

Safe Families Sunday

Live Out Love

Full

Church Service



Safe Families
for Children

Thank you for making a difference!

Thank you for joining churches across the country as we care for families in crisis in our communities. The compassion that your church and families tangibly show makes an eternal impact, both in their lives and the lives of the children and parents you serve.

Safe Families for Children is a movement powered by biblical hospitality. Our aim is to keep children safe and families intact. We surround families in crisis with caring, compassionate community. This movement relies upon local churches such as yours, Host Families, and other volunteers to open their arms, their hearts, and their homes.

The goal of **Safe Families Sunday** "Live Out Love" is to celebrate how your church family has cared for the most vulnerable among us. And it is a powerful way to invite more people & families to participate.

We strongly encourage you to have a Safe Families Resource Table in your lobby where people can sign up to volunteer, get more information, and discover next steps.

Live Out Love 

Full Church Service

1. Announcement:

Announce what Safe Families for Children, how your local church is involved, and direct those interested to visit the Safe Families table in the lobby. *Sample announcement found on next page.*

2. Video:

Show the Safe Families Sunday “Live Out Love” video + announcement.

3. Pray for Safe Families volunteers & staff:

Recognize your Safe Families Ministry Lead and all volunteers and pray over them.

4. Gather Response Cards:

Distribute the Safe Families for Children response cards to your congregation. Gather the names of those interested in joining this movement.

5. Interview a Host Family:

Using our Interview Guide, have a Host Family talk about their Safe Families experience. *The Interview Guide can be found at the end of this packet.*

6. Call Members to Action:

Invite your Safe Families for Children Ministry Lead or a representative from your local chapter share their Safe Families Story and tell how people can get involved.

9. Sing About It:

Coordinate with your Worship Leader with songs that emphasize God’s love for the vulnerable, weak, lonely, widow, orphan and/or family.

10 .Preach About It:

Have your pastor or invite a guest speaker to preach on themes of loving your neighbor, compassion or biblical hospitality.

11. Support the Movement Monetarily:

Receive a special offering to support the ministry of Safe Families. We encourage that donations are made out to the church. Then the church makes 1 donation to your local Safe Families chapter. Please refer to our “Live Out Love through Giving” guide for various offering/fundraising options at the end of this packet.

Live Out Love 

Sample Announcement

"Good morning! My name is _____ and I'm so excited to tell you all about Safe Families for Children.

Our community is full of hurting, lonely parents who face some type of crisis everyday without the support of a loving community like we enjoy here at our church or with our friends and family. These parents - most of them single parents - are just trying to figure out how to survive their struggle and their children are left vulnerable. These families are in danger of not being able to have stability or stay together; much less have hope for a better future.

Safe Families for Children provides a needed solution for these families by empowering and mobilizing the church to surround these families in crisis with caring, compassionate community.

Churches like ours embrace Safe Families as one of our ministries, and people like you become volunteers like:

Host Families who lovingly care for kids while their parents get back on their feet;

Family Friends who support Host Families or provide friendship and mentoring to struggling parents;

Family Coaches, who provide guidance and oversight to Host Families and placing parents;

Resource Friends, who help with practical needs like clothing or meals; or

Ministry Leads, who bring coordination within the church for the volunteers

There is a role for everyone! You can do something!

Safe Families works with local social service agencies, ministries, schools, hospitals, etc to connect families in crisis to the local church and their volunteers.

If you'd like to learn more and discover who to become a Safe Families volunteer, please {fill out the response card and put it in the offering bucket} -or- {visit the Safe Families table in the lobby} so we can get you more information.

*There is an Information -or- Volunteer training happening on _____.
I hope to see you there!*

Let's Live Out Love together as a church in this community through Safe Families!"

Live Out Love through Praying

"Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God; for to you do I pray." - Psalm 5:2

Prayer is the fuel for ministry. Prayer bends our hearts to God and increases love and compassion for others. Below are important prayer points regarding Safe Families Sunday and the ministry of Safe Families for Children over all:

- 1. Pray for the lonely, vulnerable families who face crisis without having a caring, compassionate community.** Ask God to surround them with his people and the volunteers of Safe Families in your church.
- 2. Pray for the many organizations and agencies in your community that help and assist the hurting, the sick, the homeless, the abused and the destitute.** Pray that the Lord would send His people to volunteer and work within these organizations. Pray that Safe Families would have a strong relationship with local agencies for our referrals.
- 3. Pray for the workers and leadership at your state child welfare agencies as they deal with tragic situations every day.** Pray that Safe Families would be a great partner and a light of the Gospel to them.
- 4. Pray for Host Families who open their home and lives to children.** Pray that they will minister love well to the children and their families, grow in their faith and have the support they need from their church, family and friend.

Live Out Love through Praying

(continued)

5. Pray for Family Friends who support Host Families and who befriend parents in need. Pray that they would be a deep source of encouragement and hope to those who serve and to those who need support.

6. Pray for Family Coaches as they coordinate and oversee hostings. Pray that they would be an effective resource for Host Families and Placing Parents.

7. Pray for Ministry Leads and Safe Families churches as they support volunteers in their churches, recruit new volunteers and mobilize people to provide tangible resources.

8. Pray for Safe Families staff as they engage the community, reach out and support churches, care for volunteers and work to expand the movement. Pray that they lead with vision and are able to effectively manage this great work locally.

Interview Guide

1. Why did you decide to Live Out Love by becoming a Host Family?

Prompts: *Biblical Hospitality, Compassion, Exposed to or experienced need*

2. How has hosting impacted your family?

Prompts: *What have your children learned? What have you learned?*

Has the hosting experience deepened your faith? Serving together as a family?

3. Describe the relationship(s) you've been able to build with the family in need. How have you been able to serve and minister to them?

Prompts: *Change in their situation? Showing them the love of Christ?*

4. What impact have you made in the life of the child you've hosted? What impact have they made on you?

Prompts: *Keeping them safe, Watching them grow and develop healthy habits, Obedience - God has a plan and My family was part of it.*

5. What kind of support did you receive from Safe Families and the church?

Prompts: *Small group, Sunday School class, etc. Has it always been easy? Was it worth it?*

6. What would you say to someone who is feeling called to serve but is feeling a little nervous?

Prompt: *Multiple volunteer opportunities are available, Obedience to God's call is rewarding and is right*

Live Out Love 

Live Out Love through Giving

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." - Proverbs 11:25

Safe Families for Children relies on the generous giving of individuals and organizations. Safe Families Sunday is a great opportunity to financially bless your local chapter so more people and churches can be mobilized to support more families in crisis with caring, compassionate community. The average cost of a Safe Families hosting is about \$600. Challenge your church to help keep 5 kids out of foster care by raising \$3000 (or whatever goal you choose).

Here are some dynamic ideas for contributing financially:

1. Corporate Giving. Church leadership can approve Safe Families as a supported local ministry and write Safe Families into the missions budget.

2. Individual Giving. Encourage church members to individually give to Safe Families.

3. Special Offering. Receive a Special Offering during Safe Families Sunday. Talk to your local chapter to find out what specific needs your area has and how much is needed. Have your church be the financial sponsor for the need and announce that to your church on Safe Families Sunday and receive a collection.

4. Host a Fundraiser. Ask your children's & youth ministry departments to hold a fundraiser that will benefit Safe Families...it could be a car wash, a dinner, a talent show, a yard sale...the possibilities are endless!

5. Gather In-Kind Donations. Find out what the tangible needs of your local chapter. Have members gather items needed and collect them on Safe Families Sunday. And if there are professionals willing to donate their services have them give their contact information at the resource table.

6. What are your ideas?