

Nazareth Children's Home Visiting Resource Program

Purposes

The Visiting Resource Program is an important part of the overall childcare program of Nazareth Children's Home. Visits with Visiting Resource families give the children much-needed contacts with people in the community, in which they live, go to school and attend church. The program gives the children with few or no contacts with their own families an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of family living and to learn what responsibilities exist for those living in a family setting. Few of the children in the program have experienced what it means to be an active participant in a stable, happy family unit. This experience is vital to the preparation of these children to accept their role as useful members of their own future families. The Visiting Resource Program can help achieve these purposes when viewed as a serious responsibility to all concerned.

Procedures

1. Families who wish to become a Visiting Resource make inquiries to :
Social Work Department
Nazareth Children's Home
P.O. Box 1438
Rockwell, NC 28138
(704) 279-5556 or 1-888- 207-0250
2. When an inquiry is received by telephone, mail or personal contact, a Visiting Resource packet is sent to the individual. The fully completed packet should be returned to the Home as soon as possible. This packet shall include an application, background checks on individuals in the household over 18, and three references on the family requesting this program.
3. When the forms are returned, its contents are reviewed in light of the present existing needs of the program, and the likelihood that the home and meet the criteria for approval as a Visiting Resource home. If these circumstances are satisfactory, the Visiting Resource request is referred to a Social Worker to make personal contact with the applicant for a home study.
4. After the applicant home is visited, and a home study has been completed by the Social Worker, an applicant will either be approved or disapproved by the Social Work staff for the family to become a Visiting Resource home. The applicant will be notified of the decision by a follow-up telephone call and a written letter.
5. After a family has been approved, the Social Work staff will decide that child would most benefit by association with this family, and the Social Worker will arrange for the child to meet the Visiting Resource family on campus prior to any planned visits off campus. In the some instances, the child may already be acquainted with the family wishing to have them visit. Therefore, the visit may begin upon approval.

- 6. Once the child and the visiting resource feels comfortable about having off campus visits, contact may be made with the child's Social Worker to set up the first visit overnight in the Visiting Resource's home. This step will be reviewed if needed or may be omitted based on individual situations.**
- 7. The Visiting Resource must report any misconduct of the child to the Social Worker or Teaching-Parent, as soon as possible. If the child's misbehavior warrants his/her return to campus, the Teaching-Parents must be notified before the child's arrival. If the behavior is "typical" and the Visiting Resource feels they can appropriately handle the situation (example: stay out past curfew) the Visiting Resource may report the incident upon the return of the child to campus at the end of the visit or may call either the Social Worker or the Teaching-Parent on the next business day. The Teaching-Parent may be contacted at any time.**
- 8. All incidents or suspected incidents of child abuse, both physical and sexual, must be reported immediately to the staff of Nazareth Children's Home and/or the Rowan County Department of Social Services as it is required by law. Anyone who is suspected of abuse either physically or sexually, of a child residing at Nazareth Children's Home, shall be reported by the Nazareth Children's Home staff to the local authorities for investigation of the abuse allegations and for possible prosecution as required by law. It is our duty to protect the children in our care from further abuse.**

With the cooperation between Nazareth Children's Home Staff and the Visiting Resource Families, this program proves it's helpfulness in assisting our children, in care, to lead normal, more productive lives as they grow older and become members of society.

On behalf of the Nazareth Children's Home, we would like to take this time to thank you for your interest in assisting these young people in reaching their potential and opening your home to them so they may share the experience of being part of a family.

Again, "Thank You".

Agency Visiting Resource Agreement

In consideration of mutual obligations and in order to promote a clear understanding of the factors involved in participating in the Visiting Resource Program, the following agreement is being entered into by _____ (Visiting Resource family) and Nazareth Children's Home.

The Visiting Resource family agrees:

To accept children into our home only through the supervising agency and to clear all initial visits through the social work department.

To treat the child (ren) placed in our care as members of our family, and when recommended by the agency, to make every effort to support, encourage, and enhance the child (ren)'s relationship with their own parents. Follow and support the County and agency's plan of care for the child.

The supervising agency (in cooperation with the legal custodian, usually a County Department of Social Services has the final authority to make and carry out case work plans for the child (ren), such as adoption, transfer to other homes, or return to parents or relatives.

That there will be continuous contact and exchange of information between the agency and us about matters affecting the adjustment and welfare of the child (ren). We agree to keep these matters confidential and to discuss them only with appropriate agency staff members, or other professional people designated by the agency.

To consult with the supervising agency before taking the child out of our home for a period exceeding two nights and when any plans include long distance travel and/or crossing over the state line.

To report to the supervising agency any changes in the composition of our household, change of address, and any change in the employment status of any adult member of the household.

That we shall not make independent plans for a child to visit the homes of his parents or relative without prior approval/consent from the agency.

To give a child a fair chance to adjust to our home and, in the event we feel that such an adjustment is not possible, to give the supervising agency fair notice before asking for removal of the child.

To adhere to the supervising agency's state plan of medical care. Notify the agency staff immediately if there is a medical emergency.

To provide the child (ren) with appropriate and responsible supervision at all times while he/she is in our home, and to not leave the child unsupervised or in the charge of inappropriate persons.

In the even that abuse or neglect is suspected while in the care of the visiting resource, the Protective Service Division of the Department of Social Services will be notified in order for them to determine if any inappropriate behavior has actually taken place.

Nazareth Children's Home agrees:

To assume responsibility for the overall planning of the child (ren) and to assist the Visiting Resource in understanding the basic needs of the child (ren) desired for the visit.

To inform the Visiting Resource family concerning the agency's procedures and financial responsibility for obtaining medical care and hospitalization, reimbursement of purchases, and responsibility of damages to the Visiting Resource home or property.

To review Visiting Resource family and child (ren) on a regular basis and to be available to give needed services and consultation concerning the child's welfare.

To respect, to the extent possible, the Visiting Resource's preference in terms of sex, age range, and number of children desired to visit.

We have read the foregoing statements and have retained a copy of this document.

Visiting Resource

Date

Visiting Resource

Date

Nazareth Children's Home Representative

Date

Nazareth Children's Home Visiting Resource Program

Because the information you share with us on this application is of a personal nature, it will be held in strict confidence. Its purpose is to aid us in approving you as a Visiting Resource and to help "match" you with a child whom can benefit from contact with a Visiting Resource.

Name of Applicant:

First

Middle

Last

Date of Birth

Spouse's Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

Date of Birth

Address: _____

Street

City

County

State/Zip

MailingAddress: _____

—

If different from above

Telephone: (Area Code and Number): _____

& _____

Daytime

Evening

Directions to home from Nazareth Children's Home:

How long have you resided at your current address:

Prior Residence:

If less than 6 months at current address

Male

Female

First, middle, & birth name _____
Birthdate/Birthplace _____
Education/Grade Completed _____
Social Security Number _____
Race/Citizen of U.S. _____
Drivers License #/Exp. Date _____
Religious Affiliation _____

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Employment		
Occupation	_____	_____
Present Employer	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____
Working Hours	_____	_____
Length of Employment	_____	_____
Supervisor's Name & Title	_____	_____
Marital Status		
Current Marital Status	_____	_____
Marriage Date	_____	_____

Have you previously applied or been licensed to be a Foster Parent? _____

Where did you learn about the Visiting Resource Program?

Why do you want to be a Visiting Resource?

We prefer children as follows:

Sex: _____ **Age:** _____ **Maximum # of children:**

Any other preferences (for example: children with special needs, siblings group):

References

Please list below three references not related to you who have known you for several years (name, address, and phone number).

Home

Is your home connected to city water lines? Yes _____ No _____

Is your home connected to public sewage? Yes _____ No _____

Is your home in good repair? Yes _____ No _____ If no, please explain: _____

Legal

Has any household member ever been fined or convicted for violations of any law other than a minor traffic violation, or is now under charges for any violation or law?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please give details: _____

Have you or any members of your family ever been investigated for and/or charged with child neglect, child abuse and/or abandonment of children? Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please explain: _____

Is any household family member presently involved in a civil suit or now paying a judgement rendered in a civil action? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please give details: _____

(Please note that state regulations require that no applicant will be considered who, as an adult, has been convicted of a crime of such a serious nature as to question the potential safety and welfare of any child placed in that home. If you have answered yes to the above questions, this will be discussed with you on an individual basis)

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date