



COUNTY OF AMHERST

Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

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Foster Families needed in Amherst County

Amherst County Department of Social Services is reaching out to local community leaders in our churches, schools, youth groups and counseling agencies, who are willing and capable of addressing the needs of the increasing number of children in foster care. The County is in need to identify a few good families who have open hearts, minds and homes. The county currently has eight resource families approved, only three of which are actually located in Amherst County. There are currently 19 foster children of all ages with diverse needs.

Foster care is intended to be a temporary rather than a long-term solution for children who have been removed from their birth family homes for reasons of neglect, abuse, abandonment, or other issues endangering their health and/or safety. Every effort is made to help the child remain with his or her family, however, when a child comes into foster care they are most often placed in a foster home. The foster family works as a team with the local department of social services, the biological family, the child (when applicable) and any additional community partners.

The temporary and complex nature of foster care places special demands on foster parents. They are asked to take someone else's child into their home, care for the child and treat the child as a member of their family. The Foster Care Program provides the necessary support and training to enable foster parents to provide daily care and supervision for the child in care. You must be at least 18 years of age or older to be approved as a foster parent. Individuals and/or couples must have the time and energy to give to a child and must meet all the approval requirements.

For more information, please contact Amherst County Department of Social Services at (434)946-9330 or from Layney Sandifer at lesandifer@countyofamherst.com.