



Safe Families  
for Children



# IMPACT REPORT

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

# 2024





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# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR








# MISSION OVERVIEW

## OUR MISSION

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) hosts children and creates extended family-like support for isolated parents who have nowhere else to turn through a community of devoted volunteers motivated to keep children safe and families together.

## OBJECTIVES

-  Stabilize and strengthen families
-  Prevent child abuse and neglect
-  Reduce the number of children necessarily entering foster care



## TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH RADICAL, EVERYDAY HOSPITALITY

“Radically ordinary hospitality is this: using your Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family of God.”

-ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD



## CORE VALUES





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At Safe Families, we believe that social isolation is the primary issue for families on the brink of child welfare involvement. As the epidemic of loneliness and isolation continues as a major public health concern, the U.S. Surgeon General reported "48% of parents say their stress was completely overwhelming most days." When social isolation is coupled with other life stressors, such as poverty, housing insecurity, and mental health challenges, it is imperative that local communities collaborate for shared responsibility and solutions. Our goal is to bring both the church and community together to offer hope and support.

## REASONS FOR REFERRAL

- **Lack of family support**
- **Unemployment**
- **Substance abuse**
- **Medical emergencies**
- **Mental Health**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Insecure Housing**
- **Incarceration**

"As a therapist, I have seen so many mothers and children who needed that extra support through someone who genuinely loves their children -- someone who they can know is a safe person, who they can call at any time of the day or night to help - - and I had nowhere to refer them.

I think about a mom I saw five years ago who struggled with bipolar disorder. She was a caring mom but in desperate need of people to watch her children, bring meals, or come over once or twice a week when she struggled with depressive episodes. There was nowhere for me to send her at the time and so we did what we could in therapy. Safe Families would have made a huge difference in her life and the lives of her children. That is only one of the many families I can share who could have used something like Safe Families."

~Referral Partner



# FAMILIES SERVED



**Before Safe Families, I didn't have an emergency contact for my kids. But now I do.**

There are tons of wonderful organizations out there that will provide your kids with diapers, a coat in the winter, and shoes when they start school. I have benefitted from those too.

The unique thing about Safe Families, for me, is that they have provided me the fundamental support that I need as a single mom. Safe Families offers the role of family to people like me that would otherwise not have it. That is the greatest support of all."

- Stacey, Partner Parent

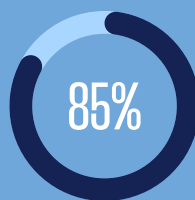
## FAMILIES SUPPORTED

**20** total families

**39** children served

**172** days of hosting

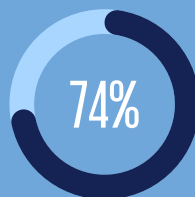
## DEMOGRAPHICS



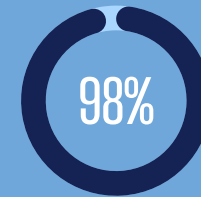
SINGLE PARENTS



BELOW POVERTY LINE



KIDS 6 AND UNDER



REUNIFICATION RATE



# CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

## LETTER FROM A PARTNER PASTOR

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Safe Families is utterly unique and indispensable in its capacity to create relationships of trust and support for these families experiencing crisis. The friendships created with Safe Families volunteers form bonds similar to those of extended family. I have been impressed with how comforting it is for children to step into a home environment where there is already social trust established, and how much stress is alleviated for parents by a relational and non-institutional path to receive help with childcare. I have seen how this organization creates a lifeline for parents who need short term or extended care for their children to deal with emergencies, chronic difficulties, or even just to get a break from the unrelenting demands of parenting.

As a pastor, I have also been struck by the way in which this ministry alleviates the **relational poverty** of those who open their lives and homes to families in crisis.

They find themselves **in alignment with the ethical demands of their faith, they find their personal agency increased, they find that they are doing something meaningful** to overcome the massive social challenges in this city.

Communities of faith are the institutions best situated in our society to build social capital and accompany families in crisis. **The genius of Safe Families is its ability to tap into these preexisting networks and help them be attuned to the needs of the vulnerable children and parents that they are already primed to care for.** The concreteness and effectiveness of the aid rendered by Safe Families is the reason that it is the organization I am most committed to seeing my church support.

Pastor



48 approved volunteers

34 active volunteers

11 partner churches



A large, semi-transparent background image showing a man and a young child on a swing set. The man is in the background, looking towards the camera, and the child is in the foreground, smiling and holding a large, round object.

# FINDING SUPPORT & STABILITY

## Austin's Journey with Safe Families

"My name is Austin and my one-year-old son, Asher, was hosted through Safe Families.

I'm a single dad. I was living at a sober house and Asher couldn't be with me there. I needed help with my baby for about a month while I transitioned into having a space of my own.

I was connected with Safe Families, and they told me that a family was volunteering to watch Asher so I could find housing. I felt like I was just handing over my son to a couple of strangers. But the first time I dropped him off it was plain to see how loved he was by their kids and the family. **There's never been a doubt that he was in really good hands when he was with Safe Families.**

It's not easy being a single dad, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. It's been so helpful to not have to do it alone. Having friends and people that care about me has been really nice."



**"IT'S BEEN  
AMAZING  
WORKING WITH  
SAFE FAMILIES.  
THEY KEPT MY  
FAMILY  
TOGETHER."**

- AUSTIN

# CREATING CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

Melissa's Experience as a Safe Families Volunteer



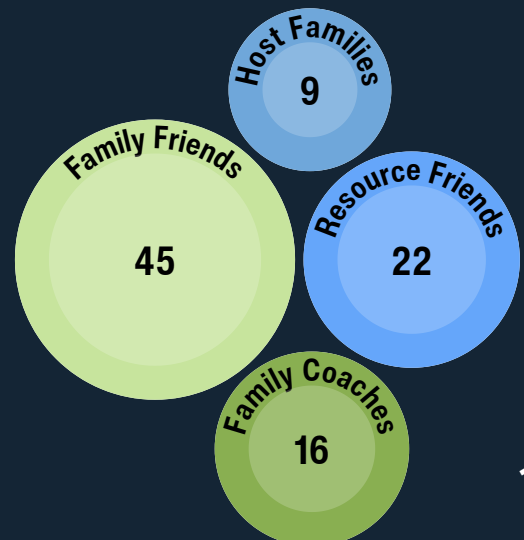
We got involved with Safe Families in the Spring of 2024. Our family has done respite for families in the foster care system for 5 years, and **I was excited at the potential to work with biological families, to keep kids out of the system, and to have relationships long term with the kids.**

When we were assigned as Family Friends, we quickly fell in love with Momma and her son. We also did a short term hosting and absolutely fell in love with an 8 month old that stayed a week with us. I am so thankful to be in connected with these mommas, and we have mutually agreed to stay in each others lives.

**Our short time with Safe Families has really helped me to see what an incredible Circle of Support I have in my own life, and to think about just how hard life would be without it.** That is what fuels me to want to help create Circles of Support for the families we are partnered with through Safe Families. **I want to tell everyone about Safe Families so we can get more churches doing what we are called to do - to love God and love others!**

- Melissa (Host Family)

“ The needs are great, and it's just so much easier when someone is there to help carry the load.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

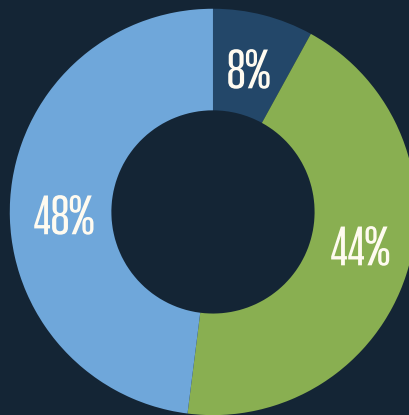
How Donations Empower Safe Families to Expand Support + Build Community Partnerships

OVER THE NEXT  
12 MONTHS WE  
SEEK TO RAISE A  
TOTAL OF \$

The money donated to Safe Families funds the local program by supporting staff, providing an operating budget, and helping spread our mission of radical hospitality to churches and partner organizations through the \_\_\_\_\_ area.

## GIVING PROFILE 2024

- Individuals
- Churches
- Foundations



## COST OF HOSTING V. FOSTER CARE



## 3 YEAR BUDGET

- Raised To Date
- Needed



# STAFF



# FUTURE OUTLOOK

2025 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

