

Love never stops

SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY 2021 GUIDEBOOK



SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021



WELCOME

Thank you for participating in Safe Families Sunday 2021!

Safe Families Sunday is an opportunity for your church to be engaged to love and support isolated families in your community who are facing a crisis. This past year has presented many challenges to us as we have endured the Covid-19 pandemic. We have all felt the stress that social isolation creates, and we all have come to more deeply appreciate the need for a loving, supportive community.

Despite the challenges this past year, the work of Safe Families has continued and the need is greater than ever! The theme of Safe Families Sunday this year is "Love Never Stops" - a prophetic reminder that no matter the circumstances or even potential risk, God's people responded with an outreached hand to those in need. I am reminded of this as I think about Jesus healing the sick, especially those considered the "untouchable." In Luke 5:12-13, a leper asked Jesus to heal him. Not only was Jesus willing to heal him (which he could have done with just a word), but Jesus actually reached out and touched him - an unthinkable act for that day.

There have been many Christians, modeling the life of Christ, who have gone before us in times of war, famine and plague to love the unlovable, touch the untouchable and welcome in the stranger. Our time is now. My prayer for you and your church would be: to embrace the faith and boldness of Jesus, see the isolated and hurting in your community and reach out, and welcome them in your life and home so they can find the opportunity to begin a path of wholeness and healing.

I invite your church to participate in Safe Families Sunday in one or more of the following ways:

- **Five-Minutes on a Sunday:** Highlight Safe Families and call people to action
- **Study for Individuals and/or Groups:** Provide your people with our "Love Never Stops" devotional and study guide
- **Social Media Campaign:** Share our provided social media images and messaging on your church's platforms to inspire and call to action
- **April 25 Facebook Live Event:** Join thousands of people from across the nation for a 30 minutes inspirational time of vision at 6:30pm CST on the Safe Families for Children National page.

Your local Safe Families chapter is there to help and coach you in your efforts and assist with follow up with new volunteers. Contact your local chapter at safe-families.org/locations for more information.

Praying great things for you!



Ryan Mobley
SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY COORDINATOR

Event Options

Here are our recommended options for your Safe Families Sunday participation:

1. Five-Minute Worship Service Spotlight

- Show the Safe Families Church video (3:15 minutes) Available to stream or download
- Two-minute call to action (see next page)
- Our target date for Safe Families Sunday is April 25, but if that date does not work for your church, you can pick a Sunday that does work for you!

2. Study for Individuals or Groups

- Safe Families has produced a 6 day/session “Love Never Stops” devotional on the YouVersion Bible App! (App to be available approximately April 1st, 2021, but a PDF based version will be made available in March 2021.)
- Promote the devotional to your church for individual study, small group or class use. A discussion guide is included for group use.

3. Social Media Campaign

- Safe Families will provide multiple social media images, videos and messaging for you to post on your church's various social media platforms throughout the month of April. These posts will promote the “Love Never Stops” theme and provide people with challenging and inspiring messages that will move them to act.

4. Facebook Live Event on April 25

- Join thousands of people and churches across the country for a 30 minute Facebook Live event on the Safe Families National page! The event will feature inspiring videos and speakers and provide next steps in getting people involved in their local Safe Families chapter.
- Register here:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/3877111445668079>



CALL TO ACTION

Below is a sample of how you can follow up from the video that was played during the worship service or group meeting and call people to take the next step in getting involved with Safe Families for Children:

“Over this past year, all of us have experienced the struggle of isolation. We love and value our family and friends and longed for time with them. But even during that time of struggle, we could pull out our phone and call to Facetime someone we cared about and who also cared about us to talk, laugh, cry and just connect. Like the video said, there are thousands of people who don’t have someone like me or you to call and connect with to get the support they need.

Would you join me in being that person on the other end of the phone for a struggling parent? Will you live on mission and be the community for a parent and child who are lonely and struggling?

(You can add local information here)

*Please get your phone out and text the word “**SAFE**” to 33339 to provide Safe Families with your basic information so they can follow up with you and help you be that person on the other end of the phone to love a child and support a parent.*



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GROW THE MOVEMENT

- Have a time of prayer for the Safe Families for Children movement, locally and nationally
- Write letters of encouragement for kids and their parents to receive when a hosting starts
- Read/study a book on compassion, hospitality or generosity with your small group
- Deliver a sermon themed on hospitality, compassion, generosity or serving in the community
- Sing a worship song set about compassion, God's heart for the needy, etc.
- Commission Safe Families volunteers
- Invite a placing parent, helped by volunteers, from your church to speak or be interviewed
- Invite a Host Family, Family Friend or Family Coach to speak
- Plan a Safe Families fundraiser
- Take up a special offering
- Show a film or video that emphasizes family preservation, child abuse prevention, compassion, etc.
- Create a visual illustration of the need in your community/state (i.e. kids in foster care vs. at-risk families)
- Ask business leaders in your church to donate
- Kickoff or relaunch your Safe Families ministry
- Start a scholarship fund for daycare expenses, camp fees, etc.
- Have a dedicated space in your church, on your website or on your social media platforms for people to get information and get involved.



GENERAL FAQ'S ABOUT SAFE FAMILIES AND SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) hosts vulnerable children and creates extended family-like support to under-resourced and under-served families. SFFC serves parents through a community of devoted volunteers who are motivated by compassion to keep children safe and families together. We help prevent abuse and neglect, help deflect children from the child welfare system and help to strengthen and stabilize families. In short, we support families in crisis with caring, compassionate community through the local church.

Safe Families Sunday is organized and lead by local church volunteers to help spotlight the needs of families in the community and celebrate the ministry that local church volunteers have done.

Why Safe Families Sunday?

Safe Families is a ministry for the local church. God's desire is for his people to live out lives of hospitality, compassion and generosity, especially to those who are at-risk, vulnerable and socially isolated. Safe Families Sunday is an opportunity for the church to be reminded of that call and motivated to act.

When is Safe Families Sunday taking place?

The official Safe Families Sunday date is on April 25, 2021. In the event that date doesn't work on a local church's calendar, the event can take place anytime from March - May 2021. There will be a special Facebook Live Event on the Safe Families National page on April 25 at 6:30pm CST: <https://www.facebook.com/SFFCnational>

How can you be a part?

Visit our website at <https://safe-families.org/safefamiliessunday/> to register your church to participate. We are encouraging churches to do one or more of the following: Five-minute worship spotlight, Individual/Group study, Social Media campaign and/or participating in our FB Live Event on 4/25/2021. Also, your local Safe Families chapter is there to assist you as well. You can find your local chapter here: <https://safe-families.org/locations/>



GENERAL FAQ'S ABOUT SAFE FAMILIES AND SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY

What is the impact of Safe Families for Children?

Nearly all the families served are at-risk, socially isolated, and under-resourced. Safe Families is preventative and proactive in nature, so we are able to help prevent children from getting abused or neglected (which often come during times of stress and crisis) and help deflect children from entering the foster care system. We've hosted over 50,000 children since we started 17 years ago. The average cost of a child in foster care is about \$25,000, while the average cost to host a child in Safe Families is only \$1,200. That's a potential savings of \$870 million dollars!

Volunteers that serve with Safe Families have a tremendous opportunity to 1) serve as a family (most of our Host Families have their own children in the home) and 2) serve as a community. A Safe Families "Circle of Support" is made up of Family Coaches, Family Friend and Resource Friends, who are often in a small group or class together, or other wise relationally connected through their church. The opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship is limitless! As Safe Families becomes a ministry of a local church, that church now has a dynamic way to serve their community. Safe Families is a big, important step beyond a backpack, diaper or food drive as the chance to personally impact lives presented. The local church with a Safe Families ministry is doing local mission work that makes a tangible difference!

How can I increase financial support for this movement? How can I present our impact to my local congregations?

Hosting a child costs approximately \$1,200. This includes all of our volunteer engagement, training, mobilization, outreach, intake or oversight efforts. Individuals or churches can give one-time gifts or recurring gifts to their local Safe Families chapter. If your church would like to tangibly help keep five kids out of foster care, a goal of \$6,000 can be set, achieved and provided!



FAQ'S FOR PASTORS/MINISTRY LEADERS

What is the relationship with the local church?

Safe Families in a "pro-church" ministry. This means that our desire is for local churches to adopt Safe Families as one of their internal local outreach ministries. The local Safe Families chapter then provides all of the training, screening, resourcing and support your church and the volunteers need to succeed. The Safe Families Chapter will also handle all of the referral calls, screen them and connect appropriate needs to your church volunteers.

What does it look like for my church can be involved?

The first component is embracing the value of Safe Families and how it can add value to your local church ministry. Our local Safe Families staff will work alongside your key leadership to help your church progressively deepen your partnership, serving, growth and impact. A partnership with Safe Families includes: developing a Safe Families Ministry Lead Team, recruiting and developing volunteer Circles of Support and providing internal and external financial support for the Safe Families ministry.

Is the church liable for any unforeseen circumstances or difficult situations?

Every Safe Families chapter has a sponsoring faith-based social service agency that is providing supervision, training and facilitating background checks. Safe Families volunteers are legally volunteers of the agency, and the agency provides the necessary liability coverage.

How is Safe Families funded?

Through a combination of generous individual donors, church partners and various grants. Some chapters secure contracts with regional or state authorities to work alongside existing child welfare agencies. Due to our volunteer nature, we are able to keep the cost of Safe Families very affordable. Donations to Safe Families are viewed as an investment in prevention of child neglect and abuse. We are able to operate at approximately 10% of the cost of a child in the foster care system.



FAQ'S FOR PASTORS/MINISTRY LEADERS (CONT'D)

Am I, as the pastor, responsible for the leadership of Safe Families in my church?

The best model is to identify and recruit a volunteer Ministry Lead and Leadership Team that will bear the responsibility of recruiting, training and supporting the ministry. The team is supported and resourced by the local Safe Families chapter. The team should report to a pastor on staff, most often the staff responsible for local missions, for oversight, support and pastoral care.



SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY CAMPAIGN GOALS AND KEY CONTACTS

NUMBER OF CHURCHES PARTICIPATING IN
SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY: 4000

NUMBER OF NEW VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS: 10,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE JOINING
THE FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT ON 4/25: 15,000

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
SERVED IN THE NEXT YEAR: 10,000

SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY CAMPAIGN TEAM

- RYAN MOBLEY, STRATEGIC GROWTH DIRECTOR & SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY COORDINATOR
- CHERI JIMENEZ, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
- LAURA LEIGH, CHURCH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, SF MILWAUKEE
- ANNA FRANZ, CHURCH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, SF ST. LOUIS
- NICOLE CONDON, CHAPTER DIRECTOR, SF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
- ALLISON KILLEEN, CHURCH ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST, SF YAMHILL COUNTY OREGON
- DANNY SELLS, SF DIRECTOR OLIVE CREST, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
- DR. DAVID ANDERSON, SF FOUNDER AND CEO

WWW.SAFE-FAMILIES.ORG



Safe Families for Children