

It takes a community

About us

Greene County Children Services helps provide the support many families need to offer their children safe and loving homes. We offer a spectrum of services from family assessment and support to temporary and permanent child placement through foster care, adoption, group home and independent living programs. Every day we assess reports of abuse or neglect, collaborate with other organizations that serve children in Greene County, and help families meet the needs of our community's most vulnerable children.

Our mission, with the support of the community, is to provide family-centered services to protect children from abuse and neglect by building safe and permanent families.



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It takes a community to protect a child

"Family-centered casework practice is rewarding when a family that has been in a crisis situation says 'thank you' for showing compassion, kindness, respect, support and understanding. I try to practice following this saying: Let me dedicate my life today to the care of those who come my way, touching each with a healing hand and the gentle art for which I stand."

-J. P., Greene County Children Services Caseworker

Protecting children is our top priority

In the United States, a child is abused or neglected every 36 seconds.* That's 876,000 children a year who need help from an agency like Greene County Children Services.

Reaching out to children and families in need is what Greene County Children Services is all about. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and loving home. For those who don't, we help provide the support they and their families need. Every day we assess reports of abuse or neglect, work to assist families struggling to stay together safely, and look for permanent and loving homes for children.

With compassion and commitment, we touch the lives of thousands of people in Greene County every year by providing a voice for children and supporting the families who care for them. Please join us in our unwavering dedication to making a difference.

**According to the Children's Defense Fund*



Stronger families, safer children



“Every community needs good foster homes that offer a safe and stable environment. We are happy just knowing that our foster child is thriving and we can help give her a good start in life.”

– Jodi H., foster parent

our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of professional performance in the field of child welfare.

What we do

Family assessments – Each year, Greene County Children Services responds to more than 1,000 reports of possible child abuse, neglect or dependency. We thoroughly assess all referrals and work in cooperation with community members who are required by Ohio law to report their concerns to us such as attorneys, health care professionals, and school and day care personnel. Assessments allow us to work with families to determine the best course of action for their needs. The safety of the children in the home is always our top priority.

Family support – For children who have been or are at risk of being abused or neglected, we first attempt to keep the family together by coordinating services needed to strengthen the family. Counseling, parent education

and other services can help families develop the problem-solving skills they need to remain intact and reduce the potential for abuse and neglect. Services are provided directly by our caseworkers or through referrals to appropriate community resources.

Placement services – We make every effort to keep children safe in their own homes with their primary family. If this is not possible, we work with the family to find another safe living arrangement, either temporary or permanent, that is in the best interest of each child. Many families have relatives who are able to provide care. Other alternate living arrangements include:

- **Foster care** – Foster families provide full-time temporary care for children. We help arrange foster care in homes with fully screened, qualified families. Our goal is to reunify children with their primary families once their homes are safe and stabilized.
- **Adoption** – If children cannot return safely to their own family, we work diligently to find a permanent home for them. We help nearly 100 families each

year continue to build new hope for their adoptive children.

- **Independent living services** – Our independent living site and independent living program serve youth between the ages of 15 and 21. Participants receive support and education in the critical life skills needed to transition to independence as responsible adults.
- **Group home** – We serve children ages 10 to 18 in a group-living setting when their behaviors prevent them from living successfully in a family foster home.

Be a part of the solution

We are committed to strengthening families and initiating positive, new beginnings for children in Greene County, but we cannot do it alone. We depend on you to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Your input is critical to our success.

Abuse and neglect can come in many forms including physical, emotional and sexual. Anyone who knows or suspects that a child has been or is at risk of being abused, neglected or dependent should report it by calling (937) 562-6600, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. On weekends, holidays or after 5 p.m., please call (937) 372-HELP (4357).

Please let our mission become your mission as well. Reaching out is the first step. It takes a community to protect a child.

Who we are

Greene County Children Services, with the support of the community, provides family-centered services to protect children from abuse and neglect by building safe and permanent families. Our strength lies in the experience and commitment of our skilled staff, our dedicated foster and adoptive parents, and our collaboration with other organizations that serve Greene County families.

We are funded by state and federal dollars as well as local levy support. Many Greene County residents, businesses and organizations provide additional assistance through their generous donations of time, talent and money. We are accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services, a national acknowledgement of

