

Earlier this year, Sharon contacted LCC asking for assistance to find a set of bunk beds and kitchen stools that she needed for her apartment as she prepared to become a foster parent to teenagers who are aging out of foster care.

When Sharon was in her twenties, she was a foster parent for infant and toddlers. After a life-changing event, she found it difficult to continue as a foster parent and let her license lapse. She then went on to be credentialed to work in the mental health and drug addiction field.

Over the past years, working in the field of mental health and drug addiction she found herself working with many young adults who had grown up in foster care, somehow fell through the cracks, and never learned the life skills that you and I learned in teenage years.

For many of these young adults their self-identity is shaped by the culture of our time, and what other people said about them. You are a loser, no one loves you, you will never amount to anything, you cannot change, you are worthless. All of which left them unprepared to be a successfully functioning adult in society. Many of them never learn how to make healthy and wise decisions, develop healthy relationships with other people, learn that it is ok to ask for help, and learn to control their emotions and to appropriately act on them. Some have never learned life skills of cooking, how to set up a bank account, good work habits etc.

Somehow, with the guidance of Christian adults around us who invested their love and time in us we were able to navigate those difficult teenage years. Through trial and error with guidance and encouragement, we learned which enabled us to step into adulthood with hope for a future.

During this journey, Sharon felt God's calling to renew her license as a foster care parent and to work with teenagers who are aging out of the foster care system. She wants to teach them the skills to live as an adult in society

Working through Immanuel Palatine and some gracious donors, LCC was able to meet Sharon's needs. She has connected with the pastor and other church members while participating in ministry events. This past week Sharon received word that she has been approved as a foster parent and can be expecting a teen in the near future.

Foster parenting is a very rewarding and fulfilling calling. It can also be very challenging and stressful. Being a single parent is always difficult. Being a single foster parent will come with some extra challenges. In faith, we know that our loving Lord always equips those he calls to do his work.

Please keep Sharon and other single parents in your prayers. Pray that God surrounds them with people who encourage and support them in their calling. Pray that He guides and strengthens them filling each new day with hope. Listen to what God says about children Ps 68:5, Deut. 10:18, Deut. 10:14, James 1:27. As you consider how God may be calling you and your Church to care for orphaned children, take heart. "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24)