

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

PURPOSE OF THE MINISTRY: Provide support for families in crisis, using [Safe Families for Children](#) , which is a national network that supports families in crisis.

MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE TO AND SUPPORTED BY: Karen Kogler, Director of Equipping

JOB DUTIES: There are various ways to become involved:

Be a Host Family: If you are looking for a truly rewarding experience, consider becoming a Host Family. You will make a lasting impression on a child in need and possibly change the trajectory of a family. Host Families take a child(ren) into their home anywhere from a few hours to several months while the parent works through the immediate crisis. They usually have open communication with the child(ren)'s parent(s)

Be a Family Friend: Family Friends encourage and strengthen families in crisis and Host Families by performing small tasks such as transportation, babysitting in the host's home, providing meals, mentoring, etc.

Be a Resource Friend: Resource Friends provide physical resources such as clothes, diapers, toys, gift cards, furniture or meals. Donating these items can help meet critical needs of families.

Be a Family Coach: Volunteer Family Coaches play a vital role in Safe Families by helping parents get back on their feet. Family Coaches come alongside the family in crisis and the host family to provide support and guidance.

TIME REQUIREMENT:

You can serve as much or as little as you are able in each position. The average length of hosting is one month, but it could range from one day to several months. You only commit to the amount of time you have to offer.

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT:-Your length and type of involvement is up to you.

TRAINING:

Safe Families provides virtual or in-person training: 5 hours for Host Families and 3 hours for Family Friends. The training is required.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED:

Both Safe Families and St. Peter have screening processes for some Safe Families volunteers. Safe Families requires an application and background check for Host Families and Family Friends; Host Families also have a home visit. St. Peter requires completion of our screening process (application, interview, references, DCFS training, background check and 6-month rule) for all who will have contact with children (hosting, babysitting, transportation).

Volunteers will need to have a compassionate, patient heart. They should be open to life getting messy and their schedule changing as well as communication with the child(ren)'s parent(s).

BENEFITS TO THE VOLUNTEER:

Safe Families is an unbelievably rewarding experience. While it is definitely not easy, and volunteers shouldn't get into it for themselves, there are perks such as baby snuggles, many laughs/memories, seeing Christ's body in action, reliance on God, countless opportunities to disciple, and hopefully lasting relationships with neighbors. There isn't much more satisfying than knowing you provided a child with protection to support their emotional, physical, and spiritual development.

*Community Service
July, 2023*

