



NEWS

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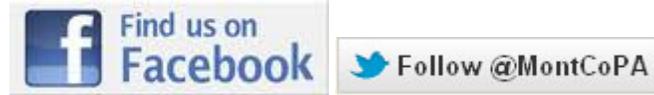
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Caring Parents Explain the Rewards of Foster Parenting in New Videos from Montco Office of Children and Youth

Norristown, PA (June 7, 2013) – *“It is outstandingly rewarding.”*

“It is fun. It is rewarding. It is life-changing.”

“Foster care is not a label for the children. It is a label for the agency, but not for the children. I treat the children I care for like they are my own.”

Those are just a few of the quotes from a series of heartfelt video interviews with persons serving as foster parents under the program operated by the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (OCY). The interviews are available on the Montgomery County YouTube channel. The link is <http://www.youtube.com/user/montgomerycountypa?feature=mhee>.

The Office of Children and Youth is always in need of qualified, dedicated individuals or couples willing to open their homes to provide temporary care to children and to work with birth parents. OCY offers comprehensive orientation and training for prospective foster parents and continues to monitor and provide support to foster parents after they have taken children into their home. The goal of foster care is to provide for a child’s safety and well-being while efforts are made to reunite the child with his or her family.

“Our foster parents come from a wide variety of social and economic backgrounds,” said Laurie O’Connor executive director of OCY. “There is no ‘typical’ foster parent, as the videos we produced demonstrate.”

Becoming a foster parent is easier than one would think. The basic foster parent requirements are:

- Be willing to participate in pre-service foster parent training
- Be at least 21 years old
- Have a home or apartment that meets basic standards as set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW)
- Provide a positive physical and emotional environment for children

Anyone interested in learning more about foster parenting, click on this link:

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=713>, and fill out the Foster Parent Inquiry Form, or contact the OCY foster home recruiter, Bill Carroll, at 610-278-5800 or email him at wcarroll@montcopa.org.