



## Questions and Answers about Weekend Miracles Hosting

**Q: Who are host parents?**

A: Adult volunteers who are willing to help an older child find an adoptive family and who have the time and energy to commit to parenting the child two hosting weekends a month for at least four months.

**Q: Who can host?**

A: Hosts must be at least 21 years of age and at least ten years older than the child they are hosting. Host parents can be singles or couples. No member of the host household can have a conviction for any violent crime or a crime against a child. The host family home must have bedroom space for the hosted child.

Host parents go through an approval process before they start hosting. This process requires the collection of a variety of documents and background checks. It will also allow you to ask questions and get answers to any questions about hosting.

**Q: What if I was convicted of a lesser crime some years ago?**

A: Other types of prior convictions are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Such convictions will not necessarily exclude you from hosting. Please talk to us so we can give you an answer specific to your situation.

**Q: Is there a maximum age for host parents?**

A: No. Hosts must have the energy and willingness to parent a teenager. But there is no maximum age limit.

**Q: Are host parents people who are planning to adopt?**

A: Not necessarily. While our ultimate goal is to help each child in the program find an adoptive family, hosting is different from adoption. Host parents increase the chance that the child will meet a family who will want to adopt him or her. It is wonderful if host parents are interested in adoption, but many host parents are not planning to adopt and it is not a requirement for hosting.

**Q: Is there a residency requirement?**

A: For our DC Weekend Miracles Program, host parents can live anywhere in the DC metro area. For our LA Weekend Miracles Program, overnight host parents must live in LA County. (If you live outside the county, please ask us about “day” hosting.)

**Q: How do you prepare people to become host parents?**

A: You will receive training that will help you learn about why children are in foster care and what their different needs are as a result. Kidsave staff will work with you both before and after you become a host parent. You can call on us at any time for information or help.

**Q: How do you match children and host parents?**

A: By attending Family Events, interested adults and children get to know each other over a period of time. Host parents are best able to advocate for a child they feel a connection to and so we allow relationships to develop naturally. We make matches based on the expressed interest or willingness of both the adult and child to be matched.

**Q: How are children chosen for the Weekend Miracles program?**

A: Weekend Miracles children are 12 and older in the DC program and 9 and older in our LA program. (Younger siblings may be in the program if they are to be adopted with a sibling who is in the Weekend Miracles program.) The children are in foster care and cannot return to their birth or extended families. They are waiting to be adopted but do not yet have an identified adoptive family. Children are in the Weekend Miracles program because traditional recruitment efforts have not been successful in finding them a family.



**Q: Are all of the children in the program on your website?**

A: No. While profiles of many participating children are on the website, some children are unwilling to have their pictures and profiles posted. The best way to meet all of the children is to attend our monthly events.

**Q: Does Kidsave provide financial compensation for hosting?**

A: No. Host parents are volunteers. We are grateful to the compassionate individuals who volunteer their time and commitment as hosts, mentors and advocates.

**Q: How does a host parent advocate for a child?**

A: Host parents advocate by talking to others about the child and creating opportunities for people to learn about or meet the child to help us find them an adoptive family. Advocating can be as simple as taking the child with you to a family barbecue, employee picnic or your place of worship. This helps expand the number of people who meet the child and increases the chances the child will meet someone who is interested in adopting him or her.

**Q: I'm ready to get started. What do I have to do?**

A: Come to an orientation session, where we will explain the program in greater detail. Once you have completed a host parent application, we will sign you up for training and get you started on the approval process.

**Q: I'm not sure I am ready to host. Is there some other way I can help?**

A: Most definitely. Weekend Miracles depends upon the efforts of many volunteers. Other volunteer roles include advocates (and, in DC, mentors). We also welcome assistance from individuals who want to plan a Family Event for us or help with fundraising. Please ask about these other vital roles.

If we did not answer your specific question or if you have a question about your particular family or circumstances, please just ask us.