# OLDER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

#### frequently asked questions

There are currently 724 youth between the ages of 12 - 21 that are in foster care in NW Missouri. And because we never outgrow the need for a family, and a place to call home, we are looking for foster parents that are able to open their hearts and their home to older youth in foster care.

### I'VE NEVER PARENTED BEFORE, SO HOW CAN I PARENT A TEEN?

You don't necessarily need to have been a parent before to provide a safe, loving and supportive environment for an older youth in foster care. We provide training opportunities and resources that are tailored for foster parents who are likely to foster older youth. We'll work with you to



### DON'T ALL TEENS IN CARE HAVE A LOT OF PROBLEMS?

There are more youth in foster care who are hardworking, dedicated, and determined, but because of negative stereotypes they often go unnoticed. Will you need patience? Sure, but that's not just because of their past experiences. All teens require a little patience.

### WHAT HAPPENS ON THEIR 18th BIRTHDAY?

Our hope is that every child has a permanent home before their 18th birthday,. In the state of Missouri, youth in foster care can continue to receive state-supported services until the age of 21. We will work with you, as well as with the youth in foster care to provide wrap-around support and resources that will help prepare them for their next step into adulthood.

## Ask yourself. Ask us. Could you be a foster parent?

Learn more at cornerstonesofcare.org/fostercare



