



Did you know that Hastings Children's Aid Society has three locations, which includes a main office in Belleville and two branch offices in Quinte West and Bancroft? The Society is a local, non-profit organization run by a local board of fifteen directors, all of whom are volunteers. The board is elected with the exception of two appointed members, one representing the Foster Parent Association, the other representing the Mohawk Tyendinaga Territory.

Hastings Children's Aid Society (Hastings CAS) is composed of more than 370 dedicated professionals, foster families and volunteers that are committed to carrying on the tradition of care and compassion toward children that originated over a century ago. With over 400 children in the care of the Hastings CAS today, it is imperative that we work in collaboration with foster parents and volunteers and continue to serve our children in need.

We encourage you, upon reviewing this pamphlet, to contact the Children's Aid Society in your community and speak to a trained professional if you would like to learn more about fostering or adopting a child. On behalf of Hastings Children's Aid Society and our children in care, thank you!

What is PRIDE? (Parent Resources Information Development Education)

PRIDE is a model for the development and support of foster and adoptive families. It was designed to strengthen the quality of foster care and adoption services by providing a standardized, structured framework for recruiting, preparing and selecting foster and adoptive parents. It also provides foster parent training and ongoing professional development.

Foster and adoptive families should be qualified, prepared, developed, selected and approved to work as part of a professional team equipped to protect and nurture children and strengthen families.

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is an option for a child's placement. This option allows children, who have been ordered into the care and custody of the Society, to be placed with a relative, an extended family member or a member of the child's community. The kin family provides the child full-time care, protection and nurturing. They are treated as a resource placement and are therefore assessed, approved and receive training and support from the Society.

Society Contact Information

To learn more about Hastings Children's Aid Society's fostering and adoption process please refer to our website, www.hastingscas.org. or visit the "Winning Kids" site at www.fosteradoptwinningkids.com

About Winning Kids

The **Winning Kids** website is a result of twelve child welfare agencies in Eastern Ontario collaborating to encourage people in Eastern Ontario to foster or adopt the children and youth in care in our region. On average, the twelve Children's Aid Societies are responsible for the care of approximately three thousand (3000) children and youth. The **Winning Kids** website is funded by the Children's Aid Foundation and links each of these child welfare agencies.



Head Office

363 Dundas Street West, Belleville
For all inquiries contact: 613 962-9291

Quinte West 613 965-6261

North Hastings 613 332-2425

www.hastingscas.org

www.fosteradoptwinningkids.com

WHAT IS

fostering
& adoption?



Where Do You Begin?

Following your initial inquiry and at home consult meeting, if you and your worker decide to proceed, you will complete a formal application and you will be invited to attend PRIDE, a pre-service training for prospective foster and adoptive applicants.

What Is Foster Care?

Foster care is a protective service for children from infant to eighteen years of age where they are provided with a substitute family life experience in a Society approved home for a planned period of time, which may be a few days, a week, several months or possibly, years. The primary goal is to work toward a plan to return the child to their family of origin and if this is not possible, then a permanent plan will be developed for the child's placement.

Who Can Foster?

Children in the care of Hastings CAS have diverse needs and backgrounds. It is important that the Society recruit foster families with a range of knowledge and ability in order to effectively match families and children. It is equally important that foster families possess patience, flexibility and tolerance. Foster families may come from a variety of cultural, racial and religious backgrounds as well as a variety of age groups but must be of legal age.

If you are a family with young or adult children or no children at all, a single or divorced parent or one stay at home parent or both parents working and have a love for children you can apply to become a foster parent.

An educational background or experience in a child related field is an asset but not a requirement.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Preserve a safe and supportive family setting
- Meet child's daily needs and develop strong family relationships
- Maintain a positive and professional working relationship with Society
- Willingness to participate in learning opportunities

Foster Family Support

- 24-hour crisis support
- Support services your foster child may need such as counselling and tutoring
- Ongoing mutual support from other foster parents
- Worker support for foster families and foster children
- Regular relief from fostering for you and your family

Did You Know Teens Need A Family?

Did you know sharing your family can give a teen the opportunity they need to thrive? Teens need to be part of a family and they need someone who will listen. Fostering a teen means you will have an assigned worker focusing on you and your foster teen, that CAS will provide training and support and teen focused parenting programs.

Did You Know Babies Need Homes?

You may not realize there are babies, up to two years old that may need a foster family. Fostering a baby means you will also have an assigned resource worker exclusively focusing on you and your child and CAS will also provide training and support. Fostering a baby or a teen could be your best option. Please contact CAS if you would like to learn more.

What Is Adoption?

Adoption is a life long process. It is not a one-time occurrence but an event that will have ongoing effects on the child, birth parents, adoptive parents and extended birth and adoptive family members throughout their life cycle.

Children in need of an adoptive family may be over the age of 4 or older, have special needs or be part of a sibling group. They have a history of separation, loss and/or abuse.

Who Can Adopt?

You don't have to be young, married, childless or wealthy to adopt a child from Hastings Children's Aid Society. You don't have to go to a certain church or have a certain education. You just have to be a special person with special skills.

If you have realistic expectations; a genuine respect for birth parents; an understanding of loss issues for both birth parents and child; an acceptance of child differences; a network of support whether adopting as a single person or a couple; a sense of spirituality and inner strength; a sense of humour; an ability to meet your own personal needs and an ability to provide an accepting, nurturing and stable environment for children, you can be a successful adoptive parent.

Financial Reimbursement

Category	Basic Rate Per Day	Relief Daily Rate
Regular Foster Care	\$29.40 per child	\$1.69 per child
Specialized Foster Care	\$41.09 per child	\$2.49 per child
Emergency Receiving	\$57.32 per child	\$2.49 per child
Treatment Foster Care	\$65.65 per child	\$3.88 per child

Note: The rates listed may vary slightly and should be confirmed with Hastings Children's Aid Society.

In addition to these rates, foster parents are also provided with a daily care allowance which includes clothing, recreational activities etc.

Certain costs are deemed to be reimbursable. ie. prescription medications.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Maintain a positive and professional working relationship with the Society during adoption process
- Demonstrate genuine respect for birth parents and accept child differences
- Provide a lifetime of acceptance, nurturing and stability for children
- Support possibility of openness as an approach with child's birth family

Post Adoption Reimbursement

In some adoption placements arranged by the Children's Aid Society, a financial agreement may be approved to assist parents who wish to adopt a child or children with special needs. The amount will vary depending on circumstances, which may include medical and related costs not covered by Ministry of Health; therapeutic counselling, essential home renovations to accommodate a child's disability or remedial education.

Adoptive Family Support

- Worker support for adoptive family and child during adoption process
- Post adoption education
- Ongoing communication.