

Foster Parent Appreciation Speech

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen. It is a privilege to honor you this evening and to have the opportunity to convey our profound appreciation for everything you do.

All of your sacrifices and your hard work do not go unnoticed. We are in awe of you. We respect you, and we are grateful for your heartfelt giving of yourselves in the service of others. Thank you so much.

Treatment Foster Care Oregon – TFCO – is a unique scientific approach developed as an alternative to institutional or group approaches. TFCO offers treatment within foster care for youth with severe emotional and behavioral disorders.

These particular youth are not often successful in most foster care settings. They require a specific strategy to meet their needs. The work of TFCO is to embrace these specific youths—the at-risk youths who may be headed toward a difficult or criminal path. TFCO foster parents help these youths change the direction of their lives before they reach the wrong path.

The TFCO model is unique: Youth live in the TFCO treatment home for approximately nine months—yes, only nine months. The commitment is not long-term for each child. Additionally, 24/7 support is given to foster parents. To make things a little easier for foster parents, TFCO staff will take on the role of the “bad guy” and foster parents get to be the “good guys.” Each TFCO foster home receives initial and ongoing training, daily monitoring, weekly group support, and in-the-moment coaching.

The scientific research conducted to design the model has been continuously ongoing since 1983, and it is the longest running research model of its kind. Currently, TFCO teams have worked with thousands of homes worldwide. That is fantastic, but we want to do more. We can help our communities more. To do that, we need more TFCO foster parents.

TFCO foster parents are unique, cut from a special cloth. One of our longtime foster parents says that it takes a unique personality to do the job. And we appreciate that unique personality, we depend on it.

It isn't easy to find TFCO foster parents. They are selfless and unique, willing to give of themselves for the benefit of others. Our at-risk youth depend on us to find more foster parents like you. You are the heart of the TFCO model.

We have all heard that it takes a village to raise a child, and we need *our* village to grow. While considering how to increase our efforts for locating special, loving people who can join our team, we imagined that you, our current foster parents, socialize with friends and family members who are as caring as yourselves.

On this special evening of appreciation, we want you to understand how important you are to the goals of foster parenting. We know you share our dreams for vulnerable youth. So, as team members, we would like to ask each of you, if you would look among your friends and families, to help us identify one or two people that you think may have the heart to become foster parents. With a recommendation from you, we would be grateful to meet your friends and family members, and perhaps, they would become valued members of the foster parent team.

I'd like to add one more thing: Finding quality foster parents is valuable, and a very special thank you is attached to our request. We know, in your hearts, you are willing to help foster care in any way you can; but we feel an extra thank you is deserved for identifying quality foster parents. With this in mind, we will present a financial thank you to every foster parent who refers a friend or family member who becomes part of the TFCO team.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is our dream to share an evening of foster parent appreciation with you again next year, and with your help recruiting new foster parents, we will be meeting in a much larger room, filled with many more foster parents who will change the lives of at-risk youth.

We are committed to helping foster care youth live the lives they deserve. They deserve to have dreams, and they deserve to reach for their dreams, just as all children deserve. Thank you so much for all you do.