

#### 4. Decision to take in a foster child

If you decide as a family to take a girl from the Rescue Dada Centre in foster care, you are temporarily undertaking the care and maintenance of that girl until the child is reunified.

A Children's Officer of the DCS will do the pre-placement assessment of the family. Prior to a child placement all first time foster parents will be provided with compulsory training on child protection, parenting skills, handling adolescents, children with behavioural problems and children with special needs. After this a written agreement will be signed between you and the DCS/ RDC as well as a foster parent's certificate of registration issued. DCS/ Rescue Dada Centre will then be able to initiate pre-placement meetings between you and the potential foster child to get to know each other.

During the time of placement the DCS and Rescue Dada Centre will provide support services like regularly follow ups, counselling in regular intervals (before, during and after the placement) and social protection grants as required.

Foster Care is a mighty way to be a part of a community that works tirelessly to provide children and youth with a greater future.

The difference Foster Carers are Making has the ability to change Generations by showing a Child what it takes for families to be Stable, Abuse-free and Safe.

#### 5. Contact

If you are interested in taking a girl of the Rescue Dada Centre in foster care, do not hesitate to contact the Rescue Dada Centre. We are looking forward to hearing from you and are pleased answering your questions.

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RESCUE DADA CENTRE

*"become a foster carer  
today and give a girl a home"*

"A hundred years from now it will not matter  
what my bank account was, the sort of house  
I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . .  
but the world may be different because  
I was important in the life of a child."

by Forest Witcraft

*Empowering street connected girls to achieve  
their full potential.*

## 1. Rescue Dada Centre – who we are

Rescue Dada is a registered Charitable Children's Institute (CCI) based in Nairobi that aims to realize the rights of vulnerable children and their families.

Since 1992 Rescue Dada Centre has been working to reduce the number of street connected children within Nairobi with a specific focus on street connected girls through residential rehabilitation and family empowerment activities. The child protection programme of the centre aims to rescue 70 street connected girls (aged 5-16 years) each year and rehabilitates them through informal education, life skill training, counselling and psychological support before they are reunited with their family. Most of the girls are reintegrated with members of their immediate or extended family within twelve months.

## 2. Why is Rescue Dada seeking Foster Carers?

Whilst Rescue Dada Centre normally finds kinship guardians, in some very complex cases a reunion with immediate or extended family members is not possible after the stay at Rescue Dada. Some reasons might be that the girls are without any relatives, the girls do not know where they are coming from or the girls are/were abandoned from their families. Foster care enables this girl to stay in a family environment and reduces unnecessary placement in institutional care.

## 3. What is Foster Care?

The CCIs (Charitable Children's Institution) and DCS (Department of Children's Services) are the main agencies and authorities in the foster care placement process. Foster care confers upon the foster parent the parental responsibilities of maintaining and caring for the child, for a period of 12 month, with possible extensions to a maximum of 24 more months. The Foster Carer provides a safe, loving and stable home that meets the child's basic needs, as well as guidance and emotional support. However, the ultimate goal is either reunification with the biological family or placement in a permanent alternative family.

Some common concerns raised by potential foster carers:

***"The girl is coming from the street and she is psychologically not stable."***

The girls undergo an intensive average 10 month rehabilitation process in Rescue Dada Centre. This includes intensive (group and individual) counselling, to come to term with their past, life skills training, to be able to take care of themselves, and non-formal education to be able to reintegrate in school and their families or with foster carers.

Before a girl is placed in a foster family the Rescue Dada team has come to consent that the girl is fit for placement in the same.

***"We don't know (the blood of) the girl. We don't know where she is coming from."***

Rescue Dada Centre and the DCS will arrange pre-placement meetings between you and the prospective foster child to get to know each other. In consultation with you and the child, there will be a decision of the length of an introductory period, which can last from few days to a few weeks depending on the situation of the child and the family. You are provided with information on the girl's health, education, psychological, emotional and family history before placement.

***"The girl is eligible for my inheritance."***

There is a difference between foster care and adoption. If somebody adopts a child, this person is the legal guardian of this child and the child is also eligible for their inheritance. Foster carers undertake the care and maintenance of a child just for a temporary time. Therefore, the girl has no claim to your inheritance. There is also the possibility to withdrawal, if any unsolvable difficulties/ challenges appear during time of foster care.