

Elkhart County Foster & Adoptive Family

Support Services



In-Person Foster & Adoption Support Groups

1. Foster the Family Support Group- Goshen

Parents are able to connect and earn a CE credit. The indoor playground is open and available for kids to play. Snacks are provided.

When: 3rd Saturday of the month from 1pm-2pm

Where: The Park at Grace Community Church, 20076 County Road 36, Goshen, IN 46526.

Contact: fosterthefamilygoshen@gmail.com

Facebook: Foster the Family Support Group - Goshen

2. Elkhart Family Alliance- "Foster Love"- Elkhart

Adoptive and Foster parents can share, connect, and earn a CE credit. Childcare and dinner are provided.

When: The 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 6pm-8pm

Where: Crossroads Community Church, 57415 Alpha Dr. Goshen, IN 46528.

Contact: Email Michelle Smith at Michelle@team-smith.org

Facebook: Foster Love: Foster and Adoptive Family Support Group

3. Welcome Home Youth Advocacy- "Fostering Hope"- Elkhart

Adoptive & Foster parents are welcome to share, support and build community. Training credits may be available. Childcare and dinner are provided.

When: The 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 5pm-6:30pm

Where: Heart City Church, 303 S Third St., Elkhart, IN 46516

Contact: Call 574-564-5485 or email Mike Sheaffer at mikes@welcomehomeyouth.org

Facebook: Welcome Home Youth Advocacy

4. Foster & Adoptive Families Support Group- Nappanee

All Adoptive & Foster families are welcome. Safely share successes and struggles in your foster/adoptive journey, and encourage and learn from each other as we focus on God's Word. Occasional training opportunities are available. No sign-up needed, drop-ins welcome. Led by Phil & Jenny Ummel.

When: Wednesday Nights (August - May) from 6:45-8pm

Where: Nappanee Missionary Church in Room: C 184.

Contact: Email Hilary Jarrell at HilaryJarrell@nmc.church or nmc.church/wednesdays -> Regular Electives -> Foster and Adoptive Families Support Group

5. Lifeline Youth & Family Services - in-person & online

For the full list of groups and calendar, visit <https://lifelineyouth.org/support-groups/>

Post-Adoption/Post-Guardianship Support Services

Supporting parents across our state, Lifeline helps children and parents re-stabilize and connect to services within the community. Services are voluntary and provided in-home at least 1x/week, at no cost to the family.

Contact: Email agssinfo@lifelineyouth.org or visit <https://lifelineyouth.org/agss/> for more information.

Additional Resources

Oaklawn Crisis Services

574-533-1234 Option 1

See www.oaklawn.org for more details.

Indiana Adoption Support Group

On Facebook, administrated by Lifeline Youth & Family Services.

RAD - Reactive Attachment Disorder Advocates

Supports families with kids experiencing developmental trauma disorder/RAD, and helps link families with professional help.

www.radadvocates.com

Village to Village:

HALO TBRI Program

Equips kids and caregivers with tools and resources to bring hope & healing.

Learn & practice TBRI skills and strategies.

www.villagetovillageintl.com/halo/

Adoptive & Foster Friendly Activities

Low & No-Cost Ways to Find Some Fun!

1. Foster Friendly App

Explore features such as: Discounts from businesses supporting foster families, connections to faith communities offering trauma-aware support, and access to foster closets, events, and other community resources.

Setting Up and Using the Foster Friendly App:

1. Open the Google Play Store (for Android) or the App Store (for iOS) on your device.
2. Search for Foster Friendly in the search bar.
3. Select the app titled Foster Friendly by America's Kids Belong.
4. Tap Install (on Android) or Get (on iOS) to download and install the app.
5. Once installed, open the app from your home screen or app drawer.
6. Allow necessary permissions, such as Location Services, for the app to function optimally.
7. Create an account or log in using your credentials.

2. South Bend Children's Museum - 2632 S Michigan St.

General Admission: \$5/person during open play sessions is (free for lap babies).

Foster Families: FREE Admission

Museums for All - \$1 admission for up to 6 people per household with valid EBT card.

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 10am-4pm Sat - 10am-2pm Sun -1pm-5pm

If you are worried about crowds, give us a call ahead at 574-222-2044.

<https://www.childrensmuseumofsouthbend.org/>

3. Indianapolis Children's Museum (Included on the App):

Licensed Foster Parents: FREE Admission

Adoptive Parents: No longer holding a foster license?- State offered insurance will mean you qualify too for an Access Pass: \$5.00 admission each, for up to two adults and dependent children. Apply online or in person for the Access Pass. It offers reduced admission to Indiana cultural attractions. Qualifying families can visit numerous museums and performing arts venues for just \$5 per person, per visit.

Access Pass Info & Application:

<https://www.childrensmuseum.org/community/community-access/access-pass>

4. Michiana Family Center Programs:

Activities: See their website for upcoming free events for foster, adoptive, and kinship families: [Michiana Family Center | Events](#) (E.G. Pumpkin patch, roller skating, etc.)

Michiana Mentors: This program pairs foster and adopted youth with local, caring adult volunteers who walk along-side them, providing wisdom, advice, encouragement, and love. Mentors are advocates, teachers, guides, role models, valued friends, and available resources. Learn more or apply at:

<https://michianafamilycenter.org/michiana-mentors>

**Scan the QR Code to access this document and all links electronically or go to thesourceeelkharthartcounty.org/f&asupport.*

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Additional Resources cont'd

Behavioral Support Partners

Provides consultation and personal coaching for parents & educators to help navigate behaviors, establish healthy relationships and cultivate resilience.

BehavioralSupportPartners.com

Families Rising

familiesrising.org

Center for Adoption Support Education C.A.S.E.

adoption-support.org

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

davethomasfoundation.org

National Council for Adoption

adoptioncouncil.org

Creating a Family

creatingafamily.org

