

# How You Can Help

## Volunteer

**Host Family** - welcome a child into your home for a short time and mentor their parents through reunification. Temporary placements can last from two days to a few months.

**Family Friend** - Provide friendship and mentoring relationships to parents in need by providing support, encouragement, guidance and prayer. Help parents identify employment, counseling or other services that may help them move forward and be successful families. Additionally, they can help provide transportation, babysitting, and tutoring services to children in our temporary care.

**Resource Friend** - Provide donated goods or services to help support a host family or the placing parents. Examples may include, donating diapers, or providing meals and other professional services such as: counselors, dentists, mechanics, barbers, etc..

**Family Coach** - Provide Support to host families by visiting the children in their home and providing them encouragement and prayer. Be a resource to placing parents by helping connect them to services within the community that will help them be reunified with their children.

## Donate

Your gift will help a family stay together and change a child's life forever. To donate, visit [Flourish-now.org/donate](http://Flourish-now.org/donate) or mail a check to:

Safe Families for Children Southwest Florida  
c/o FlourishNow, Inc.  
15275 Collier Blvd., Suite 201-284  
Naples, FL 34119

To learn more about volunteer opportunities and training events in Southwest Florida, call (239) 470-2733 or email, [swflorida@safefamilies.net](mailto:swflorida@safefamilies.net)  
[Flourish-Now.org](http://Flourish-Now.org)




Strengthening  
Families



Transforming  
Lives



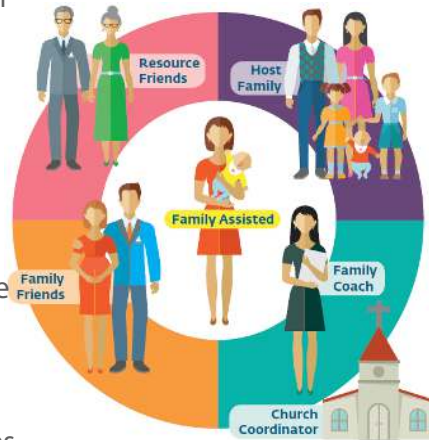
Safe Families for Children  
Southwest Florida 

## The Safe Families Model

When crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and friends for support, but for many families, poverty and social isolation means they have no healthy support network when they need it.

The foundation of the Safe Families program is providing an at-risk family with a supportive community to mentor them through hard times. Trained and screened volunteers who have passed a background check may choose to help in several ways, the most common role is known as a "Host Family."

These families will take children into their homes for a brief period of time while parents work to get back on their feet. Sometimes all a family needs is a caring person to turn to as they work through life's challenges.



In these situations, Safe Families provides volunteer mentors, or "Family Friends," to provide advice, guidance, and compassion. In nearly every situation, friendships are formed and families who were once alone now have people in their lives that they can count on.

## The Role of the Church

We believe the the local church can be the most powerful force for ending child abuse and help to provide every child with a loving and safe home. It is the rightful role of the body of Christ, and through our amazing network of volunteers and Host Families, Safe Families is already making an incredible impact in Southwest Florida.

Since its launch in March of 2015, Safe Families for Children of Southwest Florida has served more than 458 children and 224 families in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades Counties, but the need continues to grow.

Christ commands us to care for widows and orphans, and as believers we must become once again the first option those in need turn to for help. By practicing Biblical hospitality and caring for children and their parents in times of crisis, we are improving lives daily and following Christ's commandment to love above all else.

*“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”*  
**Romans 12:13**

Our local impact has also earned the trust and recognition of the Department of Children and Families. They are currently the largest referring agent of children in need of assistance to our Safe Families chapter.

## Families Helping Families

*For those who are ready to stretch the boundaries of their faith and obedience, Safe Families is a ministry opportunity that will touch and change lives forever.*

- Colin S. Smith

Safe Families for Children provides a chance for parents to get the support they need in order to provide a loving and stable home for their child, before abuse and neglect occur.

Parents experiencing a temporary crisis can arrange for their children to stay with families of faith while they address the issues that led to their situation.

## An Opportunity for Everyone

Safe Families volunteers include singles, married couples with children of all ages, empty nesters or part-time residents; all of whom simply decided to make room in their hearts and homes for local children in need.

*Serving as Safe Families volunteers this past year really opened our eyes to needs we didn't know much about. We're humbled by our own limitations in meeting these needs and feel so honored that God would use our family to help others in crisis.*

- Larry and Debbie Tornquist