



# MDHHS FOSTER CARE PROGRAM-REGION 1B—THE U.P. TEAM, GREAT LAKES RECOVERY CENTERS

MDHHS Foster Care Regional Resource Team Region 1B Newsletter Quarter 2 2019

April 2019

## Meet the rock stars behind the Foster Closets of the Upper Peninsula

The U.P. is beyond blessed to have the amazing and dedicated work of several individuals who run the Foster Closets here in the Upper Peninsula!

There are 3 Foster Closets that are 501C 3 non-profit organizations in the U.P. The Foster Closets of Marquette, Delta and Dickinson Counties have helped numerous foster families and children. The Foster Closets provide clothing, car seats, diapers, and almost any type of household needs a foster parent may need on short notice.

Not only do the Foster Closets provide these much needed items, but they do so much more! The volunteers who run the foster closets are also foster parents. They also recruit new homes through community presentations and social media. They attend coalition trainings, support groups and assist our Regional Resource Team in advertising and implementing events throughout the U.P.

Meet Jackie Judd from the Marquette County Foster Closet. “Hi! My name is Jackie Judd, Foster parent since 2014. I was on board with becoming involved with the foster closet since day one and on the board for the first two years purchasing cribs for families while we ran our closet out of Ishpeming until taking over and moving location to Marquette over a year ago. Our board consists of 100% volunteers, most foster parents themselves. We have provided essentials to many children in many counties, and will continue to work with our sister branches Dickinson and Delta counties with hopes of expanding to open more closets in more counties in our U.P. “

If you are a foster parent with needs or want to volunteer or donate, please contact any of the Foster Closets on their Facebook pages or:

The Foster Closet of Marquette County: 760-373-0777  
The Foster Closet of Delta County: 906-398-9012  
The Foster Closet of Dickinson County: 906-396-2247

If you would like more information about starting a Foster Closet in your County please contact Jackie Judd, Foster Closet of Marquette County at 760-373-0777 or message her at The Foster Closet of Marquette County. Special Thanks to the volunteers who make it happen including: Jackie Judd, Patti Lingel, Marcia Vanwolvelelaere, Heather Jensen, Rose, Monica Jean and many more!

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If you are interested in becoming a foster parent or you know someone who is-Please contact us! The Foster Care Navigator hotline (855-MICKKIDS) is available to answer your questions and direct you to the proper resources to get you started. Please see the PRIDE training schedules and attend a session! PRIDE trainings are in-depth trainings that discuss all aspects of fostering and will help you decide if you are ready!

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Foster Kids need love, patience, stability and consistency– not fancy homes and

## Fostering Children for the Future

In foster care we often talk about what success looks like. There are many different pictures of success. Sometimes a family is reunited. Other times a child establishes permanence with a new family. And in some rare cases, a beautiful new community of friendship and support emerges.

I recently observed such a truly beautiful story of fostering done well. A family in Gogebic County has taken in three foster children, all under age three. You might already be thinking they are a great family! And they are, but what makes them so special is their dedication to working alongside and encouraging bio parents.

One of their foster children is the son of young mother, and they have embraced the mother along with her son. This foster family picks mom up for church every Sunday morning. After church they all go to their home for a family dinner, and in the afternoon, they all attend small group together. They give her a safe place to seek advice and share her heart, and they affirm her in her efforts to better her life.

This spring this young mother made the decision to dedicate her baby in church, and she requested that the foster mom stand with her so they could commit to raising the little one together as a team. What a beautiful picture of unconditional love and teamwork for the good of a child.

Then this fall the young mother was going to have a new baby, and because of the love and support the foster family has shown her, she asked the foster mom to be with her in the delivery room and coach her through the birth of her new baby. Because of how well she is doing, she has been able to keep the new baby at home while she continues working to get her first little one home.

This success story would not be possible without the continued encouragement of a foster family that chose to foster not just a child, but an entire family. Mentoring parents may or may not be a part of the fostering experience, but when the opportunity arises lives can be impacted for a lifetime. Working with your case worker is essential, but with their support you too may be able to help a family stay together and thrive!

All kids have hidden talents and strengths!

## What is PRIDE training?

PRIDE-Parent's Resource for Information Development Education training, is a comprehensive foster and adoptive parent training that is mandatory for all foster families in Michigan. The training covers many topics including working with a professional team, attachment disorders, discipline, trauma and permanency in foster care and many others. PRIDE is 16 hours and sessions are offered in each Tri-County at least every other month.

Please call the Foster Care Navigator or the Recruiter/Trainer/Support Coordinator in your county for more information on PRIDE Training dates and locations. Contact your licensing worker to get registered for a PRIDE training. Those interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent are highly encouraged to attend a PRIDE training to learn more about their abilities to provide a loving home to children in need. If you are not enrolled or in-process of licensing, contact the trainer in your county to assist you with registering for PRIDE training.

PRIDE session 9 will be announced to all participants when a location and date have been determined. This will be a big event, celebrating new foster homes and also encouraging participants to bring a friend or family member who may be interested in learning more about foster care!

Check out the Foster Care Navigator Website for additional information at [www.FCNP.com](http://www.FCNP.com)

## Other Events and Trainings:

The Regional Resource Team, DHHS and local Private Foster Care and Adoption Agencies work together throughout the U.P. to provide trainings and supportive events throughout the year. We try to create flyers for all events and email them to every foster parent and enrolled family. If you do not receive event flyers, contact your licensing worker or the RRT trainer in your Tri-County (see contact information on back). Additionally there are appreciation banquets or picnics, swim parties, and holiday events. The coalitions have also begun monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly supportive trainings in each Tri-County. These trainings are based on information we've received from foster families based on their needs. Most tri-counties are currently receiving a 6 session series on Childhood Traumatic Stress. Future topics include IEPs, discipline in foster families, teen panels, self-care and many more. We also encourage our foster families to bring a friend or family member who may be interested in becoming a foster family. They are welcome to mingle, ask questions and learn in hopes that they may decide to contact us in the future and begin the licensing process!

Again, if you are not receiving emails with event and training flyers please contact your licensing worker or the Regional Resource Team contacts listed on page 4.

The Regional Resource Team is dedicated to improving the culture of foster care in the U.P. of Michigan by providing support, training, and also recruiting new foster parents and also respite caregivers. Respite care can come in many different forms. Some help by providing overnight care, or a date night. Some sponsor a foster child's sport season, birthday or maybe music lessons. Other's may provide family style meals or help with laundry. Tutoring needs are common among foster families. If you are a foster parent and could use assistance from a respite care provider contact the Regional Resource Team. If you have special talents, a loving heart, a knack for teaching, a desire to give back in some way, please contact us and we can add you to a respite care list that is distributed to foster families. Foster Families would need to work closely with their licensing worker to add any person who will have direct contact with a foster child to their substitute caregiver list-all will need to provide information for a criminal background check.

## Contact Us

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**RAISE HOPES & FOSTER DREAMS 1-855-MICHKIDS To learn more about becoming a foster parent.**

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HERE