Foster Homes In Acadiana Aid Children

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Lafayette City Police Juvenile Department had received complaints about Mrs. Sue Deaux. Neighbors reported that the home was in terrible condition and the children were half-starved.

A caseworker from the Division of Child Welfare of the State Department of Public Welfare office in Lafayette went to see Mrs. Deaux. Mrs. Deaux's husband was in prison, and the caseworker found the home dirty and disorderly.

Mrs. Deaux knew she was making a mess of things, and it was all more than she could handle. She wanted to do better for the children.

Subsequent visits confirmed the worker's initial observation that Mrs. Deaux and the children are very close, and even in the face of harsh problems at home she was determined to keep the children with her.

Struggle Too Much

The Division of Child Welfare also wanted the children with their mother, but the struggle was too much at the time.

The children were placed in a foster home, there to be cared for until Mrs. Deaux would be able to care for them. Foster homes in Acadiana have become a common sight.

Enjoy Meal — Foster children in this Lafayette home enjoy a meal in the kitchen of their new home. There are presently 496 children in 113 foster homes in a seven-parish area served by the Division of Child Welfare central office in Lafayette.

Unlimited Number

Miss Louise Bourne, child welfare consultant at the Lafayette office, said there is a need for "almost an unlimited number" of foster homes.

Child Welfare pays an average of $88 per month to families who will offer them care. It also pays for all medical and clothing costs, and provides the children with an allowance.

Economically Scarred

Most children in foster homes have been removed from their families by a court order, leaving the parents and children emotionally scarred in most cases. Miss Bourne points out that the children are emotionally and educationally deprived because of their home environment, and...