



**Ranch Ehrlo Society**

Treatment Foster Care Program

**Growing success**



# Program summary



The Treatment Foster Care Program (TFC) provides the Ministry of Social Services with an important resource along the continuum of care for children and families. The two agencies work collaboratively to recruit, train, and support treatment foster care families. This innovative approach sees treatment foster care parents contracted as professional service providers and compensated accordingly.

## Who the program is for:

- Children and youth, between the ages of six to 15
- Youth whose needs are better served outside a group home
- Youth whose special needs require individualized treatment within a family environment
- Children requiring out of home care
- Children transitioning from group or residential living

## The program offers:

- Access to Ranch Ehrlo's integrated range of treatment, including:
  - Clinical Assessment and Resource services
  - Ehrlo Counselling
  - Occupational therapist
  - Speech language therapist
  - Pow wow club
  - Equine therapy
  - Paper Crane Community Arts
  - Specialized education classes
- Birth family involvement in planning and decision making
- Family reunification whenever possible
- Coordinated respite services available at any time
- 24-hour on call support
- Caseworker ratio of 10:1
- Caseworker provides individual parenting sessions and in-home family sessions
- Youth treatment groups
- Program workshops offered four times a year

## Quick facts

- Started in 2011
- Serves 10 children within our current contract
- Provides service for three children in specialized placements
- Referrals come from SK Social Service, South Region
- Eight licensed foster families in the program
- One licensed respite family
- 50% of children in the program are male
- 70% of children in the program are Aboriginal
- 75% of children show improved psychosocial functioning based on CAFAS scores
- 97% of youth said they felt safe in their foster home.

\*based on a 2015 COA survey



# Birth parent's point of view

## Eva's story

After nearly reaching her breaking point, Eva\* surrendered custody of her son to the Ministry; she was doing the best she could with what she had but it wasn't enough to parent her young child.

"I had lost my mind," she explained. "I couldn't function, I couldn't cope, and I didn't have the skills I needed. I didn't want him to feel like I was abandoning him, but I needed him to understand that things couldn't continue the way they were."

Her son, Jackson\*, was placed in a group home living arrangement for a brief period before he and Eva were transferred to the Ranch Ehrlo Treatment Foster Care (TFC) Program.

"Reunification was always the goal," said Eva. "We just needed time apart to learn and grow."

With referrals and resources provided by the Ranch TFC program, Jackson was evaluated and diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). With a definitive diagnosis, Eva and Jackson were on the right path. The pair were referred to the Autism Resource Centre and were provided access to a caseworker, occupational therapist, and other resources.

"I learned how to communicate with Jackson, how to support him, how to understand him, and how to find resources in our community for him," said Eva.

Despite being in foster care, Eva said her relationship with Jackson has remained strong.

"We've kept in contact throughout, trying to keep our bond intact," she explained. "That was the thing about the Ranch TFC program, yes my child was in their possession, but they welcomed my interaction. I was never denied involvement or participation in Jackson's life."

Eva and Jackson are now reunited. There were challenges along the way, but the family worked through the issues with the new skills they learned in the TFC program and have started a new chapter in their family history.

## Toni's story

In 2014, Toni asked her two sons' social worker if they could be moved from Nipawin to Regina, where she is currently living. When her boys were moved and assigned a new social worker and Toni was introduced to the Ranch Ehrlo Treatment Foster Care Program.

After learning that her sons would be placed in a temporary foster home with the ultimate goal of being reunified with her, Toni readily agreed to participate in the TFC.

"Before they moved to the city, I hadn't seen them in almost four and a half years," Toni said. "As soon as they moved them down, that's when I started working with the Treatment Foster Care program."

Toni is pleased with the way she's invited to participate in all aspects of her sons' lives and feels very supported.

"Everything that Ranch Ehrlo does with my boys, I get notified about it and invited to participate."

Through the assessments provided by Ranch Ehrlo, Toni learned that her boys have ADHD. She's learned coping methods, for herself, her boys, and her other children.

Her sons are presently living with a Treatment Foster Care family.

"The home that they're in right now, I think it's perfect for them. Kayely has worked with kids who have ADHD. She has a daughter who is ten months, and I have a son who just turned one - so having them be around a baby at Kayely's house is getting them used to being around my baby."

Toni and Kayely have an excellent relationship. They talk about the boys' behaviour, and work together to find solutions for any issues that may arise.

"The boys have come so far from where they were. Their medication has been cut down, and their behaviours are better."

Her ultimate goal is to be reunified with her boys.

## Foster parent's point of view

### Janelle and Matt foster parents since 2015, discussing the recruitment and training process:



“Ranch Ehrlo really professionalizes foster care. We chose this program mainly for the support we received. Support is

available seven days a week and the caseworkers bring a tone of resources to the table.”

“As a caregiver you are empowered to be a part of the case plan. You are seen as someone who has insight and expertise on the child’s behavior because you see them when they are at crisis and you see them when they are at baseline. Your opinion matters in making the treatment plan for the child.”

### Heather and Quincy foster parents since 2015, discussing support:



“There is ongoing support any time of the day. Some one is always on call.”

“The respite process that is available to us is handy to have and an easy process to use. There is a respite family available for us to use. The respite care provider ensures that the care that is provided in her home is the same as in our home because she is part of the team and takes the same training we do.”

### Angela foster parent since 2013, discussing community involvement:



“Access to all the programs through the Ranch, as well as community activities, just gives us a lot of variety for our youth

We don’t have to look for the programming ourselves because it’s already in place.”

“Programs like Ehrlo Sport Venture are very helpful in the reunification process because families are welcome to join in the activities. When youth move back home they are able to continue that involvement with no financial obligation from the parents..”

### Trevor foster parent since 2012, discussing assessment service and family reunification:



“We use the assessment team when our family is having difficulties with some of the problematic

behaviours and we are looking for assistance.”

“When we get recommendations from our assessment team, our foster family will sit down and implement them. We then take those recommendations to their school and we also pass along the information to the reunification family.”

“Our foster family passes along skills and tools to the reunification family. We do that during visits, meetings, and role modeling during visits at our home and holidays.