



**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **Safe Families for Children Celebrating 20 Years of Keeping Children Safe and out of the Foster Care System**

**October 2023- Chicago, IL.** Safe Families for Children (SFFC) is excited to announce its 20th anniversary, celebrating the national impact of the movement to keep children safe and families together during crisis situations. SFFC has provided over 67,000 hosting arrangements, which is equivalent to 1.2 million bed nights of safety, with a 97% family reunification rate. We have stood in the gap for families, and our research shows that we have decreased the number of children unnecessarily entering the foster care system.

"The child welfare system is reactive, only responding after bad things happen. Why do we have to wait, explained Dr. Dave Anderson, founder and CEO of SFFC. "Someone should change the way families are supported before child welfare involvement." Dr. Anderson did just that.

Founded in 2003, Safe Families is an evidence-based, community-driven nonprofit that seeks to reframe how families are served and supported when facing challenging and unmanageable circumstances. Through a relational "Circle of Support," a network of dedicated volunteers hosts children and supports parents, providing families the space to work through their life challenges, creating an opportunity to stabilize and stay together. The goal is to provide a safe alternative for parents and help build strong, resilient families in the community.

When a crisis strikes, many families have no one to turn to. "Poverty and social isolation leave too many parents without support networks when they need them the most," says Dave Anderson, founder of SFFC. "This can often lead to abuse and neglect of children because families have nowhere to turn." **We believe that relationships are the answer to what the US Surgeon General names as the nation's latest epidemic: isolation and loneliness.**

Safe Families is a community- and evidence-based model that provides a safety net for families as they regain stability. With over 50,000 volunteers, SFFC is building a movement of people committed to radical hospitality, disruptive generosity, and intentional compassion who open their hearts and homes to host children and support parents.

The Safe Families movement has grown nationally, with over 90 local chapters in 30 states, and has supported over 65,000 children and families. They have also expanded globally to Canada, the UK, Hong Kong, and beyond.

If you would like more information or to schedule an interview, you can contact Cheri Jimenez, Director of Communications, at [cjimenez@safefamilies.net](mailto:cjimenez@safefamilies.net).