

In Touch with Fostering Futures NY



2015: A Year of 'Firsts'

Welcome to the first edition of the Fostering Futures NY newsletter. We hope it will be a source of information and inspiration for those of you who have expressed an interest in our program. The purpose of FFNY is to recruit, screen, train and coordinate teams of volunteers from the community to offer practical supports to foster families such as meals, household chores, and enrichment activities with the children, etc. Over time, friendships develop and the team becomes a supportive "extended family" for foster parents and children.

As the end of 2015 approaches, we can look back on a year of many "firsts."

- Our **first** volunteer FFNY team, based at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in North Greenbush, completed orientation and training in this past spring. Four more teams have been trained since then.
- Our **first** foster family was referred by St. Catherine's Center for Children. The family included 12 kids: two biological children, six adopted children and a foster sibling group of two. As the year ends, FFNY teams are assisting five foster families and 31 children.
- At its **first** meeting in April, our Advisory Board expressed enthusiastic support for the program.
- Our **first** fundraising event was held at the Provence Restaurant, which generously donated the room and staff services.

These milestones were reached only through the support of our community. We are eager to work with communities of faith, businesses, and organizations to develop a unique partnership program that works for everyone. Are you, your business, or organization passionate about serving the foster children of our community? FFNY is always seeking caring volunteers and offers a variety of ways to get involved. Find out more [here](#).

Thanks to our FFNY teams!

Active teams are based at these communities of faith: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, North Greenbush First Reformed Church of Schenectady, Delanson United Methodist Church, Lynnwood Reformed Church, Guilderland (two teams)

... and thanks to our partner agencies

Foster families are being referred for the FFNY program by these agencies: Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families; Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth; Northern Rivers Family Services; Northeast Parent and Child Society; Parsons Child and Family Center; Rensselaer County Department of Social Services; St. Catherine's Center for Children; and Schenectady County Office of Children and Family Services.

What People Are Saying

“Cindy” (not her real name) and her husband have fostered more than 150 children in 22 years. Last year, they were approaching burnout. “I thought we were going to have give up fostering,” Cindy said. Now the family’s FFNY team helps out with grocery shopping, preparing an occasional meal, and providing an extra set of hands in a very busy home. While previously Cindy felt isolated, she now has a list of ten people to call when she needs help, and it’s made all the difference.

Darlene, a team member, wrote: “As I sat last night playing cards with one of our family’s children while another put my hair into seven pony tails, I just found myself smiling. The project is a joy in and of itself, but what an added gift it is that there is also a benefit to a stressed child welfare system and its foster parents, to our community and our congregation, and of course, to a child.”



Make A Donation

Your gift will help support foster families and children

FFNY relies on grants and donations from generous corporations, foundations, and individuals. Our goal is to double the number of volunteer teams in 2016. Your support will make it possible for FFNY to reach out and impact the lives of more foster families and youth in our community. Please give today, whether as an individual or on behalf of a corporation. You’ll be keeping the local community strong, you’ll invest in the next generation, and you’ll make a positive impact on the lives of those who need it the most.

Donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions to a 501c(3) nonprofit organization.

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