

# Place Matters

Nothing matters more to a child than a place to call home.

To help us find homes for our Kent County children in need contact the Kent County Department of Social Services at:

**410.810.7600**  
**or**  
**1.877.5Foster.**



**Kids get blown away, mentally and physically** when they are at risk and must be separated from their own families. "Place Matters" tries to keep them close to the home and the surroundings they know to help lessen the blow of separation.



*The best way to provide a home for every child is through our "PLACE MATTERS" initiative... an approach that promotes safety, family functioning, permanency and community-based placement for foster care children.*

# Background

The Department of Human Resources "Place Matters" initiative is designed to improve foster parent and adoptive services to Maryland's children and families. "Place Matters" is an approach that promotes safety, family functioning, permanency and community-based placement for the children.

Successful recruitment and development of foster families is key to achieving the expected outcomes of this initiative:

- Keep children in their communities and offer more services
- Place children in families first either with relatives or foster parents
- Minimize the length of stay and increase permanence
- Reallocate resources to the preservation services

# Facts

In July 2008, there were 10,272 children in foster placement in the State of Maryland. Most of these children are temporarily separated from their birth families due to abuse or neglect. The children need to know that they are in a safe and stable home with a foster parent to take care of them. Most will be able to safely return either to their birth families or a relatives home. When children are unable to return to their home, then a permanent home with an adoptive family is needed to provide love and security.

# Strategy

- Welcome all prospective foster parents, make them feel appreciated and support them
- Make clear to foster and adoptive parents that there is a great need to work with teens
- Evaluate the needs of children in care and target recruitment of foster families based on the children's needs
- Involve community partners that serve children and families, and local businesses

# Kent County "Place Matters"

Kent County's Department of Social Services has limited resources to conduct a localized recruitment campaign...if you visit our website, encourage others to visit it and pass the word as to the importance of "Place Matters" to our in need children.



**Kent County Foster Parent Program**  
*Give your home. Find your heart.*