

70 Years of Fostering: More Families Invited to Open Their Homes and Hearts to Children

Type: [Press Release](#)
Topic(s): [Protection from Domestic Violence](#)

1. The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) is commemorating 70 years of fostering in Singapore, recognising generations of foster families who have opened their homes and hearts to children who need care, stability and a nurturing home environment.
2. Since the Fostering Scheme began in 1956, more than 6,500 children have benefitted from foster care. Foster families provide a safe and nurturing home to children who, as a last resort, need to be temporarily away from their birth families because of abuse or neglect. Foster families enable the children to continue to grow and thrive until the family is ready to be reunited with them.
3. Fostering has transformed the lives of thousands of children over the past 70 years, and more foster families are still needed. Every child entering foster care brings different needs, experiences and strengths. A larger and more diverse fostering community allows children to be matched with foster parents who are well placed to support them.
4. Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Masagos Zulkifli said, "For 70 years, foster families have journeyed alongside children during important periods of their lives, giving them care, stability and a sense of belonging. By opening their homes and hearts, they have helped generations of children build confidence, resilience and hope for the future. As we commemorate this milestone, we also look ahead. Every family brings different strengths, and more families can play a part to helping our children grow and flourish. We hope more families will come forward, knowing that they will be supported on this journey, and join us in giving the children the strong foundation they need for the future. Join us in making a lasting difference in a child's life."

MSF marks 70 years of fostering with awards for 39 foster youth on 31 October

Description

More than 6,500 children have been placed in foster care since Singapore’s Fostering Scheme began in 1956, the [Ministry of Social and Family Development \(MSF\)](#) noted as it marked 70 years of fostering at its Fostering Open House on Saturday (24 October). An appreciation dinner on 31 October will honour 39 foster children and youth.

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1. The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) is commemorating 70 years of fostering, recognising generations of foster families who have opened their homes to children, providing stability and a nurturing home environment.
2. Since the Fostering Scheme began in 1956, more than 6,500 children have been placed in foster families provide a safe and nurturing home to children who, as a last resort, have been removed from their birth families because of abuse or neglect. Foster families enable children to thrive until the family is ready to be reunited with them.
3. Fostering has transformed the lives of thousands of children over the past 70 years, providing the support still needed. Every child entering foster care brings different needs, experiences and backgrounds. The diverse fostering community allows children to be matched with foster families who can best support them.
4. Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Masagos Zulkifli said: “Foster families, alongside children during important periods of their lives, giving them a sense of belonging. By opening their homes and hearts, they have helped generations of children thrive and build a better future. As we commemorate this milestone, we also look ahead. Even more families can play a part to helping our children grow and flourish. We encourage more families knowing that they will be supported on this journey, and join us in giving children the best start in life. We need for the future. Join us in making a lasting difference in a child’s life.”

MSF’s 70 years of fostering release. Photo: MSF

What fostering is

The scheme covers children and youth below 18 who have experienced abuse, neglect or abandonment and need alternative care. Foster care is temporary, and where it is safe, the goal is to reunite children with their birth families.

As of December 2025, there were 525 foster children and 646 foster families. MSF wants more families to come forward, so that each child can be matched with a family suited to their needs. Four appointed Fostering Agencies support foster families: Boysâ?? Town Fostering Services, Epworth Foster Care, Gracehaven Fostering and PPIS Oasis.

â??For 70 years, foster families have journeyed alongside children during important periods of their lives, giving them care, stability and a sense of belonging,â?• said Minister for Social and Family Development Masagos Zulkifli.

The open house

The Fostering Open House ran from 12.30pm to 5.30pm at Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre. Its main programme was an interactive theatre performance adapted from real fostering experiences, built on three themes: that fears are normal, that small everyday acts of care build trust, and that families do not need to know everything before they foster. Foster parents then led four breakout sessions, on teenagers, couples, children with unique needs, and faith and community support.

ANNEX B – FACTSHEET ON FOSTERING OPEN HOUSE 2026

The annual Fostering Open House 2026 is being held on 24 Oct to 5.30pm, at Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition C and the appointed Fostering Agencies, the event was open to learn more about fostering and how they can provide a safe children in need.

This year's main programme featured an interactive theatre p the real-life fostering experiences of foster parents. Through t audience interactions, attendees gained insights into the rea common concerns prospective foster parents may have. The p around three key themes: that fears are normal when familie small, everyday actions and consistent care can build trust an families do not need to know everything before they foster, as guidance are available to support them through the challenges

Following the performance, attendees heard directly from fo themed breakout sessions:

- 1. Supporting Teenagers Through Their Growing Years;**
- 2. Fostering Together: A Couple's Journey;**
- 3. Supporting Every Child's Unique Needs; and**

The Fostering Open House 2026 factsheet. Photo: MSF

Support for foster parents

In October 2025, MSF raised fostering allowances for families caring for teenagers, including teenagers with special or medical needs. It also strengthened casework support from the Fostering Agencies for foster parents of adolescents.

The 31 October dinner

The 70th Fostering Anniversary Appreciation Dinner doubles as the 13th annual awards ceremony for foster children and youth. Of the 39 awards, 12 are for academic achievement, 10 for sports and arts, 13 for character development and four are Outstanding Achievement Awards. For the first time, MSF will also present awards to Foster Care Workers and Foster Care Teams.

Families can apply to foster at msf.gov.sg/fostering.

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