

Tipton Children's Home

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Choose Better for the Children

The Tipton Children's Home is a long-term residential group home for children. It is a safe and viable alternative to state-run foster programs such as the Department of Human Services. This organization serves as a better option for children whose parents or legal guardians can no longer take care of them.

According to the DHS website, "foster care is temporary care for children by trained, assessed and accredited foster careers. Victorian foster careers play a vital role in our community, providing a safe and nurturing home to children home for children and young people who cannot live with their birth family". DHS and the Tipton Children's Home both strive to support children in need, but they differ in many ways.

How it Started

"The Tipton Children's Home history starts in 1921 in Canadian, Texas, with the decision to take care of four children after the death of their mother.

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Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Beach, a couple whose own children were all married, showed a great interest in the children, and their hearts went out to them. They volunteered to take the children into their big house if someone would help them with the expenses. In September of 1922, the elders at Canadian were notified that the home would have to be moved out of the old building by March 1923. At this time, they had 72 children". Later on the elders decided to move the Home to a new location. The Tipton Children's Home is currently located in Tipton, Oklahoma.

"The elders were not tired of the work, but felt it would be in the best interest of the children to move to another location that was on a farm close to a town, with the Home closer to larger population centers. After hearing Mr. Swinney talk about the Home and the need to move the Home, Sol and Maggie Tipton determined together that they could give eighty acres of the "best land in the Southwest." The Tipton elders, L.A. Todd, H. N. Seymour, R. E. Chitwood, S. D. Jackson and Sol Tipton, were in agreement about accepting the responsibility of the orphan's home." By the summer of 1927 the Home had grown to over 200 children.

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About the Home

This group home is designed for children ages 5-17 years old. Tipton's mission is to raise these children in a loving, stable, Christian environment and prepare them for adulthood. Youths attend regular church services and church related activities at the Tipton Church of Christ.

Tipton children attend Tipton Public Schools and have access to things such as tutoring and educational support from the house parents and Tipton staff. Children with learning disabilities are provided extra help as well. This alone is huge reason why the Tipton Children's Home serves as a better option for foster children than the state-run program DHS. The child's education is very important and does not get overlooked.

The children of Tipton are able to participate in Tipton school activities. Some of the activities they have access to include but are not limited to: athletics, student council, drama, newspaper, yearbook, academic team, and FFA. This is another reason why Tipton is a better choice for foster children than DHS.

Another advantage that Tipton has is that children have access to medical support. Tipton has a team of therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and mental

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health counselors. These professionals are available to provide help for any emotional and behavioral difficulties any children may face.

According to the Tipton website “There are no fees to the family or legal guardians for children placed at Tipton Children’s Home. Donations are accepted, but not required OR expected. Parents or legal guardians maintain their legal rights and give written consent for the child to be placed. It is our desire to help as many children as possible and to strengthen them and their families”. DHS too is free of charge, but it simply does not provide the same stability and support the Tipton Children’s home does.

The Tipton Children’s home is a better solution for foster children. I believe that foster children in Oklahoma should go to this home rather than go through the DHS system. If the Tipton Children’s Home expanded, it could provide even more children with a better chance at a brighter future.

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Works Cited

"Foster Care." *Department of Human Services*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

"Tipton Children's Home Museum." *Tipton Children's Home*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.