



## OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

You may decide not to become a foster parent. We obviously hope you do because the foster children of our county need the special care only quality families can provide.

However, you can also be of significant help in making other people throughout our county aware we need more homes for our children.

You can help in a variety of ways such as:

<b>RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>	Distribute information about foster care needs in your community or compelling stories to newsletters, advocacy groups, bulletin boards, public service announcements, parent/teacher organizations, community centers, web sites and special interest groups.
<b>WRITE, VISIT, FAX, PHONE, OR E-MAIL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request that your governor, state legislators and mayor proclaim the month of May as National Foster Care Month. Send personalized letters to your elected officials with information about the adoption system in your own community.</li> <li>Notify your U.S. Representative and Senators about foster care month activities.</li> </ul>
<b>SPONSOR OR CO-SPONSOR AN EVENT</b>	Organize an event such as a dinner, coffee gathering, picnic, auction, etc. Invite foster families, community activists, elected officials and your friends and encourage them to hold their own events.

<p><b>RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit members of your organization, church, workplace, neighborhood or community center to volunteer to support foster families or to become foster or adoptive parents.</li> <li>• Request the assistance of your religious and business leaders in building Foster Care Month awareness in the community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DISTRIBUTE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post information on your personal/organizational web site.</li> <li>• Distribute foster care fact sheets, bumper stickers, book marks/inserts, banners and other materials with Foster Care information.</li> <li>• Request that your local grocery stores print foster care messages on their bags</li> </ul>
<p><b>PROVIDE RECOGNITION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community / Business support</li> <li>• Kinship Caregivers</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Respite care provider</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHERE TO PLACE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beauty shops, barber shops, and restaurants (placemats or menus)</li> <li>• Bus/taxi placards and bus benches</li> <li>• Bowling sheets</li> <li>• Community fairs and special events</li> <li>• Hospitals, clinics, and doctors offices</li> <li>• Local weekly newspapers, ethnic or religious newspapers, free advertiser-supported papers, and organization newsletters</li> <li>• In telephone bills, utility bills, bank statements, and</li> </ul>

	<p>local employee envelopes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family attractions in local community and theme parks</li> <li>• Flyers on pizza boxes</li> <li>• Local businesses (Request that foster care message be used instead of music for part or all of May -National Foster Care Month- while callers are placed on hold.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>OTHER PLACES TO PROMOTE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE AWARENESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio and TV talk show interviews</li> <li>• Fraternities and sororities</li> <li>• Advertising agencies</li> <li>• Your own office or work place</li> <li>• Your church</li> </ul>

Please do not underestimate what you can personally contribute to our recruitment of new families. Your help is essential and your efforts may directly influence someone to become a foster parent.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or want more information about how you can help, we encourage you to call us toll free: 1-877-792-KIDS (5437) and ask to speak with a recruiter in Foster Home Licensing. On behalf of our foster children who deserve to be cared for by loving dedicated people, we appreciate whatever help and support you can provide.

For recruitment Material contact:

Jennifer Fightlin ([Jennifer.Fightlin@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Fightlin@sdcounty.ca.gov)) or Arleth Rubio ([Arleth.Rubio@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Arleth.Rubio@sdcounty.ca.gov))