

# **SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE, GENERAL**

## **Sample News Release**

(On your letterhead)

### **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(or write the date you would like the article to be released)

Contact: Your Name

List your phone

### **What is Treatment Foster Care?**

The vast majority of us grow up in our own homes with our own families, but for over half a million Americans that is just not possible. Due to abuse, neglect or other serious problems these children become wards of the State and spend at least a part of their developing years in foster care. Children in foster care can live in a foster home or a group home. Those with emotional or behavioral problems can receive care and treatment either in a residential treatment facility or a Treatment Foster Home.

Treatment Foster Care is a distinct, powerful, and unique model of care that provides children with a combination of the best elements of traditional foster care and residential treatment centers. In Treatment Foster Care, the positive aspects of the nurturing and therapeutic family environment are combined with active and structured treatment. Treatment Foster Programs provide, in a clinically effective and cost-effective way, individualized and intensive treatment for children and adolescents who would otherwise be placed in institutional settings.

***You can customize your story, for example:** In Alabama there are over 5,000 foster children. Approximately 1,200 live in residential treatment centers and group homes, while an additional 1,200 are being treated in Treatment (Therapeutic) Foster Homes. The remainder live in regular foster care or with a relative.*

### **What is the difference between Treatment Foster Care and traditional foster care?**

Treatment Foster Care and traditional foster care are two distinct program models intended to serve different populations. Treatment Foster Care is a clinically effective and cost-effective alternative to residential treatment facilities that combines the treatment technologies typically associated with more restrictive settings with the nurturing and individualized family environment.

Foster care has provided nurturing, safe, and custodial care for children who require placement outside of their family. The primary reason for placement in traditional foster care is the need for care and protection. The role of the foster parent is that of caregiver and nurturer. Treatment, if any, occurs outside of the foster home.

Children are referred to Treatment Foster Care programs to address their serious levels of emotional, behavioral and medical problems. Treatment Foster Care is active and structured, and occurs in the foster family home. Treatment Foster Parents are the front line therapists in bringing about improvement and an increased level of functioning in their foster children. (Additional descriptions of a Specific TFC program can be added.)

Individuals choose to become foster parents for a variety of reasons; however, most successful foster parents describe a sense of being called to serve children in need. Becoming a foster parent, either regular or treatment, is a big decision requiring a great deal of thought. It takes a big heart, a love of children, patience and a willingness to sacrifice. If you have an interest in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please call: (list your phone number...don't forget area code)

***FOSTER FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBER AGENCY***