



Safe Families Schools

WHAT WE *Do*

Safe Families Schools is an evidence-based program, created in response to the urgent need for early intervention to keep **children safe** and **families together**. We work alongside schools and early childhood centers to identify and establish a parent and child safety network for isolated families enduring hardship and unforeseeable challenges. By standing in the gap, we offer relational and resource support to help stabilize and strengthen parents and prevent family separation.



OUR *Objectives*

Our goal is to connect vulnerable families in the early childhood and elementary school settings to a network of caring and supportive volunteers in order to positively impact a child's ability to **learn**, **grow** and **thrive**. The average age of a child in foster care is **8 years old**.^{*} Educators and school administrators are the primary source for early identification of children and families in crisis. In partnership with local schools and early childhood centers, we recruit and activate a support network within the community to:

Stabilize, strengthen
+ support parents

Enhance a child's learning,
development + growth

Minimize or eliminate harmful
disruptions for a child at school

Reduce family
stressors + isolation

*2024 U.S. Foster Care Statistics, Christian Alliance for Orphans, <https://cafo.org/foster-care-statistics/>

OUR *Support*



Multiple levels of **community support** and resources to help families.



Temporary, safe homes for children (parents keep full custody).



Home environment and family unit is **stabilized and strengthened**.



Parents and children gain **hope and thrive** now and into their future.

Our **community network of support** **encircles isolated families** many of who are experiencing:

- Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health Issues
- Alcohol + Drug Recovery
- Unemployment
- Incarceration
- Trafficking + Exploitation
- Emergency Medical Needs

HOW IT WORKS

Safe Families for Children is fueled by **radical hospitality**, **disruptive generosity**, and **intentional compassion**. We aim to strengthen parents, prevent child abuse and neglect, and reduce family separation by deflecting children from unnecessarily entering foster care.

Our evidence-based movement partners with local communities to recruit, train and equip volunteers through **Circles of Support** to serve families facing significant life stressors. Each role assists in stabilizing and strengthening the family unit through building intentional relationships to prevent future isolation.

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT



HOST FAMILIES are screened and approved to host children in their homes temporarily

FAMILY FRIENDS encourage and support parents in crisis or host families through hot meals, childcare, or transportation

FAMILY COACHES walk alongside parents to strengthen them and help them reach their goals

RESOURCE FRIENDS provide goods and services to families in need

QUICK FACTS

- Founded in 2003 in Chicago, Illinois
- Chapters in 30 states serving 150 cities nationwide
- Over 78,000 children hosted in volunteer homes
- Provided 1.4 million bed nights of safety for children
- Average length of hosting is 30 days
- 97% reunification rate

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