The mission of Angels Foster Care is to match abused, abandoned, and neglected young children with selected foster parents, keep them in one home until adoption or reunification occurs, and ensure the maximum emotional, social, and intellectual development of each child.

*Angels*

Foster Care of
Santa Barbara

# WHEN the BOUGH *BREAKS*

Every year, more than 135 babies and toddlers enter Santa Barbara County's foster care system due to abuse, neglect and abandonment. Because of an overburdened foster care system, some are moved from one home to another before they take their first step, and many suffer physically and emotionally. Without individual and consistent attention, they incur social and emotional problems that may impact them, and our community, throughout their lives. But with your help, a local child's life can be changed forever.

# FOSTERING a *FUTURE* for LOCAL BABIES and TODDLERS

Angels Foster Care is a non-profit organization that recruits, trains and certifies foster families for children from birth through age five. Babies placed with our foster families are stabilized in one home for a period of days or months while a judge determines what will become the permanent plan for the child. Angels' primary goal is to prevent attachment problems in the children we serve by ensuring our children learn important bonding behaviors from their foster parents.

# HOW DOES FOSTER CARE *WORK?*

Santa Barbara County's Child Welfare Services calls Angels Foster Care when they have a baby or toddler who was removed from an unsafe home and needs a family to love and care for them. Because we know our families very well, we are able to match each child with a waiting Angels foster family. While the family takes care of the child, Angels social workers provide support and education to the foster family, oversee all visitation and legal aspects of each child's case, and work with all parties involved including biological relatives, foster families, child welfare workers, attorneys and CASA representatives.

# *LOVING* and QUALIFIED CAREGIVERS are NEEDED

Healthy development during infancy and early childhood depends on the continuous presence of a responsive, nurturing caregiver. If your family loves children, enjoys parenting and has appropriate space for a child, we need you! Short-term, long-term and foster-to-adopt placements are available. Contact us today to find out more about the Angels program.

# WHAT is ANGELS LOOKING for in a *FOSTER FAMILY?*

• A family with the ability to parent full-time.

• Commitment to caring for an Angels child until he or she is out of the foster care system.

• Willingness to accept only one foster child or sibling group.

• Families able to provide emergency/shelter care (typically 1 month in duration), foster care (typically 1-12 months in duration) or foster-to-adopt care (typically 12-24 months in duration through completion of the adoption).

# DID *YOU* KNOW?

• Yes, date nights are possible and encouraged! Foster families may use a trusted babysitter 18 years or older (no fingerprinting necessary).

• Angels foster families may travel with their foster child.

• Foster families remain completely confidential. Visitation between foster children and their families is facilitated by county staff or Angels Foster Care.

• Foster children are adopted through closed adoptions.

• A judge determines a permanent plan for each foster child within 12-18 months. If the child is available for adoption, and your family is interested, Angels will support you through the process. There is no charge to adopt through the Angels program.

•More than 50% of Angels placements result in adoption by the foster family.

•There are only minimal fees associated with becoming a certified foster parent.

# ANGELS *FAMILY* STORY

"We are fortunate to have family members and friends who are foster parents. They showed us what fostering is like firsthand and how there is an urgent need for families to open their homes to a child. We both love children and enjoy being parents. So, once we saw how a family like ours could help, the decision was very easy!

Angels Foster Care appealed to us for many reasons. Angels is dedicated to keeping very young children in one home during their time in foster care. We liked that Angels Foster Care social workers have low caseloads and are very hands-on with their families. Finally, we appreciated that we would only be asked to care for one child at a time, allowing us to focus just on meeting that one child's needs.

Being a foster family is both challenging and rewarding! Our family fell in love with our foster daughter right away, but we were committed to helping her reunify with her family if at all possible. Fostering comes with new experiences and many emotions. The support and guidance we received from Angels helped us tremendously throughout the fostering process.

Already parents of three children when we were originally certified, our intent was not adoption, but rather fostering. However, we loved the baby who was entrusted to us and when she needed a home, we were honored to become her forever family. Many people ask us why we have chosen to foster again. The answer is easy - there is a need and we are partnered with a wonderful agency. Thank you Angels Foster Care!
*-Angi & Jay, Santa Maria, Angels Foster Care parents*

## What ANGELS' *PARENTS* are SAYING...

"We are currently involved with our second placement and there are two things we eagerly share with others as we tell them about our work with Angels. Our whole family (siblings included) has a caring and supportive relationship with the Angels team. We also feel so appreciative for the training we received prior to placement as it was crucial to preparing us for the realities of fostering. We are cared for and supported and that in turn allows us to better care for our children, foster, biological and adopted."
*-Kris and Jody, North Santa Barbara County, Angels Foster Care parents*

"We love knowing that our agency is there to support us every step of the way, no matter what"
*-Rhonda & Mike, Santa Maria, Angels Foster Care parents*

Being a foster parent has been the hardest, yet the most fulfilling thing we have ever done. We know other foster parents in the area, and the one thing that is strikes us time and time again, is that the level of support Angels Foster Care gives to their families is absolutely extraordinary. Without Angels, we would have never had the opportunity to be a loving, stable influence on our former foster children's lives. *-David and Tamara, Lompoc, Angels Foster Care parents*

"Going through Angels Foster Care to later adopt two of our children has been one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of our lives! They made the foster care process so easy to navigate and were with us every step of the way. We felt so informed and supported. The social workers with Angels are the very best in the field! We are forever grateful to Angels for impacting our lives in such a meaningful way."
*-Dave & Amy, Santa Maria, former Angels Foster Care parents*

# UPCOMING FOSTER FAMILY TRAINING DATES:

## September 2, 4, 16, 18, 25 & 30 (evening classes)

Prescreening and an accepted application are required before prospective foster parents may enroll in parent training classes.

Please contact us as soon as you are ready to begin the process!

# FOSTER PARENT CERTIFICATION INCLUDES:

- A family assessment
- Successful completion of a MMPI-2 psychological screening for both parents
- Fingerprint and child abuse index clearance
- Physical exam and T.B. test
- Current auto insurance and driver's license
- CPR and First Aid training
- Three letters of reference from non-family members
- Completion of a parent-training program, which is scheduled into several sessions totaling 24 hours
- A detailed home study

*From training to materials to mentoring, Angels provides you with the tools and support to make your fostering experience a rewarding one.*

## Connect with Angels Foster Care

### Like Our Page
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**@AngelsFosterSB**

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**angelsfostercaresantabarbara. blogspot.com**

# Change a Child's Life Forever!

*Angels*
Foster Care of
Santa Barbara

❑ Become a certified foster parent or respite/emergency shelter home
❑ Make a tax-deductible donation to our program
❑ Volunteer in our program

Name:_____

Address: _____ City:_____State: _____ Zip: ____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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