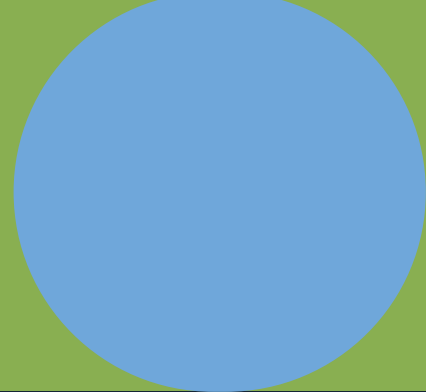


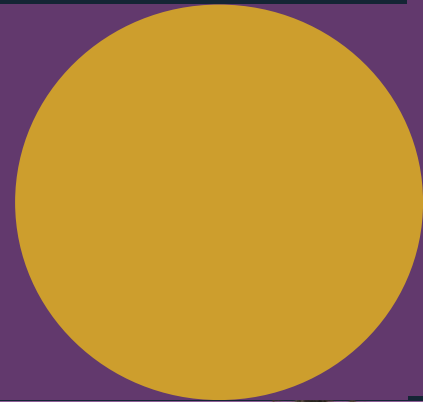


Safe Families
for Children



Safe Families SUNDAY

LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR





LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL | LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Safe Families SUNDAY



4/5 THE MISSION

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Families?

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16/17 GROW THE MOVEMENT

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Your Partnership

18/19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Dear Pastor and Ministry Leader,

Thank you for taking the time to consider partnering with Safe Families for Children for “Safe Families Sunday.” As you explore these materials, I’d like to share a perspective that shapes how we view this opportunity.

At Safe Families, we deeply believe that the Church is not merely an institution or a building, but a gathering of God’s people called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. The Church – not Safe Families – has been and always will be His primary means of bringing hope and healing to our world. That’s why Safe Families Sunday isn’t about our organization becoming the hero of the story – it’s about equipping your church to live out its calling. Your congregation already has the God-given capacity for radical hospitality, disruptive generosity, and intentional compassion. Our role is simply to provide a framework that enables your people to express these values in tangible ways through caring for vulnerable children and families in crisis.

Please know that we offer these Safe Families Sunday resources with humility and an open hand. They are not meant to simply promote our organization but to serve you and your congregation in whatever way is most helpful. We understand that each church has its own unique culture, calling, and context. These materials are starting points that you are welcome to adapt, modify, or reimagine to best fit your ministry vision. Our goal is to serve you, not to have you promote Safe Families for our sake.

I’m available to discuss how we might customize this opportunity to best serve your congregation

and community. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or thoughts about how we can better support your ministry.

In partnership for His Kingdom,

Justin Peterson

Church Engagement National Support



Safe Families SUNDAY

THIS YEAR'S SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY

February 15, 2026

Safe Families Sunday will be observed on the third Sunday in February. Having a designated date allows churches to plan and align calendars with other events and special occasions. However, we understand that every church has its own culture and calendaring challenges, so please feel free to use another date and time that better suits your congregation.

We desire to humbly come alongside and serve the church in its Great Commission and discipleship calling. It is our prayer that these resources will communicate both the need and the opportunity for your church to be engaged in championing all children and families.

For new church partners, Safe Families Sunday presents an excellent opportunity to introduce the Safe Families for Children vision, mission, and core values to your congregation and join us in the mission of keeping children safe and families together.





LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL

WHAT WE BELIEVE



OUR VISION

We desire a world where vulnerable children are safe and families are transformed through radically compassionate communities .



OUR MISSION

We host vulnerable children and create extended family-like support for isolated families through a community of devoted volunteers to keep children safe and families together.



CORE VALUES

Radical Hospitality
Disruptive Generosity
Intentional Compassion



OUR OBJECTIVES

1

SUPPORT +
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

2

PREVENT CHILD
ABUSE + NEGLECT

3

DEFLECT
CHILDREN FROM
FOSTER CARE



CLICK TO WATCH

What Does it
Mean to Keep a
Family Together

RECOGNIZED FOR COMPASSIONATE IMPACT

SafeFamilies is honored to receive Christianity Today's 2025 Compassion Award for "Stepping In for Struggling Parents." This recognition affirms our mission to tangibly care for vulnerable families through the love of Christ.

In partnership with local churches and compassionate volunteers, we provide free, temporary hosting for children during crises—preserving parent guardianship and supporting family reunification. Together, we share the compassion of Jesus by loving our neighbors in both word and action.

Read the full feature at christianitytoday.com





THE CALLING

“

I want my people in the pews not to just hear the Word, but to become it. I want them to live it out and experience it in a powerful and life- changing way. I can't think of a better opportunity to bring in more people to your church because you are loving them. It will change your church.”



CLICK TO WATCH

Video from Pastor
Dan Smith, Lead Pastor
of New Life Church

At Safe Families, we deeply believe that the Church is not merely an institution or a building, but a gathering of God's people called to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

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. Your congregation already has the God-given capacity for radical hospitality, compassion fueled by mercy, and disruptive generosity. Our role is simply to provide a framework that enables your people to express these values in tangible ways through caring for vulnerable children and families in crisis.

WHEN BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY BEGINS WITH THE PASTOR

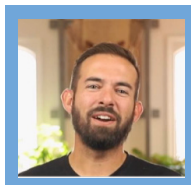
When my wife and I moved to Hillsboro, Oregon, to plant a church, we knew we were taking a certain amount of risk. Church planting is difficult. Burnout among church planters is a common occurrence. The survivability rate of new churches is gloomy at best. But we felt sure this was what the Lord was calling us to do, so we bought a house in downtown Hillsboro and moved in settled into our community. The first Sunday we gathered, there were roughly 30 people in attendance. What we lacked in age and wisdom, we made up for in youthful naivety and hope.

One of our core convictions from the very beginning was to be a community that practices biblical hospitality. We wanted to be a church known for how we love and care for the outsider, the marginalized and the disenfranchised. In an effort to give our people simple and tangible ways to live this out, we partnered with Safe Families. Within a few months, we received a call from Safe Families, asking if we knew anyone in our church family who might be willing to take in teenage girl in our community who was experiencing homelessness. I would later find out that this young girls name was Estrella. Both of her parents were living in Mexico. She was a sweet, quiet, 16-year-old, working at Taco Bell and couch surfing with acquaintances. She was no longer attending school as it was just too much to juggle with other responsibilities and unstable housing.

That next Sunday, I stood before my congregation and told them of the need. I fully expected the need to be met, but I was stunned by who stepped up to meet it. After the service, a group of gals approached me and asked if they could do it. They were all living together as they navigated the single, post-college, early career life. We gave Estrella a chance to meet them and she moved into their house within

the week. Two of the girls moved into the same room so Estrella could have her own space. They encouraged Estrella to quit her job and helped her enroll at PCC to finish her education. And, get this, they fully funded every step by pooling their money together.

But here is where the story gets really good. A few months later, Estrella was invited by one of her new roommates to attend a YoungLife camp and she accepted the invitation. At camp, the Good News of Jesus began to make sense to her and she decided to become a follower of Christ. A few months later, we baptized Estrella in front of our entire congregation — our first baptism celebration as a young church. There were shouts, tears and lots of rejoicing. Since that time, we have celebrated dozens of baptisms, but that moment will forever be etched in my memory as one of the sweetest experiences we've shared as a church family. I remember going home that afternoon and telling my wife that it was worth the risk. It was worth moving to a new town, worth the stress of church planting, and worth the risk of failure. If that was the only baptism we ever got to celebrate as a church and it all ended tomorrow, it was totally worth it. Seeing Estrella get baptized was a reminder for me that practicing biblical hospitality matters. Estrella is now married with a child of her own. She moved to a different area, but still shows up from time to time and is thriving! In our current cultural moment, extending love and care to the stranger is a prophetic witness that the Church carries. Safe Families steps into this reality and gives the Church tangible ways to live this out.



Justin Peterson is the lead pastor of Community Table Church in Oregon. He is married to Katy and they have two beautiful daughters – Nya (10) and Willa (5). You can find out more about his church and ministry at our website is www.tablecommunity.church.



PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

the impact of prayer

Prayer is the foundation of the Safe Families movement. We rely on God's inexhaustible guidance and resources for everything His work requires. When the entire SFFC movement unites in prayer, we know God listens and responds.

"At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people" — Ephesians 6:18, NIV



PRAYER CHANGES

► SHERRY MOTT, Central Washington

everything



The work we do is an act of prayer and obedience: to love others as God has loved us. It cannot depend on our timeline or expectations. Sometimes we witness radical transformation, while other times the seeds we plant require extra time and care to grow. We may have the privilege to plant or to water, but it is ultimately God who causes all things to grow in His time. We are here to remind those who are struggling that there is a God who sees them, loves them, and is fighting for them, encouraging them to continue choosing Him. The goal is trust God and to pray for opportunities to share the love of Christ and the transforming power of the gospel.

In the summer of 2024, a mother of four reached out to us for help after struggling with addiction since a very young age. This lifelong battle had led her to a point where she felt life was no longer worth living. She was alone and isolated. In a moment of desperation, she reached out to Safe Families for support, and our team responded with the love of Jesus put into action. We hosted her children and wrapped support around her as began a journey of recovery and healing. There were ups and downs, detours, and intensive times of prayer but God was faithful as her Circle of Support walked alongside of her and loved her family.

This past Easter, she chose to be baptized at one of our SF Churches where she had gotten connected through her team and a relationship with Jesus Christ. She expressed her desire for two SF volunteers, who had become close friends, to be with her. She shared that she knows God is real because she has experienced Him through the unconditional love she received. When she could no longer fight for herself, she knew others were walking with her, but most

We may have the privilege to plant or to water, but it is ultimately God who causes all things to grow in His time.

importantly, God was with her. Because of that support, she now has hope—something she had lost. More importantly, she has experienced the love of Jesus because Safe Families was there to reach out to and be the hands and feet of Jesus when she most needed help.

While keeping children safe and families together is our mission, we get to also witness the power of prayer to changes lives and transform families!

2026 PRAYER CALENDAR

Each month, we ask you to pray over one foundational aspect of the SFFC movement. Read and pray over the scripture passage, reflecting on what God is calling us to do. By focusing on what makes SFFC unique, we ask God not only to sustain the movement but also to guide our steps as we live out radical hospitality, disruptive generosity, and intentional compassion.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD A PRINTABLE
PRAYER CALENDAR

JANUARY

Radical Hospitality

Pray for SFFC to extend radical hospitality to the least of these throughout our world. May God work in and through the SFFC movement to invite and welcome strangers into our homes, supporting and loving everyone as thy neighbor.

3 John 1:5-8

APRIL

Partner Parents

Pray for the lonely and socially isolated parents facing crisis. May God connect them with SFFC supports to alleviate stress, stabilize their situation, and reveal His unending love.

Ephesians 6:4

JULY

Leaders + Officials

Pray for the key leaders, elected officials and caseworkers of federal, state and local welfare agencies who deal with tragedies daily. May God open the door for discussions and relationships with SFFC staff and volunteers to implement policies, programs and partnerships to support families on the edge of care.

Philippians 2:3-4

OCTOBER

Family Friends

Pray for the volunteers who befriend parents during their time of need. May God richly establish and bless family friendships that turn into extended family-like support.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



FEBRUARY

Disruptive Generosity

Pray for the SFFC movement to consciously disrupt the social norms of giving. May God overflow our generosity to impact the lives of others beyond measure.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

MARCH

Intentional Compassion

Pray for the SFFC movement to exude true and intentional compassion to every single person uniquely and beautifully created by our Heavenly Father. May God stir within each of us to lead and live with compassion, no matter how others treat us, in all that we say and do.

Hebrews 13:1-2

MAY

Precious Children

Pray for the vulnerable children who are at-risk of neglect and being separated from their family. May God bring forward SFFC resources to protect every child.

Mark 10:13-16

JUNE

Community Partners

Pray for the agencies and organizations in your community who assist with the hurting, lonely, sick, homeless, abused and destitute. May God establish the strong partnerships with SFFC for referral needs of local families.

Philemon 1:4-7

AUGUST

Churches + Faith Communities

Pray for churches, ministry leads, and communities of faith to answer the call to shepherd the flock to live out the Gospel by being the hands and feet of Christ.

Galatians 6:10

SEPTEMBER

Host Families

Pray for the families who open their homes and lives to caring for children and their parents. May God bless the children and families during their time together, forging extended family relationships.

Genesis 24:31

NOVEMBER

Resource Friends

Pray for the volunteers who provide resources as needed during hostings, family friendings, and directly to families as needs arise. May God provide opportunities for resources to be shared to bless others.

Titus 3:14

DECEMBER

SFFC Staff

Pray for the SFFC staff who support church and community partnerships, coordinate volunteer support, coach and walk alongside parent partners, and encircle children with love. May God equip all staff to carry out His will through the work they do to bring Him glory.

Colossians 3:23





PARTNERS IN *Prevention*

how churches can be the answer to community

Churches serve as partners in prevention in their local communities. Not only can churches organize tangible resources such as needed school supplies and backpacks, but they can build lasting relationships with families that need wrap-around support before child welfare involvement. They can mobilize their congregations to serve families so they can get back on their feet and stabilize their crises.

When churches partner with Safe Families, they can take a holistic approach to family preservation, not just foster care recruitment. The goal is to surround a family facing unmanageable circumstances with a Circle of Support before the devastation of child removal and family separation. By providing family-like support can keep families together without the involvement with child welfare.

We celebrate the thousands of church partners and volunteers partnered with Safe Families for Children to live out the gospel and love their neighbors in radical, compassionate, and intentional ways.



We began our Safe Families journey after listening to a presentation at our church. While Karson knew instantly we would be a host family, I was like, “Whoa, maybe we just start as a resource friend.” We weren’t exactly sure how we would participate, but we knew we were called to be involved.

Time went on, and we hadn’t made much progress towards having the “perfect” home to host in. But the calling was there, and God was clear that we needed to be doing something for the fatherless. Despite being intimidated and slowly progressing, we decided to simply listen and commit. We would just do the next thing and take the next step. After it was all complete, it was clear that there was no real need to be intimidated by the process.

We started our first hosting just a couple of days before the Fourth of July. We met three kids, their mother, and the Safe Families team member at a local park. It was so surprising how excited the kids were to see us, even though we had never met them before. After getting to know each other and talking through a rough plan, we began our placement. The kids were six, seven, and eight years old. They came with only what they were wearing at the moment.

The hosting was planned for two weeks, but ultimately lasted for five weeks. It was exactly what you would expect, with five kids living in your house. At times, it was chaotic, busy, and loud. But it was also filled with laughter, joy, and peace. These kids were amazing to have in our house, and



they bonded so quickly with our kids. They fiercely prayed for their mom, for each other, and for us. They quickly began to call our church home. Our house was stretched and strained in different ways at times, but we grew from the experience.

“It’s only through challenges that we can find our strengths and weaknesses. God showed us a little more of who He is, who we are as individuals, and who we are as a family.”

It’s only through challenges that we can find our strengths and weaknesses. God showed us a little more of who He is, who we are as individuals, and who we are as a family. Through this experience, we found a way to learn how to face the challenge, take the next step, and trust.

At times, it was difficult, but we never really walked this journey alone. There were so many positive interactions with people we had never met before, from those we had met but didn’t know, and of course, from people we knew very well. Through this experience, we saw more clearly what kind of community we truly belong to, and we look forward to the next hosting opportunity! David and Karson Anderson (Host Family).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHURCH INVOLVEMENT



FIVE-MINUTE SUNDAY PRESENTATION

Use this designated time to highlight the SF mission and acknowledge existing volunteers and efforts to support and strengthen families. Have volunteers wear their T-shirts and highlight a Host Family or Family Friend's engagement story—cast a continued vision for your church's commitment to unleashing radically compassionate communities to transform families.



PLAN A VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Use this time to appreciate and celebrate volunteers, encouraging their efforts to strengthen your church's Circles of Support. Share a new video or recent stories of how families have come alongside other families to keep children safe and parents supported.



DISPLAY INFORMATIONAL TABLE IN LOBBY

Place a table in the lobby to spotlight Safe Families for Children and new volunteer opportunities to serve and support families. Use this time to recruit for needed roles for your Circle of Support.



PRAY FOR THE SAFE FAMILIES MOVEMENT

Prayer is central to the Safe Families movement. Pray for the SFFC movement to consciously disrupt the social norms of giving. May God overflow our generosity to impact the lives of others beyond measure. [Download a printable copy now!](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Share volunteers' testimonies on your social media platforms to raise awareness and share stories of hope. Use our social media images to appreciate volunteers.



HOST A SAFE FAMILIES 101

Host a Safe Families 101 to learn about Safe Families' mission and/or schedule volunteer training to provide opportunities for individuals to open their hearts and homes to support families facing crisis. Everyone has a role to play and participate in.



PLAN A FUNDRAISER OR DESIGNATED OFFERING

Invite your church to invest in Safe Families for Children by planning a special fundraiser or taking an offering to support local efforts in your community.



HOST A SMALL GROUP STUDY ON UNLEASHING RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Scan QR code to order your copy of Unleashing Radical Hospitality: A Journey to Make the Safety of Children and the Support of Parents a Priority for All. This new resource has discussion questions for each chapter.





WAYS TO DEEPEN YOUR *PARTNERSHIP*

- Host a special time of prayer for the Safe Families for Children movement, locally, nationally, and globally (use our prayer guide on pages 8-9)
- Write letters of encouragement for kids and their parents to receive when a hosting begins
- Put together care baskets for host homes with needed resources or organize a meal prep to assist with volunteer needs and partnering with parents
- Collect gift cards (grocery and gas cards) for partnering parents
- Deliver a sermon themed on hospitality, compassion, generosity, or serving in the community.
- Sing a worship song set about compassion, God's heart for the needy, etc. Commission Safe Families volunteers
- Invite a partnering parent, helped by volunteers, from your church to speak or be interviewed
- Invite a Host Family, Family Friend, or Family Coach to share about their experience
- Plan a Safe Families fundraiser
- Designate resources to help make a video spotlighting a family served and supported
- Show a film or video that emphasizes family preservation, child abuse prevention, compassion, etc
- Create a visual illustration of the need in your community/state (i.e. kids in foster care vs. at-risk families)
- Host a Multiply the Movement Concert Series with Phil Stacey or Footsteps for Families 5K and Fun Run
- Kickoff or relaunch your Safe Families ministry
- Start a scholarship fund for daycare expenses, camp fees, etc
- Have a dedicated space in your church, on your website or on your social media platforms for people to get information and get involved

FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS

LEARNING MORE *ABOUT US*

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN?

Safe Families for Children has provided over 73,000 hosting arrangements for children in the past 21 years. Our program is designed to be cost-effective, with a cost of only \$1,500 to host a child in Safe Families, compared to the average cost of \$35,000 for a child in foster care. We have a reunification rate of 98%, which is significantly higher than the national average of less than 50%.

Our volunteers play a vital role in our program, as they not only serve as a family but also as a community. The Safe Families "Circle of Support" is a group of Family Coaches, Family Friends, and Resource Friends who are often connected through their church. This provides an opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship. When a local church embraces Safe Families, it gains a dynamic way to serve its community beyond a backpack, diaper, or food drive. Safe Families is an opportunity to impact lives personally, and we are grateful for the support of our volunteers and partners.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOCAL CHURCH?

Safe Families is a ministry that collaborates with local churches to support families in need. Our goal is to encourage churches to adopt Safe Families as a part of their local outreach initiatives. The local Safe Families chapter provides training, screening, resources, and support to the church and its volunteers, ensuring the program's success. Moreover, the Safe Families Chapter is responsible for handling all referral calls, screening them, and connecting families in need with the appropriate volunteers from the church.

HOW CAN I INCREASE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS MOVEMENT?

Hosting a child, on average, costs \$1,500 (depending on the area). Or consider wrapping support around a parent, which is a gift of \$3,000. Give one-time or recurring gifts to support your local Safe Families chapter.



IS THE CHURCH LIABLE FOR ANY UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES OR DIFFICULT SITUATIONS?

Every Safe Families chapter has a sponsoring faith-based ministry that provides supervision, training, and facilitates background checks. Safe Families volunteers are legally considered volunteers of our organization, and we provide the necessary liability coverage to ensure the safe hosting of children in your home.



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR MY CHURCH CAN BE INVOLVED?

The first component is becoming involved in embracing the value of Safe Families and understanding how it can add value to your local church ministry. Our local Safe Families staff will work alongside your key leadership to help your church progressively deepen your partnership, serving, growth, and impact.

The best model is to identify and recruit a volunteer Ministry Lead and Leadership Team that will bear the responsibility of recruiting, training, and supporting the ministry. The team is supported and resourced by the local Safe Families chapter. A partnership with Safe Families includes: developing a Safe Families Ministry Lead Team, recruiting and developing volunteer Circles of Support and providing internal and external financial support for the Safe Families ministry.

HOW IS SAFE FAMILIES FUNDED?

Safe Families is funded through a combination of generous individual donors, church partners, foundations, and various grants. Some chapters secure contracts with regional or state authorities to work alongside existing child welfare agencies. Due to our volunteer nature, we are able to keep the cost of Safe Families very affordable. Donations to Safe Families are viewed as an investment in prevention of child neglect and abuse. We are able to operate at approximately 10% of the cost of a child in the foster care system.



Safe Families
for Children

CHILDREN SAFE
FAMILIES TOGETHER



SAFE-FAMILIES.ORG