

**40 NEW**  
**CERTIFIED FOSTER FAMILIES**  
NEEDED BY  
**CHRISTMAS**



### WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster Care is a protective service provided to children in custody of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). It provides substitute, temporary care for a period of time when a child must be separated from his or her own parents or relatives. Foster parents play a special role in the life of a child who, because of abuse, neglect, or sexual victimization, needs a safe place to live on a temporary basis.

### WHY SHOULD I BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

With 421 children in foster care in the Baton Rouge Region, we have children of all ages who desperately need a safe and loving home to live in and a foster family who will encourage and support them while they walk through a very traumatic season! This is your opportunity as the Body of Christ to meet an immediate need right here in your community that will impact a child for a lifetime!

### WHAT DOES "FASTTRACK" MEAN?

With a critical shortage of foster homes, local churches are partnering with DCFS to meet a serious need in EBR Parish to certify at least 40 new foster families by Christmas. Fast-Track means that both church partners and DCFS staff will focus on getting families through the certification process as quickly and smoothly as possible and supporting families once children are placed in their homes.



## WHERE DO I START?

FLIP OVER

# WHERE DO I START?

1

Attend the In-Person

## FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING



### Bethany Church

11107 Honore Ln.,  
Baton Rouge, LA, 70809

**Sunday, Oct. 9**

2:00pm - 3:30pm

For more information on becoming a certified foster parent, [register at the website below](#). If you cannot attend, contact a Liaison for more options.

[tinyurl.com/fosterparentorientation](https://tinyurl.com/fosterparentorientation)

2

Attend 24 hours of In-Person

## FOSTER PARENT PRE-SERVICE TRAINING



### Bethany Church

11107 Honore Ln., Baton Rouge, LA, 70809

ON THE FOLLOWING 2 WEEKENDS

**Friday, Oct. 14**

5:15pm - 9:00pm

**Saturday, Oct. 15**

8:30am - 2:30pm

**Sunday, Oct. 16**

1:30pm - 6:00pm

**Friday, Oct. 21**

5:15pm - 9:00pm

**Saturday, Oct. 22**

8:30am - 2:30pm

**Sunday, Oct. 23**

1:30pm - 6:00pm

This training (and the entire certification process) is **FREE**, and childcare and food will be provided at the in-person trainings. If you are married, both spouses must attend the trainings.

[tinyurl.com/fosterparentfastrack](https://tinyurl.com/fosterparentfastrack)

## What are some of the requirements to becoming certified as a foster parent that I should know about?

While all foster parent certification requirements will be discussed at the Orientation Meeting, it is important to know that in addition to attending the 24 hours of in-person pre-service training and completing 6 hours of homework, you must be at least 21 years of age, have adequate space in your home for an additional child, participate in a home study process, be financially stable (able to meet your own family's needs), complete 6 hours of online training, complete medical exams on each household member, obtain references, and complete fingerprinting clearances and pass state registry and federal criminal clearances for all household members over the age of 18.

## What if I have more questions?

If you have questions, or you are interested in more information about becoming a foster parent, please contact:

### Church Partner Liaison

Melody Weaver

spadmin@pelicancenter.org  
(225) 312 - 3393

### DCFS Liaison

Kerri Byrd

Kerri.Byrd.DCFS@LA.GOV  
(318) 540 - 9328



For more general information on foster parenting go to:

<https://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/page/525> or <http://www.louisianafosters.la.gov/page/foster>.