

NEWS RELEASE



Mahoning County
Children Services
330-941-8888 www.mahoningkids.com

CONTACT: Jennifer T. Kollar
Public Information Officer
PHONE: 330.941.8810
EMAIL: Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mahoning County Children Services to Host Informational Event Seeking New Foster Parents to Alleviate Foster Homes Shortage

[YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO] — Mahoning County Children Services has at any given time, 150-170 children placed in foster care. The Agency is facing a shortage of licensed foster homes but especially homes that can accommodate sibling groups and emergency placements for children entering foster care.

To help address the shortage, on **February 24th**, the Agency is hosting a “**Learn More About Fostering Informational Luncheon Event**” at Mahoning County Children Services, 222 West Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503. The event aims to educate and encourage individuals who are interested in learning more about fostering and becoming a licensed foster parent for Mahoning County children.

“We need 30-40 more licensed foster homes to help alleviate our shortage. The more licensed homes we have throughout the County, the more options we have available to place children.” explains Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer, Mahoning County Children Services.

At the Informational Event, attendees will learn more about the fostering process, meet the Agency’s foster team as well as current licensed Mahoning County Foster Parents and learn more about their local child welfare agency. Attendees will also get a guided tour of the Agency. Lunch will be provided to registered guests. Space is limited. Registration is required. There is no cost to attend this event.

Learn More About Fostering: Informational Luncheon Event

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018

Time: 11:00 AM --2 PM

Location: Mahoning County Children Services
222 West Federal Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

To register, contact Mahoning County Children Services:

Phone: 330.941.8711 | **Email:** Stephanie.Lenzo@jfs.ohio.gov

“We’re asking members from our community to seriously consider opening their hearts and homes to share the warmth and love of their family with Mahoning County children who are temporarily separated from their families. As with all foster care, the goal is to always try to reunify children with their biological families when safe to do so,” adds Kollar.

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