

# COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROGRAM

The goal of the Community Resource Program is to link foster youth with people, groups and programs in the communities where they live in order to increase their success upon discharge.

Additionally, the program focuses on increasing independent living skills for youth to prepare them for the challenges they face when leaving the foster care system at 18 years of age.

## *Independent Living*

The Independent Living program provides direction to the entire team and clearly defines the skills and steps needed to move youth toward independence. Several areas are emphasized, these include:

- ♡ Financial Literacy
- ♡ Employment Skills
- ♡ Education Skills
- ♡ Housing Skills

Each summer we offer Camp Kare which is a 9-week program that works to enhance the above mentioned independent living skills. Through an in depth life simulation, youth have an opportunity to learn and practice increasing skills in a safe and fun environment. To learn more go to [www.americanfoundationonline.org/resources.php](http://www.americanfoundationonline.org/resources.php) and select the Camp Kare brochure.



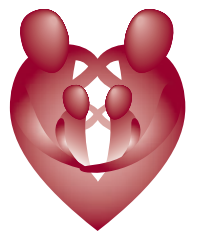
## *Transitional Living*

An independent transitional living plan is created for each youth who will be exiting foster care. The plan is coordinated with the entire treatment team, Independent Living program and the treatment plan. The focus adapts to individual needs of each youth and is determined by their goals.

Youth who are aging out of foster care may often remain in the program on waiver, until they attain the age of 19 or graduate from high school.

Our program offers some specific services to youth who turn 18 and “age-out” of foster care. These include:

- ♡ **Starter kits** - that provide various items needed for youth to begin living on their own (ex. sheets, towels, pot & pans, etc.)
- ♡ **Micro-loans** - that are available for youth on a case-by-case basis and are designed to help them with their transition to adulthood and independent living. For example, loans could be given for an apartment down payment, school tuition, transportation, etc.

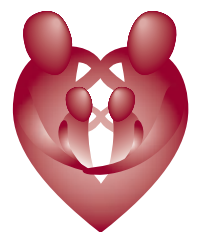
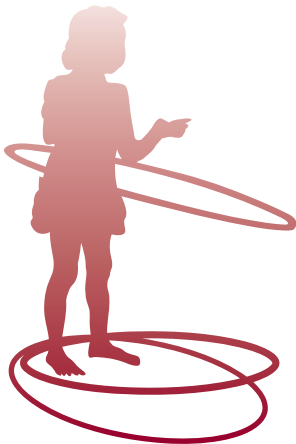


# S E R V I C E S

# THERAPEUTIC

**Our staff work with the child and foster family and approach treatment with the following concepts:**

- ♡ ***Respectful Interactions*** - The entire team is involved, with the youth in finding solutions.
- ♡ ***Perseverance*** - We do what it takes to maintain stability, and problem solve for each child.
- ♡ ***Consistency and Structure*** - A hallmark of our services, and what is needed as a base for healthy growth and change.
- ♡ ***Teaching - Youth & Families*** - Our staff support the foster family to build a healthy foundation and home for each child. This is done by assessing the foster family's needs and providing on-going support and skill development opportunities. Youth learn through feedback, natural consequences and positive reinforcement.
- ♡ ***Therapeutic Parenting*** - The treatment team works with the foster family and coaches them on therapeutic parenting techniques, and focuses on increasing these skills.
- ♡ ***Individual/Group Therapy*** - Therapy is provided by case managers and therapists. However, a child may be referred to AFCS Outpatient Services for a specific therapy service such as; treatment of eating disorders, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Autism spectrum disorder, mood disorders, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), as well as others.
- ♡ ***Psychological Testing*** - our "in house" Psychologist is able to provide comprehensive psychological assessments. Testing is provided for learning disabilities, behavioral problems, ADD & ADHD, depression, and more.



# P R O G R A M TRAINING

**Our foster care program has a state certified trainer on staff and provides ongoing training to foster parents. The training includes:**

**State mandated training for foster families**

♡ *Wisconsin Preplacement Training*

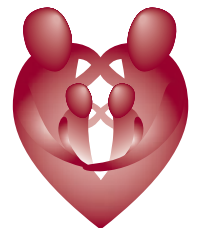
♡ *Wisconsin Foundation Training* - (foster parents must complete this before a child can be placed in their home)



**Additional training includes access to resources on:**

- ♡ Child specific training
- ♡ Need specific training
- ♡ Trauma and trauma informed care
- ♡ Ongoing training for foster families

***NOTE:*** Every attempt is made to offer foster families cutting-edge training



# S E R V I C E S

# MENTORING

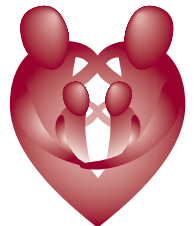
**Our mentoring program matches responsible, caring adults who serve as positive role models with foster youth who can benefit from a one-on-one relationship. These relationships strengthen the youths' ability to:**

- ♡ *Increase social skills*
- ♡ *Develop trusting relationships*
- ♡ *Practice good communication skills*
- ♡ *Enhance self-concept and image*
- ♡ *Learn independent living skills*



**We have two types of mentors:**

- ♡ *Volunteer mentors* - are adults who are committed to spending time with, teaching and modeling positive behaviors with foster children.
- ♡ *Therapeutic mentors* - are professionals who bring specific skills to the mentor relationship, and who may be included on the treatment team.

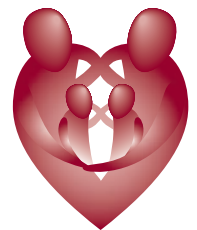


# M A N A G E M E N T

# CASE

**One of the key components to the success of our foster care program is the support given to each child and foster family. Services provided include:**

- ♡ *Weekly contact with foster parents*
- ♡ *Treatment plans and progress reports*
- ♡ *Crisis intervention with 24 hour access to foster care staff*
- ♡ *Collaboration with schools and other parties*
- ♡ *Coordination of service providers*
- ♡ *Strength-based focus with individualized interventions*
- ♡ *Team approach*



# A S S E S S M E N T

# EVALUATION &

**Two evaluation and assessment tools are used:**

1) *Comprehensive Child & Adolescent Needs & Strengths* (CANS) Tool

2) *Exceptional Rate Assessment Scale*

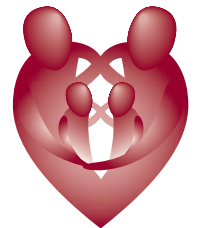
All foster care staff are certified in administering the CANS Tool. Each assigned staff works with county workers to assess every child coming into the program. The CANS Tool must be completed within 30 days of placement into a foster home and each child is re-evaluated every six months.



Our program administers an Exceptional Rate Assessment that further defines each child's exceptional needs and is used, in collaboration with referring counties, to establish a level of care, rate and treatment plan.

Both assessment tools focus on the child and their individual needs and strengths. To learn more, visit the Levels of Care page on the WI Department of Children and Families website:

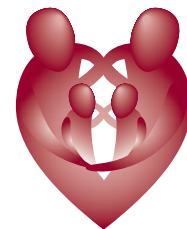
[http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/levels\\_of\\_care/default.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/levels_of_care/default.htm).



# SATELLITE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

**Our educational services provide school districts with an off-site education option designed to serve children who are not able to attend public school. This service is instrumental in providing an opportunity for youth to continue their education.**

*Individualized instruction is provided - within curriculum guidelines - by a state certified teacher.*



# S E R V I C E S

# RESPITE CARE

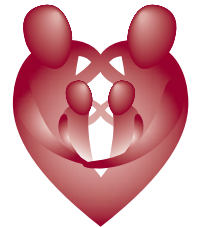
## *Respite Services to Families*

Respite services give foster families an often needed break from caring for a foster child. This important service helps to maintain foster children in their current placements. All children served in respite are placed with one of our qualified respite providers.

The standard respite provided to each foster family is up to two weekends per month for Levels 3 and 4 youth. In case of family emergencies, our staff works to ensure treatment will continue uninterrupted.

## *Contracted Respite Care Services*

Our program can also provide contracted respite care services to counties, or other agencies, independent of our foster care program.



# AFTER CARE P L A N S

Our program will work directly with counties to develop and implement an after care plan that is tailored to the individual needs of each child. After care plans may include any service deemed necessary to aid families and children in achieving successful outcomes.

