

Private Foster Care  
that is...



## Faith Based

We were made in the image of God, but sin has caused us to be separated from God and broken by the world. All that we do flows from our desire to reflect the love of God and seek healing through a relationship with Him.

## Trauma Informed

We live in a broken world, and nowhere is this more evident than in children who have experienced trauma. Abuse, neglect, loss and other forms of maltreatment result in children who are truly harassed and helpless.

Traumatic experiences in a child's life leave them vulnerable and exposed. They are often left to learn how to deal with distress on their own, resulting in ineffective coping skills and an inability to manage difficult emotions. Potter Children's Home provides a safe, secure spiritual environment to assist these children as they examine the impact of past experiences and learn new skills.

## Free of Charge

Families who are seeking help for their child are often limited in their options because of the cost of a treatment program. Because of the generous donations of churches and individuals, we are able to offer quality care at no cost to the family.

# Reflections

*from our residents and families*

"Being at Potter has helped me to make friendships easier, helped with my sense of belonging to a family and helped with my self-esteem."

**Foster Child, 17**

"Being a part of a foster family has helped me because my foster parents are always there for me even if I am going through a really bad time or am really angry or upset."

**Foster Child, 13**

"I have such peace knowing that my grandkids are being well-taken care of even though I was reaching a point in my life where I could not do it anymore. They are all thriving and I am enjoying my role as grandparent."

**Placing Grandparent**

Contact us for ways to be involved or to learn more about our ministries!



# FOSTER CARE



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries  
2350 Nashville Road  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
270-843-3038

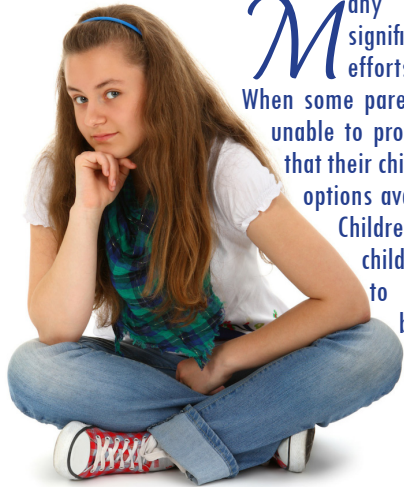
[www.potterministries.org](http://www.potterministries.org)

The Mission of Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries is to be used as a tool in the hands of supporting churches of Christ and individual Christians to deliver God's justice and mercy to children and families in need.

A ministry of  
Potter Children's Home



## WHY FOSTER CARE?



Many families experience significant challenges in their efforts to raise children. When some parents find that they are unable to provide the level of care that their child needs, there are few options available to them. Potter Children's Home, a licensed child placing agency, exists to assist these families by providing a foster home to school-aged children.

## HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

**Private Placement** As compared to foster care agencies that provide care to state-committed children, Potter's ministry is private. Because of this the family can maintain custody of the child while the Potter staff manages the day-to-day care of the child. This allows for the family to remain in close contact and seek to resolve issues that resulted in the placement without court involvement.

**Faith-Based** Children in our foster care program are exposed to Biblical values on a regular basis through regular devotionals in the home, attendance at church services and involvement in youth group activities. All of our families attend churches of Christ.

**Full-Time Foster Parents** Both parents in the foster home are full-time employees of the agency and their homes are located on our campus. This allows the foster parents to attend regular trainings and receive a high level of support.

**Counselor on Campus** Our agency employs a full-time counselor for the foster care program. This not only allows children to receive therapy on an as-needed basis, but also assists the foster families in providing continuity of care based on the needs of each child. When indicated specialized counseling will be made available.

*O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,*  
Psalm 10:17-18

## WHO QUALIFIES?

Children who need a higher level of care than their current placement can provide may be referred to our program. Some children are placed with relatives who are unable to provide for their daily needs because of financial, health or other reasons. In these situations Potter allows the family to maintain custody and continue to be connected rather than relinquish their rights to a state foster care system. The child can remain in the program until they achieve independence.

Other children have behavioral challenges in the home, whether because of traumatic experiences in their past or difficulty in the family system. In these situations the child can be placed in a safe environment with a balance of structure and nurture while they and their family learn new coping skills and ways of relating to one another.

## WHO DOESN'T QUALIFY?

Our program is a voluntary program and therefore is not designed to work with children who require a high level of structure. Children who are a threat to themselves or others, who are aggressive toward peers or authority figures, or who are a threat to run away are not a good fit for our program. Our program is not designed to treat children with significant mental health diagnoses, such as conduct disorder or schizophrenia.

## HOW TO APPLY?

Referrals to this program may be made by families, church leaders, service agencies or other individuals who believe our services would be appropriate for a child. For more information or to apply for the program, please visit our website at:

[www.potterministries.org](http://www.potterministries.org)



## What We Provide:

While a child is in our program, we provide the following services at no cost to the family:

- On campus foster home
- Full-time foster parents
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Case Management
- Goal-based treatment planning
- Opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities
- Transition to Independent Living

## Guidelines/Expectations

Each resident is expected to:

- Participate in family-based living, including chores and laundry
- Be respectful of foster parents and other family members and their needs
- Participate in counseling, whether individual, family or group
- Attend Church services with the foster family at a local church of Christ
- Maintain a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free environment

Each family is expected to:

- Participate in family counseling aimed at reunification
- Attend quarterly treatment planning meetings
- Maintain contact with child aimed at resolving conflicts and improving relationship.