We need your help to find families for children and youth in Colorado

Today in Colorado, there are 436 children and youth in foster care who are waiting to be adopted. *(To customize, use your community name and number waiting).* These children are resilient. Even though they have experienced abuse or neglect, they can overcome and reach their full potential with help and support from the community and a loving parent.

We need everyone in Colorado to help us find a parent for these kids. Here’s how:

1. Become a foster or adoptive parent. Since last January alone, 551 children and youth *(to customize, use the number in your community)* in foster care were adopted, most frequently by their foster parents. Family reunification is the primary goal of foster care. When that isn’t possible, we look for an adoptive family to provide the love, stability and safety that every child needs and deserves.

   Visit CO4Kids.org to learn more about becoming a foster and adoptive parent. You don’t have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. You must be at least 21 and be ready to make a difference in a child or youth’s life at a time when they need you the most.

   Foster and adoptive parents can be single, married, partners or friends; they can own or rent a house or apartment; and they can be all religions, races and ethnicities, and all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expressions. It does not matter if a parent is older or young, has never been a parent or is an experienced parent.

2. **Raise awareness.** You can host the Colorado Heart Gallery and let people know that there are children in every Colorado community who need a family. Visit coheartgallery.org to help. You can also display information about adoption in your office or business location. *(To customize, add a link or an email address if you have materials community members can use to raise awareness)*