



**Excellence**  
IN FOSTER CARE AWARDS

## Tips for your nomination

Thanks for showing an interest in nominating an extraordinary caregiver for an Excellence in Foster Care Award!

Here are some tips to help with your information gathering and to make your nomination stand out.

- **Tell us a story**

Let us get to know your nominated caregiver (or caregiving couple) and why you think they are deserving of an Excellence in Foster Care Award.

Why did they start caregiving? Try and give as much context and history as possible.

How are they extraordinary in the care they provide? What sets them apart from other caregivers?

- **Don't skim over the details**

How many children are in their care and how long have they been caring for them?

Have they also cared for other children over the years?

Do they have biological children?

How was the child in need of care welcomed into the family?

- **Give examples of how they are the child's biggest cheerleader**

How does the caregiver, or caregiving couple advocate for the children in their care? Think about their interactions with school, social workers or government agencies.

In what ways do they support the child's sports, recreation and community activities?

How do they support the child to establish, maintain and improve their whānau (family) connections?

- **Show us how highly regarded they are by others**

Supporting documents are really important - they can make the difference between a good nomination and an excellent, award-winning one.

Include letters of support or references from others who know the caregiver well - ideally someone who is part of the child's life. These documents should highlight the caregiver's strengths and achievements within their community - it's OK if they cover information that you've already entered into the nomination form, that's a good thing!

- **Make it clear how the caregiver helps others**

Do they mentor other caregivers?

Are they always prepared to give advice, or provide support at the drop of a hat?

- **Be creative!**

Photographs and videos are great! Even Powerpoint presentations can help to give the selection panel a better feel for the type of wonderful person you're nominating.

Above all, be authentic and please do reach out to our friendly team if you need some advice:  
[events@caringfamilies.org.nz](mailto:events@caringfamilies.org.nz)