

## Who we are

Guided by Catholic values and teachings, the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton serves and offers bilingual (English/French) services to children, youth, and families within the Hamilton community to protect their safety and well-being, strengthen families and nurture lifelong relationships. In 98% of cases, children remain with their families while we work with their caregivers to help them develop the skills necessary to keep their children safe and increase their well-being.



When children and youth cannot remain with their families, we ensure they are cared for within their extended families and communities. If this is not possible, they are placed in foster homes or other settings that can meet their individual needs. We work closely with children, youth, their families and their care providers:

- To reflect the child's unique needs and wishes in their plans of care;
- To provide care that reflects the child's culture, identity and language;
- To connect children and youth to the services and activities they need to thrive;
- To strengthen and maintain important relationships through access and openness;
- To ensure that they find permanency and stability, when they cannot return home, through adoption or legal custody with kin, foster or adoptive parents;
- To work with youth who are in care to achieve success in their educational and life goals.

## Be part of a child's story



Contact **Steve** at **905-525-2012 ext. 3158** or at **steve.wiegand@hamiltonccas.on.ca** to find out more about fostering or to register for a Foster Care Information Webinar. Steve is our Foster Parent Recruitment Coordinator, and can answer all your questions.

### Our shared vision

- Safe and thriving children and youth
- Empowered families
- Stronger communities

905-525-2012  
After hours 905-522-8053  
En Français 1-855-550-3571  
www.hccas.ca  
@ccashamilton



# Become a foster parent

**Children in our community need you! Come Foster with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton.**

# How foster care works

## What is foster care?

- A temporary, alternative home in a caring and supportive family environment.
- The agency assumes guardianship of the child while the child is in foster care.
- The goal is to return the child to their birth family whenever possible.
- If a child is unable to return to their family, then adoption or other permanent plans are made.

## What does becoming a foster parent mean?

- Caring for a child and their physical, spiritual, emotional, and social development
- Advocating for the needs of a child
- Reaching out and guiding a child through their growing years
- Embracing and welcoming a child into the warmth of your safe and secure home

## Foster parent qualities

- The desire and ability to love, nurture and parent a child
- Patience, flexibility, and consistency
- A desire and willingness to learn
- The desire to be part of a child's life story

**Did you know?** Foster children range in age from infants to 18 years old, may be part of a sibling group and come from a variety of cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds.



**Did you know?** In the Hamilton area, there continues to be a number of children in need of foster homes.

## Who can become a foster parent with CCAS of Hamilton?

- You can be single or a couple, with or without your own children
- You do not have to be Catholic, but need to be willing to support a foster child's Catholic beliefs
- You must be at least 21 years of age
- You may own or rent your home
- You must be self-supporting
- You may work outside the home while fostering
- You must submit a vulnerable sector screening report by police and be approved through a Home Study
- You must be willing to work within the guidelines of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

## Care and support

- CCAS provides information, training and support
- Fostering is a team approach including foster parents, CCAS staff and community professionals
- Foster parents receive ongoing financial assistance to care for foster children, including dental, medical and other expenses
- Social workers regularly visit to provide support to foster parents and children
- Pastoral assistance is available to foster parents and the children in their care.
- A foster parent peer support group is available to help foster parents when they need it.

**CCAS is committed to inclusion and equity. We welcome applications from ALL families who want to provide a safe and happy home for children in care.**

