# fostering the future

### our mission

To enrich the lives of foster children by providing unique experiences and giving the community opportunities to profoundly impact a child's life.

### about us

Fostering Hope was established in 2013, to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children within the foster care system. Founder Nicole Shefrin and Fostering Hope's volunteers work with the professionals at residential treatment centers to provide foster children with often taken-for-granted experiences that typify most children's lives but, due to limited financial and volunteer resources, are sometimes lacking in the foster care setting.







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# our challenge

Foster children contend with challenges unknown to their counterparts in traditional families. Consistently seen issues include: physical and behavioral health concerns; poor self-esteem; and the overriding sense of loss that comes from a fractured family environment. In response, we created The Three Pillars — pathways that help foster children learn to navigate and surmount obstacles that can influence their lives. The Pillars provide children with simple, often taken-forgranted experiences that are lacking in foster care.

#### Pillar I: Health & Wellness

Bringing outer wellness for inner healing

**Serenity Day**. Serenity Day recreates a spa-like environment where the children can enjoy mani-pedis and facials, conversation and camaraderie, and some nurturing by our volunteers. This event emphasizes the importance of treating one's body with respect – a crucial point as many foster care children have been removed from their families because of abuse.

#### Hope in Balance for Young Yogis.



Children with low self-esteem need positive outlets that let them flourish physically and emotionally. Yoga, a discipline that strives to establish balance between the mind, body and spirit, is recognized for its healing capabilities.



#### Pillar II: Shared Social Responsibility

Reinforcing the community connection Foster children cannot grow up in programs alone; they must grow up as part of a community, too. Through partnerships with community leaders and area sponsors, we hope to involve foster youth in local projects that reinforce the bond between the children and their community, giving them a sense of purpose and the knowledge that they are valuable and valued members of society.

#### Pillar III: Childhood Experiences In the home and in the community

#### Hopeful Holidays Gift 'n Greet

We gather holiday wish lists from the children in OhioGuidestone's residential treatment and match them with community sponsors. Benefactors are welcome to attend our holiday party, deliver gifts to their sponsored child and join in the festivities.

#### December Tree Dazzler

Collaboration and creativity meet the spirit of the season as participants from OhioGuidestone's

residential cottages select a decorative theme for their holiday tree and compete for prizes.





## our hope

Much of our continuing success results from the participation of exceptional sponsors and volunteers, whose support enables us to carry out our mission. Giving opportunities include direct funding, corporate sponsorship, matching gifts, memorial tributes, special events and volunteer assistance.

Your support allows us to help foster children in ways that make a lasting difference. Please contact us for more information.

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