

ADOPT(ED)^{EPH 15}

Thanks so much for your interest in hosting a child from the Laura Dester Shelter for the Holidays. Our local DHS has started to set up a single day outing for the children at the shelter over specific holidays. Typically, there is a time in the morning and in the evening that the children must be picked up and dropped off. DHS will specify the times but in the past they have been around 9-10am for pickup then 7-8pm for drop off. DHS has asked that if we collect the following information that will help them speed up the process.

1. For every **individual** over 18 in the home we need their **Name, Date of Birth, Social Security #**, and a filled out **Background Check** (also downloadable from home page) form.
2. For every **family** we need the name & number of Individual Reference.
3. Please send all of these preferably back to me by email

After you turn this information into me we will forward it on to the appropriate contact at DHS. After this is done the next step will be for a DHS case worker to arrange a home visit and then also arrange for an interview with your reference. They will specify how this needs to be done.

Obviously this project has a lot of variables that DHS is not in control of like how many children will be at the shelter, their ages, etc. but they will do their best to appropriately match a child or sibling set with you. Because of this, just because you sign up for this opportunity it does not mean you will be matched with a child or sibling set. You could be placed as a backup in case a family get sick or you potentially could be set up to participate over another holiday.

Please be specific with the DHS case worker that calls if you have any specific conditions that you think might be problematic. It has been my experience that they try very hard to communicate any of the specific challenges the children have, match you with an age appropriate child for your family, and then also letting you know if they need to pair you with a potential sibling set.

Please be patient and understanding that some of the challenges just with working with the shelter cause last minute arrangements due to children entering and leaving the shelter. Also keep in mind one of our greatest ministries we have is to assist these case workers and staff that are there on a week to week basis working with these children. Ultimately the goal of this program is to help create awareness to the need of foster families in our city and to care and love on these children long term. I would ask that you prayerfully consider if beyond this project you would be willing to open your home as a foster parent.

Please let me know if you have any more questions and I will try to assist you with them.

Sincerely,

Chris Campbell
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