FOSTER FRIENDLY™
BY AMERICA'S KIDS BELONG

FAITH COMMUNITIES

3 Best Practices To Create A Foster Friendly Faith Community

One of the ways America's Kids Belong works to dramatically improve the experiences and outcomes for kids in foster care is by ensuring that foster families are seen and valued in their communities as they stand in the gap with vulnerable children.

By implementing just two of the following three best practices, your faith community will become Foster Friendly and help more parents foster longer and stronger.

TRAUMA AWARE

Ensure that your staff and volunteers serving children and youth are trauma aware.

We offer a free one-hour awareness training as well as a 6.5 hour trauma-informed training for faith leaders, as well as recommendations of other qualified trauma resources.

SUPPORT MINISTRY

Identify and engage with the kinship and foster families in your community. And then hear what their needs are and launch an ongoing ministry to support them.

We have guides and free resources to help you survey your foster families and start programs including foster family support groups, foster parents' night out and WRAP programs.

TEACH

Teach in a main gathering annually about the importance of caring for vulnerable children and families and give people an opportunity to respond.

We offer a sermon outline and a resource guide to help you get started.

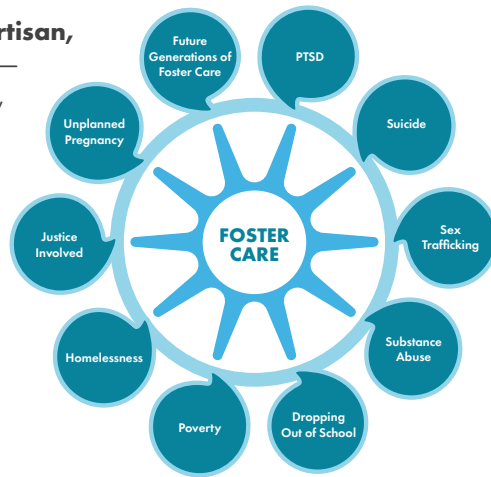**Access Our Foster Friendly Faith Resources**

"We've cared for more unchurched people in our community in the last six months than in the last 15 years, since starting wrap-around ministry to local foster parents in our community with the help of Tennessee Kids Belong."

— Ryan McBride, Discipleship and Missions Pastor, Ridgedale Baptist Church

Why It's Important To Become A Foster Friendly Faith Community

- **Foster care is an upstream issue.** Foster care is at the root of many social wounds.

- **People in your community already care about vulnerable kids.** Studies show people of faith are most likely to foster and adopt.

- **Justice, mercy and grace are faith themes.** Who better to be agents of healing for this critical relationship between parents and children than a faith community?

- **Foster care is a non-partisan, unifying issue.** Everyone—regardless of political party, economic status or ethnicity—cares about vulnerable kids. Your faith community can find common ground and unite with other organizations and groups to seek creative solutions.

FOSTER CARE

- Future Generations of Foster Care
- PTSD
- Suicide
- Sex Trafficking
- Substance Abuse
- Dropping Out of School
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Justice Involved
- Unplanned Pregnancy

CHECK OUT OUR FOSTER FRIENDLY APP

Download our Foster Friendly App and check out the offerings already available. New faith communities are being added each week. You can complete your community pledge under My Profile.

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

More Ways To Help Colorado Kids In Foster Care

As you consider how your faith community can step into becoming Foster Friendly, here are two easy ways you can make a difference today.

1. **Share our posts and stories** on your faith community's social media platforms. Remember, people of faith are more likely to foster and adopt than most!

   americaskidsbelong.org/co

   ⓘ @coloradokidsbelong

   ⓕ coloradokidsbelong

2. **Invest in our mission.** Will you consider making us a mission partner and lending your community's support? Email **fosterfriendly@amkidsbelong.org** to start a conversation

ABOUT COLORADO KIDS BELONG

Colorado Kids Belong is part of the national America's Kids Belong family. Our mission is to dramatically improve the experiences and outcomes for kids in foster care. We do this by investing in three key focus areas:

Family Recruitment – Our I Belong Project creates videos of kids in care, eligible for adoption, to help them find forever homes.

Community Engagement – Our innovative Foster Friendly App connects foster families with valuable community support, from business discounts to Foster Friendly faith communities.

Coalitions for Change – We collaborate with government/political leaders, child welfare, business, faith communities, civic organizations and strategic partners to forge coalitions for change that raise awareness and create conditions that improve the foster care ecosystem.