Fostering Futures NY
Supporting foster families in building better futures for children and youth

A program administered by Welfare Research, Inc.
The FFNY program provides practical support and assistance to foster families who are responsible for providing safe, stable, and nurturing homes for the children in their care.

Most of these children have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma; foster parents are uniquely positioned to help them feel safe and begin to heal. FFNY teams of community volunteers support the foster parents in this critical role.
FFNY Program Model

1. Recruit, train, screen and coordinate volunteer teams
2. Teams matched to foster families referred by partner agencies
3. Each team member commits to one supportive activity with family per month
Goals of the Program

**Foster Parents**
- Reduce foster parent stress
- Increase foster parent retention
- Create an “extended family”

**Youth**
- Increase placement stability
- Expand opportunities for youth: educational, athletic, recreational
- Additional, healthy relationships for children in care
Creating a Team: The Volunteers

Recruitment through Community Organizations
minimum 4-6 volunteers

Background Clearances
NYS and Federal Criminal History, Sex offender Registry,
NYS Motor Vehicle history, State Central Register

Matched with foster family within 20 minute drive

Volunteers commit to a minimum of one year, at least one activity, and one team meeting per month
Role of FFNY Coordinators

Each FFNY team has a coordinator

Schedules, facilitates, and documents monthly team meetings

Provides ongoing team development and support
FFNY Foster Families

- Fostering for at least one year
- History of quality care
- Cares for sibling groups, adolescents, medically fragile, emotional or/behavioral issues
- Referred through partner agencies
What FFNY Teams Do

- Foster Parent driven
- Tutoring and homework help
  - Trusted childcare option
- Meal preparation and grocery shopping
  - Laundry and household help/repairs
- Enrichment activities with the children
  - Extra set of hands
  - Non-judgmental listening
Foster Parent feedback

- Stress is decreased and feel less isolated
- More willing to care for children with challenging needs
- More likely to continue to foster
Marcia Andersen, Foster Parent and MAPP Trainer
As part of the federal Diligent Recruitment grant, FFNY ...

- Assists agencies with innovative strategies for recruitment & retention
- Helps raise awareness about fostering in the community
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