



You Matter.

Hello Foster Families of Polk County!

All Things Foster DSM is a group of local foster and adoptive moms who have been working with the department for change. Last month was Social Worker month. With the help of the community, we were able to bless over 100 social workers in the DSM area with treats and encouragement. We've also written a Foster Parent Bill of Rights that has completed the legislative process and will be signed into law this month!

May is Foster Family month. You as caregivers of foster children are the heart of the child welfare system. You say yes to caring for the most vulnerable children in our state on the worst day of that child's life. Your commitment, your love, your drive can not be summed up properly.

Children in the child welfare system often lack core belongings, like personal photos. Professional photographers here in Des Moines have donated their time to help us offer FREE sessions to foster families! You are welcome to bring your foster child's biological family IF you would like, and it is appropriate. You can also invite your foster children's siblings, if they are in other homes, to get sibling pictures together. If two Polk County families have siblings and would both like a session, please sign up for back to back time slots (ie: 9 am & 9:20 am). Both families will have their own session, but the same photographer will be able to get sibling photos as well.

These outdoor mini sessions will be 15 minutes long at Water Works Park. There will be an email the week of giving more detailed instructions of where to start and register. We ask that you come 15-20 minutes BEFORE your scheduled session to allow for registration. We can't wait to meet you and capture some core memories for your family and the children you are caring for! Please reach out to Abby Hemmings with any questions at [lifeslikethatphotography@gmail.com](mailto:lifeslikethatphotography@gmail.com).

\*\*\*At this time, the event is for families with current placements only. Thank you!