

Consider a priceless gift



8 HOURS AGO • [TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD](#)

Thousands of Iowa children await a gift that won't fit under any tree.

This rare gift can't be bought, wrapped or stuffed in an envelope. Yet many of those who have given it say it has improved their lives immeasurably.

Find out if you and your family are capable of giving the gift of foster and adoptive parenting to any of the thousands of children yearning for a permanent home.

Workshops scheduled later this month in Davenport and Clinton offer prospective foster parents a chance to learn the commitment and rewards of this valuable service. The first thing they'll learn is that these diverse children can thrive in a variety of family situations. The love and commitment to provide foster care can be found in traditional and blended families, including single parents, grandparents and almost any situation.

They'll also learn about special training and workshops to teach those loving families specific ways to welcome foster children into their homes.

Statistically, the task is daunting. More than 2,000 licensed parents care for that many children each year in Iowa. That represents homes for less than 16 percent of the confirmed abused and neglected children across the state. Fully half of the 12,300 abused or neglected Iowa kids are age 5 or under.

The solutions come one home at a time, with adults who know that foster parenting is about their personal presence and commitment -- not necessarily experience and deep pockets.

Sign up for workshops later this month to learn if the gift of foster and adoptive parenting is right for your family.

This gift comes in sizes that can fit almost any kind of family eager to see what love can do.

Learn more

Iowa Kids Net has scheduled foster parenting informational sessions Dec. 15 in

Davenport and Dec. 16 in Clinton. Learn more by calling 1-800-243-0756 or visiting iowakidsnet.com.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad-Cities holds an adoption workshop 1-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church, 3707 Eastern Ave, Davenport, IA 52807. For more information, call 563-359-0816 or email, office@uucqc.org

Bethany for Children and Families is among the Illinois Quad-City agencies offering foster parenting training and placement. Call 309-736-6628, or email Lynn Lohman at llohman@bethany-qc.org

Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association offers foster parent training in January. Learn more online at ifapa.org, or call 1-800-277-8145.