



GOOD

MORNING

Mecklenburg County
Department of Children Family and Adult Services
Youth and Family Services Division

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Sr. Social Services Manager



MISSION

To shed light on the critical
need for more foster parents
in our community.



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

What is foster care?

A **temporary** arrangement in which licensed caregivers provide a safe, nurturing environment for children when their parents or primary caregivers are unable to care for them due to circumstances such as abuse, neglect, dependency, or other family issues.



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

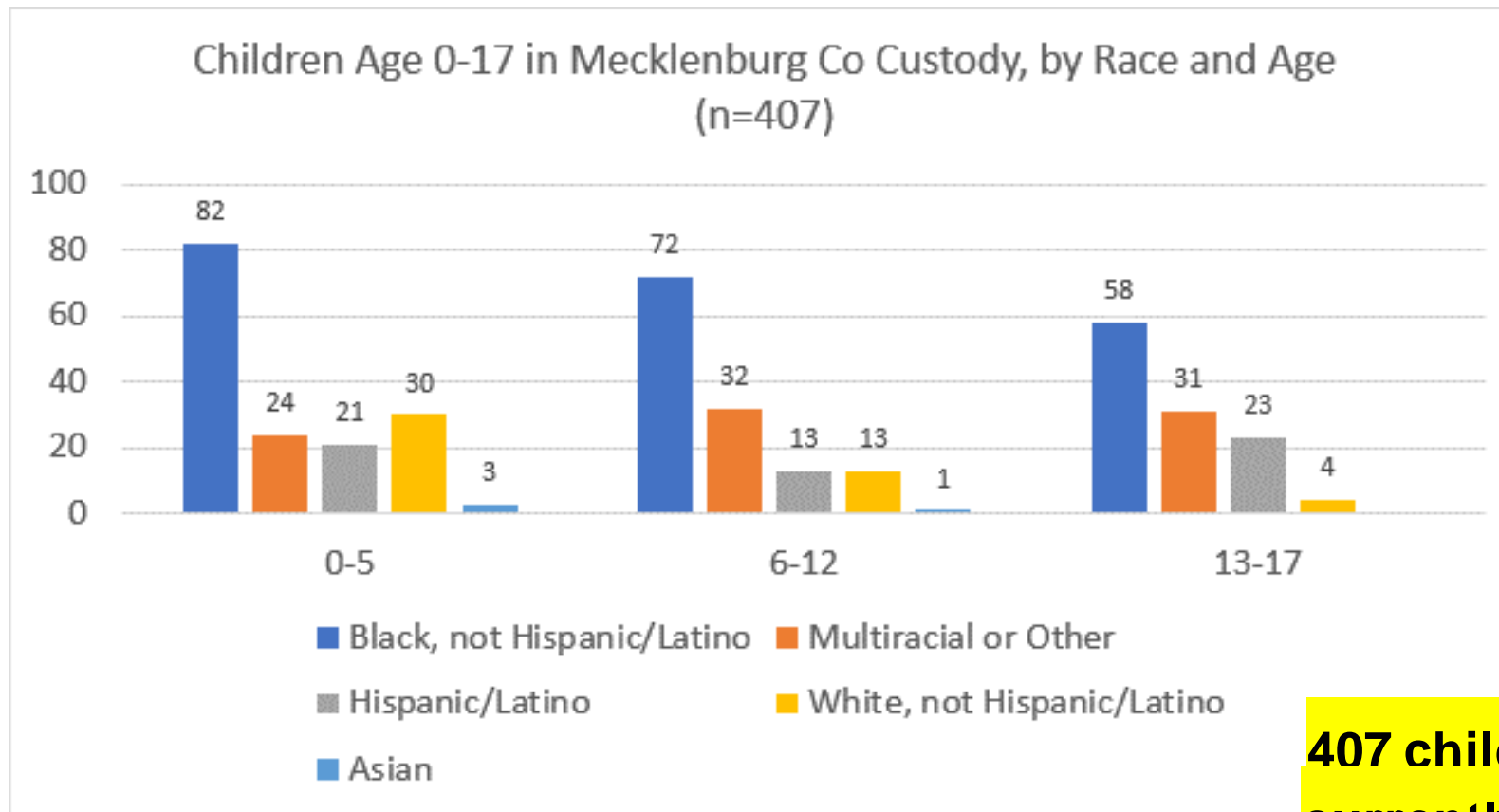
What do foster parents provide?

- Safety and security
- Assurance that well-being needs are met
- Temporary care
- Reunification or another permanent arrangement (if reunification is not possible)
- Life skills
- Emotional support



State of foster care

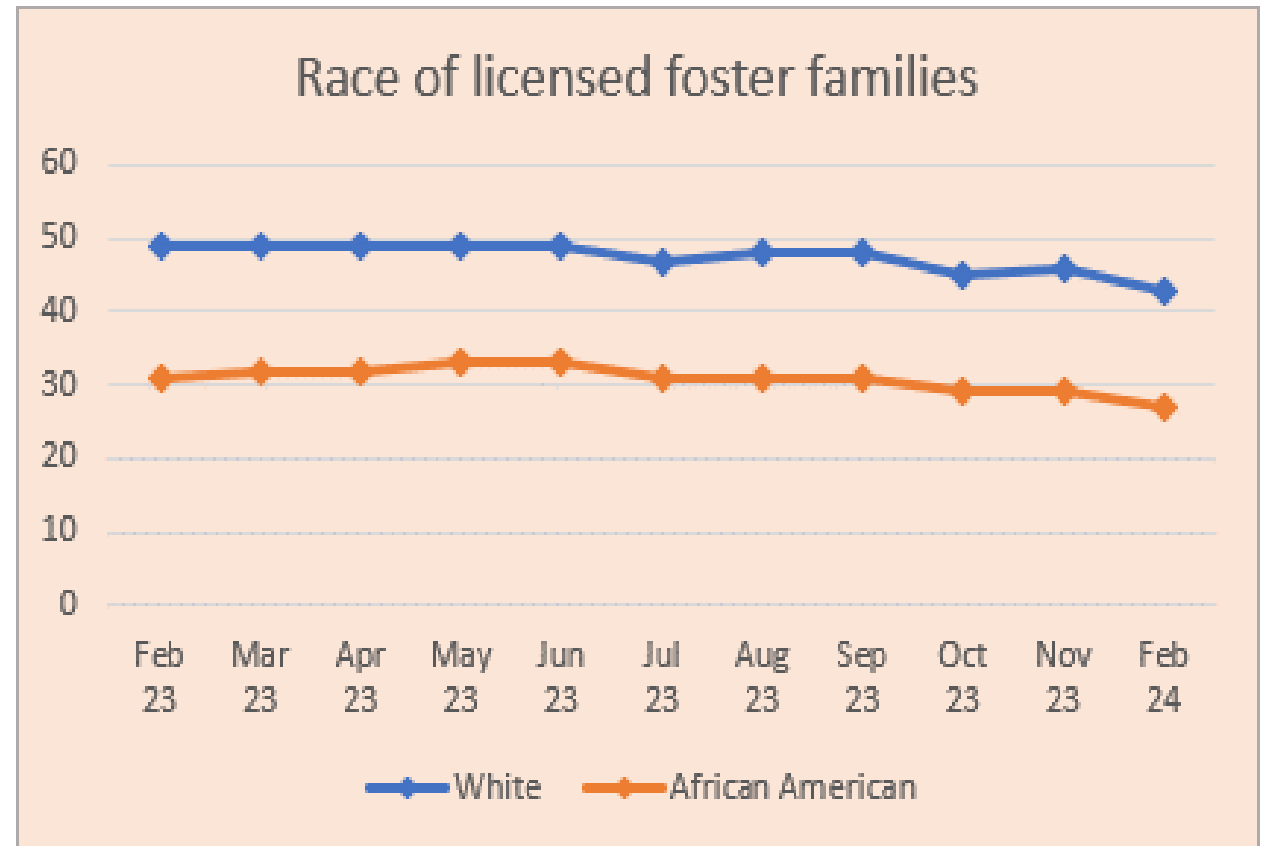
Immense shortage of foster parents – nationally and locally



407 children are currently in foster care

Total number of Mecklenburg County foster parents: 67

- Single foster parents: 21
- Two-parent household parents: 46
- Black foster parents: 24
- Caucasian foster parents: 38
- Hispanic or Asian foster parents: 1
- Interracial homes: 4



Challenges

- Shortage of foster homes
- Placement stability
- Increased stress on existing foster parents
- Inadequate matches
- Lack of providers and care for youth with special needs

Positive Impact

- Improves children's lives significantly
- Contributes to the stabilization of the child
- Offers support to the overall family
- Provides a nurturing environment for youth



Foster parent requirements

1. Must be a Mecklenburg County resident (minimum 6 months).
2. Must be 21 or older and have an HS diploma or GED.
3. A criminal record check and fingerprinting must be completed.
4. A home inspection showing that a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, and fire extinguisher are in the home.
5. Must have a valid NC driver's license and reliable transportation.
6. Must complete 30 hours of training (CPR, first aid, etc.)
7. Must have proof of a sufficient income.
8. The foster parent(s) and anyone else in the home must have a physical exam.



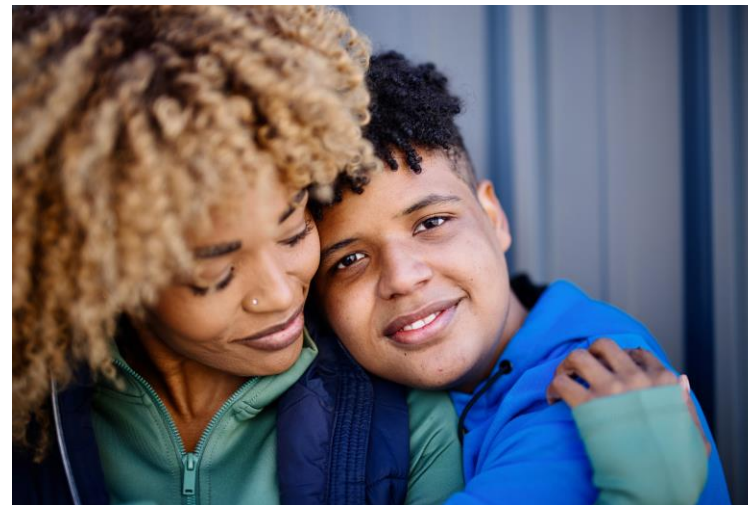
Support for foster parents

- Case Manager assigned to every foster parent
- Partnership with Foster Village
- Partnership with Congregation for Kids



How can YOU help?

- Raise awareness of the need for foster parents
- Consider becoming a foster parent
- Host an event to bring awareness
- Consider being a respite provider
- Consider volunteering opportunities w/partnering agencies





**“Anyone who does
anything to help a
child in his life is a hero”**

- Fred Rogers



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Questions?

Thank you!

704-336-KIDS (5437)

MeckNC.gov/Kids



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