



Foster Care

Compassionate care for foster children who need safe and loving homes



Children Need Safe Homes

More than 25,000 children in Pennsylvania's child welfare system are unable to live with their biological families due to abuse, neglect or behavioral problems. COBYS Family Services places children referred by county agencies in foster homes, where they can receive the love, guidance and nurture they need to grow toward wholeness. Foster children, who range in age from birth to 21 years old, need families to walk with them in the journey to reunification with their biological family or towards adoption with a forever family. Foster families are able to present as an adoptive resource for children who are not able to be safely reunified with their biological family.

Single or married people who are at least 21 years old and able to be positive role models can provide homes and hope for children who need both. While foster care by nature is temporary, foster families can provide a lasting impact in the lives of children impacted by trauma.



By providing love and a healing environment, foster parents walk along side children and their biological families toward the next stage of their life journey.

You Can Do It

In addition to providing a nurturing home environment for their children, foster parents are expected to:

- Create a nurturing family setting considering the child's traumatic experiences and developmental stage.
- Provide transportation to appointments and visits with biological families.
- Seek positive and encouraging relationships with birth families, including facilitating electronic communication with children.
- Participate in ongoing training to better understand and respond to the unique needs of foster children.
- Communicate openly with COBYS staff about the foster child and your family.

Is it time – for you to care for children in Foster Care?



Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS Family Services educates, supports and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential.



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Who We Are

COBYS Family Services is a family service agency motivated by Christian faith, to educate, support and empower children and adults to reach their full potential.

In addition to foster care, the ministries of COBYS include adoption, family life education, counseling, and a permanency program. Based in Lancaster County, COBYS serves children and families in south central Pennsylvania.



To learn more about caring for children in foster care, contact:

COBYS Family Services
Murry Hill Center
444 Murry Hill Circle
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-656-6580
Fax: 717-656-3056
careforkids@cobys.org
www.cobys.org

Services are provided without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age or sex.

Becoming a Foster Family

Becoming a foster family is a major commitment and includes these steps:

1. Attend an orientation session for potential foster families and submit an application.
2. Complete an intensive 27-hour Pre-Service Training Course.
3. Undergo a detailed home study and home safety inspection.
4. Obtain criminal background checks, a physical exams, references and complete other documentation to demonstrate the safety and stability of your home.
5. Specify preferences for age, gender, race, and other characteristics, and provide care when appropriate children are referred.



The COBYS Difference

Caring for foster children presents many challenges to families. The Christian focus of COBYS and manageable caseloads enable us to provide foster families with the help they need to be successful in their ministry. COBYS foster families receive:

- Support from caring professionals, including regular visits, advice, encouragement, and 24-hour emergency access to a caseworker.
- Financial assistance for each child, including a daily financial reimbursement and insurance coverage for the child's medical, dental, prescription, and mental/behavioral health services.
- Therapeutic services from community providers to address the specific needs of children.
- Ongoing training and special events to learn and create relationships with others on the same journey of caring for children in foster care.
- Occasional respite to provide time to nurture marriages and family relationships.

