



Safe Families *for* Children

A ministry of:

- Church on the Hill, McMinnville
- Dallas Foursquare Church
- Foothills Church, Stayton
- Jefferson Baptist Church
- Newberg Christian Church
- New Hope Foursquare Church
- Oasis Community Church
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church
- St. Joseph Catholic Church
- St. Patrick Catholic Church
- Salem Evangelical Church
- Salem First Church of the Nazarene
- Salem First Free Methodist Church
- Trinity Covenant Church
- Unity of Salem Church

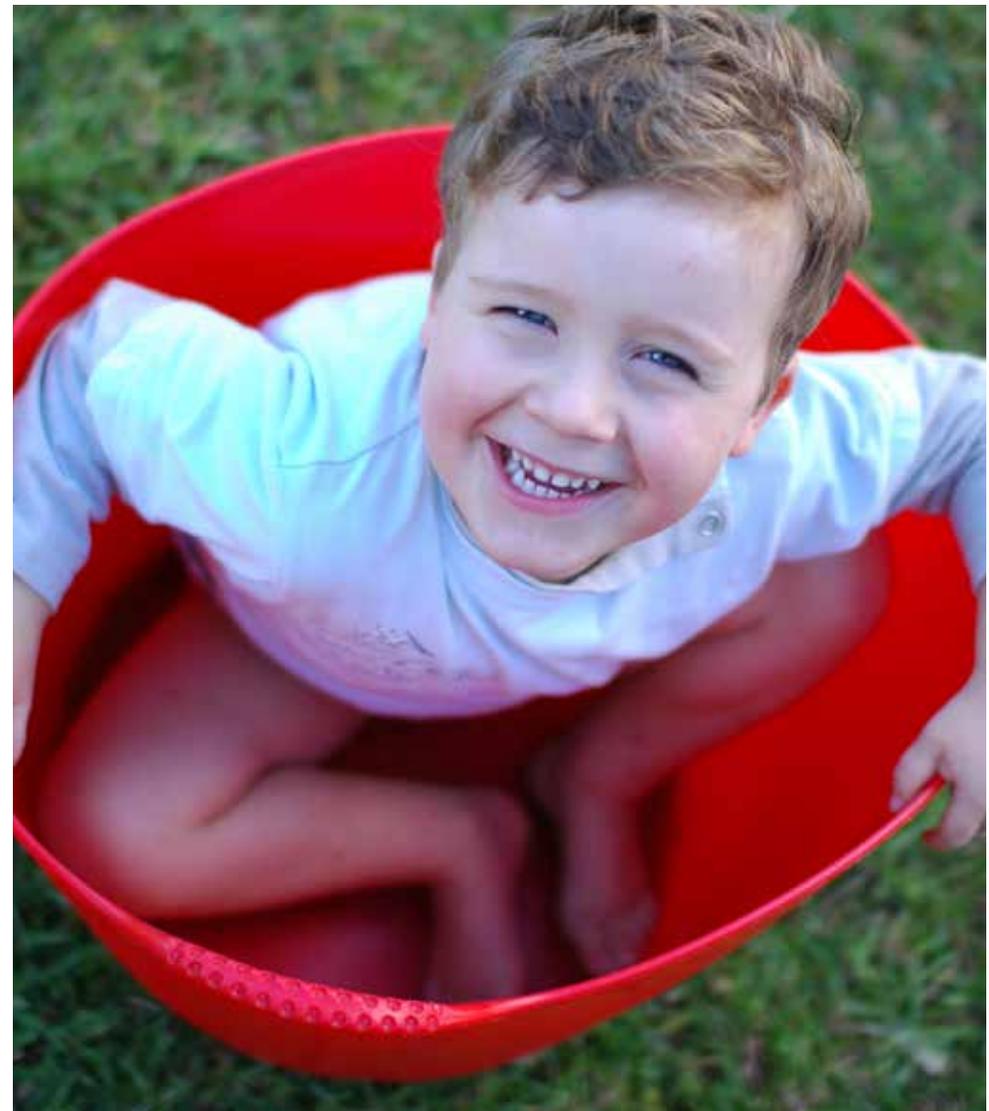
safefamilies@ccswv.org

503-580-4672

A program of

Catholic Community Services

P.O. Box 20400 Salem, Oregon 97307-0400 | www.ccswv.org



Safe Families *for* Children

Providing a secure, temporary home for children whose parents are in crisis.

Fostering Hope Initiative



Families Helping Families

When a crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and friends for support. But for some families, poverty and social isolation mean that they have no support when they need it. Often, a straightforward problem such as post-partum depression or unemployment can be debilitating. Children in these situations often suffer neglect or abuse; some eventually are removed from their home and placed in state custody.

Safe Families for Children provides a chance for parents to get back on their feet 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.

Safe Families for Children is a national movement of compassion that is preventing child abuse by encouraging the Church to resume its historical and biblical responsibility for vulnerable children by becoming part of the support network for these children's parents.

Making a Difference

Safe Family volunteers can have a powerful impact in the lives of others while being transformed themselves by practicing biblical hospitality and extending the love of Christ to families in need. There are a variety of ways to participate in your area;

- Host Family
- Family Friend
- Resource Friends
- Support for Existing Situations
- Church Leadership Teams
- Community Partners

How Does Safe Families Work?

Safe Families learns about families in crisis from a variety of referral sources, including schools, hospitals, social workers, churches and other agencies. Our staff work quickly to contact an available volunteer family and share the situation with them. Volunteers agree to the placement at their own discretion, and can put a time limit on their involvement. The average length of stay is about six weeks, but can range from two days to a year. Volunteers are screened and approved through background checks, home studies, references and fingerprints and serve without compensation.

Placing parents maintain full custody of their child, and are encouraged to participate in decisions regarding their child's care while they address whatever issues led to the crisis. For some, this could mean drug rehabilitation; for others, it might involve leaving an abusive relationship or finding steady employment.

Safe Families staff encourage a relationship between the Host Family and the parents when appropriate and many of these relationships continue after the child is returned home. Nearly all families in the program come back together, with placing parents reporting that their home environments are more stable and nurturing as a result of the program.



To Learn More...

Safe Families volunteers include singles, married couples with children of any age and empty nesters, all of whom simply decided to make room in their hearts and homes for children in need.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact us at safefamilies@ccswv.org or 503-580-4672.

