

The Local Church and Foster Care: A New Paradigm

Answering the Cry of the Fatherless Through Foster Care/Adoptions

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I. Seeing the Need

- A. Understanding the business of “People Movers”
- B. The greatest “Care Ministry” need in your community
The best resources within your community attend your church. (Our challenge is to bring to bear the greatest resource in America, upon the greatest need -- hurting, abandoned, and neglected children.)
- C. What are your greatest skills as a parent?
Consider all the skills, values, and resources that are at the disposal of families in each state.

II. How You Can Be Part of the Solution.

- A. Foster Family Care identifies that all members of the child’s team are “professionals” who have the skills and training required to assist a child who has special needs.
 - 1. The agency is committed to providing an excellent compensation package in return for these services.
 - 2. Although college degrees are not required, experience and competency are necessary.
 - 3. All team members are required to have a high level of commitment with a willingness to stick with the child for the long haul.
- B. These children have a right to a stable community--one which will accept them as they are and ‘weather the storms’ to help them become adults who fulfill a meaningful and productive role in society.
- C. To succeed, it is absolutely vital that SMCH-FFC is effective in regard to the recruitment, selection, orientation, and supervision of resources.
 - 1. We know there are competent, caring individuals available that would like to participate in this venture to provide top quality Christian services to children that need and deserve them.
 - 2. We are seeking people who are not afraid to do things differently.
 - 3. We are committed to supporting these individuals in their efforts.

III. Foster Care Models

Be an Adoptive Parent	“Be a Forever Family”
Be a Foster Parent	Be a Back-Up Parent
Be a Friend or Mentor	Be an Emergency Family

A. What is it built upon?

“Every noble work is at first impossible.” Thomas Carlyle

1. SMCH-FFC is set to build upon an idea. A statewide task force has completed a study that depicts the service delivery system for children in State custody was inefficient, expensive, and, at times harmful.
2. New ideas are needed. When developing or modifying new programs, it is necessary to clarify your beliefs and values, and then have the integrity to use these as the foundation for your work.

B. The basic beliefs of our work can still be summarized as:

- Every child needs to live in a home environment. Regardless of disability, diagnoses, and labels, children need to receive services in a home environment when at all possible. SMCH-FFC has the resource of a residential campus that has the capacity to minister to their needs when it is deemed inadvisable to place them in a family setting.
- Children need permanency, defined as membership in a family or community which provides opportunity to develop and enjoy long term relationships that provide security and support.
- A long-term, positive impact on a child’s life can only be made through the development of values. Only through the creation of a positive value system will a child have the foundation needed to lead a successful life and to be a productive member of a community.
- We have been called by God and equipped with the best resources to meet the needs of neglected, abused and hurting children.

Based upon these beliefs, we created a Mission Statement that would provide direction and clarity in developing a program.

Mission Statement

*SMCH-FFC is dedicated to enabling churches and individuals
to minister effectively to children in their context
enabling them to live purposeful lives capable of enjoying
human relationships through a supportive Christian community environment
and an educational process which empowers self-determination
and development of the whole self - spirit, mind, and body.*

. . . whatever it takes!!!