster placements and/or received treatment in facilities or hospitals. Some have special medical needs; all have emotional or behavioral issues.

While the children in our program range from 0 to 21 years, it's often older youth who have the greatest need. Although some have come to believe that "nobody wants them," every child deserves to have a place to call home, where they can feel safe and secure to learn, grow and heal.

We are happy to answer any of your questions!

Call our team at **847-356-3322** or visit us at the **Bradley Counseling Center**
420 W. Grand Avenue, Lake Villa, IL 60046-1088

