

Media Release: January 23, 2023

2282 Reeves Road, NE | Warren, OH 44483

Contact: Michelle Schmader, Community Liaison &
Recruitment Specialist

Ph: 330-372-2010, ext. 1343 | Fax: 330-372-9890

Michelle.Schmader@jfs.ohio.gov



Trumbull County Children Services to host a Meet & Greet panel discussion to educate those interested in fostering children

Warren, Ohio - Trumbull County Children Services (TCCS) will host a Meet & Greet panel discussion for families interested in learning more about becoming a foster caregiver and/or mentor to children who are in the care of the Agency. If you have considered opening your home to fostering or mentoring, then we encourage you to attend this informal event at TCCS, 2282 Reeves Road, NE, Warren, on February 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Participants are welcome to stay for our Foster Care Rules and Policies class, immediately following, to learn about the expectations of a foster caregiver.

The event will feature a panel of individuals to include a current foster caregiver, a youth who has been fostered and adopted, an experienced foster caregiver who mentors newly licensed families, and a caseworker. Panelist stories will highlight their personal journey in foster care and the impact that foster caregivers have in the lives of children who have experienced trauma. Additionally, staff will provide a brief overview of the licensing process.

Foster caregivers provide temporary, safe, loving homes for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Deanna Prezioso, Supervisor of Foster Care for Trumbull County Children Services, shares, "All children belong in a family. We are always recruiting for foster homes throughout Trumbull County so children can remain in their own community while the Agency works with the biological family to rebuild a safe and stable home. Our dedicated foster caregivers play the role of parental figure while the birth family works toward the goal of reunification."

Currently, there are approximately 115 children in either temporary or permanent custody of TCCS. The need for foster homes continues to increase for a variety of reasons. Foster home turnover grows each year, because families adopt one or more children they are fostering. Additionally, the need for foster caregivers has increased because well over 50% of children in custody have a guardian with a substance use disorder or mental illness, which can require lengthy treatment. This results in children remaining in foster care longer and limits the availability of new placements in those homes.

To learn more or to RSVP your attendance, please call Michelle Schmader, Community Liaison and Recruitment Specialist, by February 6, 2023, at 330-372-2010, ext. 1343. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

Trumbull County Children Services, in partnership with families and the community, protects and advocates for children in crisis or at risk of abuse and neglect. The Agency assesses risk and builds on family strengths in seeking to maintain or reunite children with safe families. We perform this mandate with compassion, respect, and professionalism to families in Trumbull County.

Media contact on the day of the event is Michelle Schmader, 330-307-3548.