



Open your heart and change a life.



Be a Pathway Foster Parent

POWER WEEKEND

Complete ALL Foster Parent
Pre-Service Training in just 4 days!

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- Thursday (In-Person): 6:00–9:00 PM
 - Friday (Virtual): 6:00–9:00 PM
 - Saturday (Virtual): 8:30 AM–5:30 PM
 - Sunday (In-Person): 12:00–6:00 PM
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Scan for more info:



Questions or RSVP:

Makenna Taylor, Licensing Coordinator
330-818-0425 or mtaylor@pathwaycfc.org



What to Expect



What is Pathway's Pre-Service Power Weekend Training?

Complete your foster parent pre-service training in one powerful weekend.

*Children who have experienced trauma need compassion, stability, and someone who believes in them. **That someone could be you.***

Pathway's Pre-Service Power Weekend is a FREE four-day training designed to prepare prospective families with the knowledge, tools, and support needed to care for children who have experienced trauma.

You'll gain practical skills, realistic expectations, and a clear understanding of the foster care journey—all in one focused weekend.

Breaks & Food

- A 30-minute lunch break is scheduled on Saturday
- Light food & beverages provided during:
 - Thursday evening (in person)
 - Sunday afternoon (in person)
- We recommend having snacks and water available during virtual sessions.
- ***Please note cameras must be on and all participants visible during all virtual trainings to receive credit.***

What You'll Learn

- How trauma impacts children
- Practical parenting and caring strategies
- How to work with caseworkers and birth families
- What to expect during placements
- How to care for yourself as a caregiver

>>Contact Diane Baksa with training related questions:

330-818-0666 or dbaksa@pathwaycfc.org

\$1,000 Incentive Available

Awarded to foster parents who complete all required checklist items within 30 days of application. Incentive is awarded upon licensure completion.

Training Agenda



Thursday – In Person (6:00–9:00 PM)

6:00–7:00 PM | Orientation

Introduction to foster care, the agency, and what to expect throughout training and the licensing process.

7:00–9:00 PM | Caregiver Role & Responsibilities

Learn what it means to be a foster parent, including your role in supporting the child, their family, and the care team.

Friday – Virtual (6:00–9:00 PM)

Child Development, Infant Safe Sleep & Adolescent Development

Understand how children grow and develop, how to support each stage, and how to ensure safe sleep practices for infants.

Saturday – Virtual (8:30 AM–5:30 PM)

8:30–10:00 AM | Permanency

Learn how foster care supports long-term stability and permanency for children.

10:00 AM–12:00 PM | Discipline Foundations

Explore positive, effective ways to guide behavior and build trust.

12:00–12:30 PM | Lunch Break

Training Agenda



Saturday Continued – Virtual (8:30 AM–5:30 PM)

12:30–2:30 PM | Maintaining Child's Connections

Understand the importance of relationships and how to support connections with family and important people.

2:30–3:30 PM | Partnering with the Primary Family

Learn how to work respectfully and collaboratively with biological families.

3:30–5:30 PM | Effects of Caregiving

Recognize stress, prevent burnout, and practice healthy self-care.

Sunday – In Person (12:00 PM–6:00 PM)

12:00–3:00 PM | Trauma Overview & Impact of Trauma

Understand how trauma affects children's behavior and how to respond with empathy and structure.

3:00–6:00 PM | Basics of Placement & Medication Management

Learn how children are matched with families and what to expect during placement.
Understand safe medication practices and how to advocate for a child's health needs.

Self-Directed Homework

CPR/AED & First Aid

Obtain week prior or after power weekend training. Contact Diane Baksa to schedule:
330-818-0666 or dbaksa@pathwaycfc.org

Meet Your Trainers



Diane Baksa, Pathway Training Manager

Diane supports foster parents throughout the training process by coordinating schedules, sending reminders, and providing virtual session access. She also manages training logistics, tracks attendance, and helps ensure participants have the resources and support they need.



Caroline Grimmert, LSW

Caroline brings extensive experience in child welfare, foster care and adoption, including home studies, case management, and child protective services. As a former licensed foster parent, Caroline also brings firsthand experience and a strong commitment to supporting children and families. Caroline holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Malone University and is a Licensed Social Worker and certified Adoption Assessor.



Angi Rosa, MSW, LSW

Angi Rosa is an experienced social work professional with over 20 years in child welfare, training, and family services. She serves as a Training Supervisor with Stark County Job and Family Services and is also a Field Liaison/Assistant Lecturer at the University of Akron and a Contract Trainer with Pathway Caring for Children. Angi holds a Master of Social Work and is actively involved in community initiatives supporting children and families. She was honored as Trainer of the Year in 2025 in Columbus, Ohio.



Donna Romano, Pathway Retired Foster Parent & Trainer

Donna Romano became a licensed foster parent with Pathway Caring for Children in 1998 alongside her husband, spending 18 years fostering teenage boys. After her husband's passing in 2016, she continued her work as a trainer, utilizing her extensive fostering experience to provide families with practical guidance, insight, and support throughout their journeys.



Eric Stucki

Eric Stucki is a leader with over a decade of experience in training, nonprofit work, and team development. Eric brings strong communication and leadership experience through his extensive experience and work in ministry, serving as Worship Director. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Akron and is passionate about developing others, building strong teams, and supporting children and families.



Rachel Valentine

Rachel Valentine holds a Bachelor's degree in Family Studies from Ohio University and advanced certifications in trauma-informed care. She currently is a trauma-informed practitioner and nonprofit leader who has experience supporting children, families, and vulnerable populations. She is a certified TBRI® Practitioner. Her background includes post-adoption services, resilience education, and legal guardianship, reflecting a strong commitment to family stability and advocacy.