

FOSTER CARE



Shelter, Inc.

Shelter's Services

Emergency, Traditional and Home-of-Relative Foster Care

Foster care for children from birth through age 17.

Boys Group Home, Palatine

The only emergency group home for boys ages 11 through 17 in the Northwest Suburbs.

Jennings Group Home for Girls, Schaumburg

Emergency housing for girls ages 11 through 17.

Older Adolescent Group Home, Arlington Heights

The only group home for 16- and 17-year-old boys in the Northwest Suburbs focusing on independent living skills.

Healthy Families Program

Home visitation and parenting education program for first-time parents. The only Healthy Families program in the Northwest Suburbs.

Community Education

Public awareness concerning child abuse, neglect, and other social problems directly impacting children and their families.

Prior to Shelter's establishment in 1975, abused, neglected and dependent children and adolescents from the Northwest Suburbs who needed emergency housing were removed from their communities, schools, and friends. Through Shelter's services, these children and adolescents are now cared for in a community setting and attend their own schools whenever possible. Thus, the trauma of separation from family during a crisis is lessened when the child or adolescent remains close to familiar surroundings.

Shelter has three foster care programs for children and adolescents from birth through age 17. **Emergency Foster Care** is a short-term program. When it is not in the best interest of children to return home, the second choice is **Home-of-Relative Foster Care**, which gives children a sense of identity and belonging. If relatives are not available, then children are placed in **Traditional Foster Care**, where the caretakers are not related to the children.

Regardless of the program, foster care is not a permanent solution for the children in our care. If reunification with their families is not an option, children may be adopted or relatives may become their guardians.



Emergency Foster Care

A Community-based Resource for Families in Crisis

Our Emergency Foster Care Program is the only program of its kind in the Northwest Suburbs and can be accessed by any child or adolescent in the community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This service is for families who are experiencing a crisis that impacts on their ability to care for their children, such as:

- Eviction
- Divorce
- Unemployment
- Parental hospitalization
- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- Abuse and neglect

As part of the Emergency Foster Care Program, families, with the assistance of foster care caseworkers, work to resolve the problems that brought the children or adolescents into placement so that they can be reunited as quickly as possible.

Referral and Placement

Referrals to Shelter's Emergency Foster Care Program are made by:

- Social service agencies
- School or medical personnel
- Police departments
- Parents
- Clergy
- Concerned citizens
- Adolescents (self-referrals)

Children and adolescents receive emergency housing services with parental consent or with other legal permission.

***For more information about
Shelter's foster care programs, please contact our
Foster Care Department at 847.255.8060.***

Shelter's foster care programs provide:

- Physical examinations by a medical doctor for each child
- Recruitment and licensing of foster families by Shelter staff
- Foster parent training
- Supervision by Shelter caseworkers
- Reunification of children and their families whenever possible

Shelter is:

- accredited by the Council on Accreditation
- licensed by the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- governed by a board of directors

Shelter is supported by funds from Elk Grove, Palatine, Schaumburg, Vernon, and Wheeling townships; United Way; municipalities; corporations; foundations; private donations; the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; and the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Shelter's Mission

Helping and protecting children who are abused, neglected, dependent or in need of supervision. We do this by:

- Providing 24-hour emergency and longer-term care
- Creating community awareness and education to prevent such abuse and neglect
- Promoting healthy families to reduce child abuse and neglect

**For emergency housing for children and adolescents
24 hours a day, 365 days a year, please call:
847.255.8060**



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