

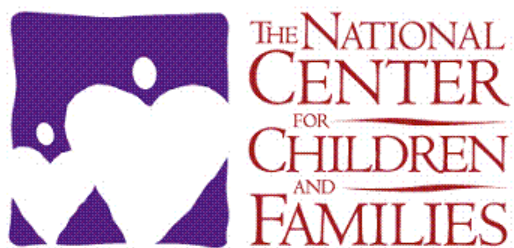
**More than 50 children and youth are waiting for safe and nurturing homes of their own.**



*Are you ready to share your love, your hopes, and dreams?*

If so, please contact:

Foster Care Recruiter for MD and DC 301 365-4480 ext 414



Stronger Spirit. Stronger Community.

## **A FOSTERING FAMILY**

David and Zarah Coe became foster parents so that they could give back to the community. They were determined to be positive role models to children who were displaced from their families, and in need of love and protection. When they made their final decision to become foster parents, they didn't realize that the lives that they would change would actually be their own.

The Coes have one adult son in college, but had always wanted to be foster parents. Just over three years ago, they became foster parents for the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF), and have never regretted their decision.

"It's not always easy to be a foster parent," said Mrs. Coe. "You have to pay attention, definitely get involved in NCCF's orientation and parenting classes, and know what you're getting into."

Through the years the Coes have supported 10 children and youth. According to the Coes, one of their most memorable placements was of two young brothers, ages 6 and 8, who had been in and out of the foster care system a number of times. Their parents were repeatedly cited as neglectful caregivers, and both boys struggled with poor hygiene, inadequate healthcare, poor school attendance, poor grades, and inappropriate behavior.

Life with the boys had opened up the Coe's world in ways they never could have expected. They believe the emotional rewards they received from the boys were far greater than anything they could give in return. But it is clear that they boys are the fortunate recipient of the Coe's loving care, and their positive home environment enabled them to thrive. After two years in the Coe's home, the brothers had improved behavior, regular attendance in school, were in good health, and known for their happy, smiling demeanor. With the help of the Coe family, the brothers had found peace and a sense of spirituality, and were eventually returned to their mother's care.

The Coe's proudly describe both boys now as "very happy, social, gentle, loving, and with a great sense of humor." They fill their days with typical free-time activities that make them happy and content: watching TV, playing games, shopping, getting together with family and friends, and going to events. The Coes strongly believe that foster children deserve to live a life of quality over quantity. Says Mr. Coe: "We want these children to engage in their world in a meaningful way."

The boys (now 10 and 13) and their mother have reunited, and are living together as a strong and healthy family. They continue to maintain regular contact with the Coes and visit with them on weekends. The Coes continue to open their home and their hearts to children and youth, and plan to keep in touch with the boys, their first foster children, for life!



**Are you ready to share your love, your hopes, and dreams?**

**If so, please contact:**

**Foster Care Recruiter for MD and DC 301 365-4480 ext 414**