



LETTERS

Children in crisis need care, but from where?

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Foster parents are critical to well-being of vulnerable children

Elizabeth Koh's article "DCF taking desperate measures, workers say" illustrates that there has never been a more urgent need for foster parents, who are critical to the well-being of our most vulnerable children. We urge all caring adults to consider becoming a foster parent by reaching out to the Department of Children and Families or one of the many private foster care agencies across the state to nurture children facing extraordinary challenges.

As the CEO and president of Communities for People, a nonprofit foster care agency serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island since 1976, and someone who has worked in child welfare for more than 40 years, I know that foster parents are an integral part of the solution.

According to the most recent report by the Department of Children and Families, there are more than 8,000 children in the foster care system who needed to live away from their parents. There are more young people in the foster care system than there are homes to take care of them.

Adults who want to be part of the solution can expect to find support in their decision to foster a child. The process of becoming a foster parent includes an application, background screening, pre-service training, and a comprehensive assessment before becoming licensed. Families receive ongoing home visits and training, respite, and financial stipends. Children in the foster care system benefit from ongoing visits, access to health care, clinical support, and case management.

You are never in it alone.

Craig Gordon

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