

Safe Families *for* Children

Safe Families creates extended family-like support for isolated families through a community of devoted volunteers motivated by compassion to keep children safe and families intact.

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Safe Families organizes vetted and trained volunteers from local churches to offer a broad community of support for families who feel overwhelmed or isolated. Our volunteers seek to empower, encourage, and strengthen families through mutually beneficial relationships. We seek to prevent the need for state intervention by supporting families before stress and isolation put them at risk for cases of neglect and abuse.

There are a variety of volunteer roles to come alongside families. The roles are flexible and volunteers can offer support according to their skills, interests, and availability. Volunteers typically spend 2-6 hrs/month with families.

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Family Friend – befriends and supports a parent, increasing their social network, which promotes stability and well-being in both the parent and child.

They can offer:

- Moral support and encouragement, and a listening ear.
- Parenting support
- Practical support, such as help with house chores, grocery shopping, occasional babysitting, and more.
- Help navigating community resources
- Advocacy and accompaniment to appointments
- Support in setting and achieving goals
- Help practicing English

Resource Friend – donates and delivers a variety of items (beds, clothes, diapers, etc.) or services (medical care, dental care, counseling, etc.) to families.

Family Coach – coordinates the team of volunteers, making sure that the parent, child, and family friends are supported and have the resources needed to thrive.

QUOTES FROM MOMS

“Somebody I didn’t even know existed is out there and we’re connected like we’re family. And it’s just been an absolute life change.”

“That’s the most important thing that we’ve learned — that we can trust people. And they make me stronger so that I’m a stronger mom.”

Become a volunteer today!

www.newyorkcity.safe-families.org or e-mail nyc@safefamilies.net

“Like” us on Facebook for updates: Safe Families for Children NYC

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HOW SAFE FAMILIES WORKS

A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT: EXAMPLE

SAFE FAMILIES CHURCH

A team of volunteers from a nearby church provide wrap-around support for mom and her two babies.



FAMILY COACH

Coordinates and supports volunteer team. Also helps the team brainstorm local resources.



ISOLATED FAMILY

A single mom of newborn twins was referred after leaving a Domestic Violence situation and entering a shelter. She wanted to parent, but was feeling very overwhelmed with so few resources.



FAMILY FRIENDS

Family Friend #1: Meets 2 times per month to provide friendly visits (hold, feed, dress baby), drop off a meal and help mom organize her 1-room apartment.
#2: Meets mom to go out for coffee and empathizes as mom shares her frustrations & struggles.

MINISTRY LEAD

Works with church to create Uber account so mom can get to weekly moms group and church. Engages church meals ministry.



RESOURCE FRIEND

Resource Friend #1: Provides diapers, formula and baby clothes for the family.
#2: Provides budgeting support.
#3: Provides meals.

