



Safe Families for Children

HOST FAMILY

FACT SHEET



THE CORNERSTONE The foundation of the Safe Families for Children movement lies in the practice of hosting children and providing parents with extended family-like support. This distinguishing feature sets us apart from other initiatives that aim to love and support vulnerable children and families. The heart of our mission is radical hospitality. We firmly believe that by opening our hearts and homes, we have a unique opportunity to embody the spirit of Christ with a servant posture.

Safe Families for Children operates as a volunteer network offering a safety net for parents, providing them with a caring refuge to place their children during times of crisis. Safe Families was established to assist families before their children are legally removed, which would require complex court proceedings for reunification. As a voluntary and non-coercive option, we serve as an alternative to the state child welfare system.

By temporarily hosting children, Safe Families for Children provides parents with the essential time and opportunity to address personal challenges without the threat of losing custody. Extensive research indicates that Safe Families is a safe and effective intervention for preventing children from entering foster care and reunifying families. The ultimate goal is family preservation, ensuring children are spared the trauma of forced removal and the necessity for foster care. While 97% of children are reunited with their parents through Safe Families, only 42% of children experience reunification through the foster care system.



Safe Families gives us the opportunity to serve as an entire family by opening our home to kids and families in need. It's an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and help teach our kids what it means to serve and think of others. We love the heart of Safe Families and getting to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of the families we meet.

The CHANDLER Family

How It Works



HOSTING IS A VOLUNTEER ROLE and Host Families can decide when they are available for hosting opportunities. Once fully vetted and trained, Host Families open their homes to care for children without monetary compensation. Parents place their children with Host Families voluntarily and retain full custody. Within the Circle of Support, Host Families receive continuous assistance, resources, and encouragement, enabling them to dedicate their full attention to the proper care and safety of the child/children in their care.

A hosting can range anywhere from one day to three months. The average length of stay is 45 days. Every effort will be made to determine the expected duration of the placement at the time it is initiated. The duration of the placement will be influenced by several factors, such as the severity of the family's crisis, the willingness and capability of the biological parent to address the underlying issues, and other situational variables crucial for establishing a stable and healthy family environment. Safe Families works hard to ensure that both parent and Host Family are fully informed with proper communication channels.



Children *SAFE* Families *TOGETHER*

Host Family Requirements

IT IS OUR PREFERENCE to recruit Host Family parents who view their participation in this program as an embodiment of Christ's compassion. With this mindset, Host Families can impart the healing power of Christian love to children and families confronting crisis situations. Therefore, we prefer parents who actively participate in a Christian faith community.

It is the policy of Safe Families to require vetting to ensure we have competent and effective Host Family parents to care for the needs of the children. It is the ultimate goal for the child to feel loved and cared for, and to truly feel like a cherished member of the family. The impact that you, as a Host Family, can have in the life of this child is significant.

Requirements

1. Over the age of 25 years; stable, mature, and law-abiding
3. Free from the use of illegal drugs and demonstrates moderate alcohol consumption
4. Homes must be in satisfactory condition
5. Agree to follow the SFFC program guidelines for parent expectations
6. Refrain from profanity and other potentially damaging behavior to the child
7. Provide for the health and safety of the child and maintain your health, strength, and mobility
8. Serve under the support and supervision of a Safe Families Church



Become a Host Family:

SCAN TO APPLY



1. FILL OUT AN APPLICATION Some of our questions may seem personal, but it is crucial for us to get to know you as thoroughly as possible. We strive to put parent's minds at ease, knowing their children will be hosted in safe and secure environments.

2. SUBMIT THREE REFERENCES You will need to provide us with contact information or reference letters from three people (non-family members) who know you well.

3. EXPECT A BACKGROUND CHECK Depending on the state in which you live, you will need to be fingerprinted or provide information for a criminal and child-abuse background check to be conducted.

4. COMPLETE THE TRAINING All Host Families are required to complete the Safe Families training to ensure they are well-equipped to handle their responsibilities. This can be done online or in person in your community and is about 4 hours.

5. EXPECT A HOME VISIT When we receive your completed application, we will contact you to arrange a home visit. The visit will allow us to get to know you and your family and make sure your home is safe and ready to host children.



Safe Families
for Children



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