

YES! I want to be a friend of the Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc. by contributing \$ _____

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ I have enclosed my check made payable to **Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.**

_____ I would like to make a single gift of \$ _____ on my credit card account. Please charge my Visa Mastercard credit card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Print name of cardholder _____ Signature _____

Cut here and send with payment. Thank you!



Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.
 c/o Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition
 112A East Haverhill Street
 Lawrence, MA 01841
 Telephone: 978.332.8265
 Fax: 978.685.3177
WWW.FOSTERKIDSMV.ORG

 Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/fosterkidsmv

OFFICERS:

Larry F. Giordano, President
 Eileen F. Giordano, Vice President
 Donna L. Kelleher, Treasurer
 Kelly Moore, Secretary

DIRECTORS:

Kim Contarino
 Sheriff Frank Cousins
 Rep. Brian S. Dempsey
 Barbara Bonanno-Frascone
 Juliann Grant
 Frank Graziano
 Donna E. Hardwick
 Joseph Parolisi
 William C. Pitocchelli
 Lauren Russo
 Susanne Spitale
 Francine E. Valcourt, Esq.
 Arlene Willette
 Vicky Wu Davis

HONORARY DIRECTOR:

Senator Stan Rosenberg

MENTORING PROGRAM MANAGER:

Angela Collier-Costa



Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley Inc.

Because Every Kid Counts

Serving All Foster Children in the Merrimack Valley

WWW.FOSTERKIDSMV.ORG

Larry F. Giordano Founder and President



Larry Giordano is the President and Founder of Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc., which supports the growing needs of foster children in the Merrimack Valley region. Larry was raised as a foster child

after he was abandoned by his mother in a Springfield Hotel when he was five days old. He lived in a foster home until he was 17, at which time he entered the US Air Force. His years in foster care shaped the man Larry Gagnon became and as a tribute to his foster mother, he took her surname Giordano and became Larry Giordano. Due to his experience as a foster child, he knows the value of community support and inspired him to create this organization to support foster children in the Merrimack Valley.

Today, Larry is a recognized leader in the Merrimack Valley with an exceptional resume of community service. He currently serves as a Methuen City Councilor and Hanshi Master at the Giordano Family Methuen Karate School. In previous years, he served as Commissioner of Public Safety, Methuen State Representative and Methuen Police Officer.

Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.



Founded in 2005, the **Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.** is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The mission of the organization is to serve the needs of foster children now in the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in the Merrimack Valley, including Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover and Greater Haverhill. Our goal is to create programs and provide resources that will create a positive influence in their lives and support the children as they grow.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

MENTORING PROGRAM FOR AGING OUT CHILDREN

Between ages 14 and 18, foster children must make a transition to prepare to be on their own. The direction they decide to take during this time (whether in education, career, etc) will impact the rest of their lives – and our local community. When released from the foster care system to find their way in the world, they can easily become homeless, unemployed and socially or self-destructive.

Our mentoring program matches one foster child between ages 14 to 18 (or slightly younger or older) with one adult mentor who will be a role model and help them transition out of the DCF program. Mentors are carefully selected and trained to be a positive influence within the guidelines of the mentoring program. We invite men and women over 21 from our community to consider volunteering to become a mentor to an aging out foster child. For more information, email Angela Costa-Collier at angela.collier@fosterkidsmv.org

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our hallmark event provides a memorable Christmas party for foster children in the Merrimack Valley, ages birth – 18. Every child receives a gift from Santa, along with a pizza party, games, and more. Foster parents also receive a small gift to recognize their efforts.

PACK-IT-UP PROJECT

Foster children often use plastic bags when moving between homes. We collect new back packs and duffle bags to help them make a more dignified transition.

Accepted Donations



The Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc. asks the community to help them make a difference by making a tax-deductible donation.

DONATIONS NEEDED INCLUDE:

- Backpacks (new)
- Books
- Cash
- Duffle Bags (new)
- Gift Cards from local retail stores
- Toys
- Games