

# Harbor Families



Lifeline's Harbor Families ministry exists to extend the hope, restoration, and love of Jesus Christ to children and families experiencing a crisis.

## Lifeline's Mission

Lifeline's mission is to equip the body of Christ to manifest the Gospel to the vulnerable.

## The Challenge

All families face crisis situations. Many parents lack a network of informal support and have nowhere to turn to outside of formal government systems. Once a child enters the foster care system, the reunification process is difficult. The average amount of time a child spends in foster care is over one year.

God designed the family unit as a place of healing and safety for children. A family in crisis needs the support, healing, mercy, and hope that comes from God's people.

## The Solution

Lifeline's Harbor Families ministry identifies volunteers through local churches who have a desire to serve families and impact their communities through the hope of the gospel.

Volunteer families offer temporary care in their homes. Volunteers also provide support and resources through mentoring relationships with parents in crisis, offering holistic support and the opportunity to build community. Churches are engaged in supporting families and in offering continued support through the hope of the Gospel!

Lifeline partners with churches to provide screening and Christ-centered volunteer training to empower volunteers and churches in this ongoing ministry.

The ultimate goal of every placement is family restoration and reunification through an increase in parental protective factors and a renewed hope for the future through the power of the Gospel!



## How it's Accomplished

Lifeline and a network of local churches partner together!

The local church is Christ's primary agent to carry out the work of family restoration. Lifeline seeks to close the gap between the local church and families in crisis.

## Engage in Harbor Families

### **As a Church, partner with Lifeline to:**

- Recruit volunteers to become host families and begin a Harbor Families ministry in your church.
- Provide training to your church and community.
- Support existing volunteers by providing tangible needs.
- Support the ministry through your prayer team.
- Equip your church to understand the needs of vulnerable families and children.
- Minister to families in crisis through existing ministries in your church.
- Provide parenting education and support to families through Lifeline's Families Count.
- Host a family fun night for legal families and host families to fellowship together and continue building community relationships.

### **As an individual, partner with Lifeline to:**

- Become a host family or other ministry volunteer.
- Become a babysitter for host or legal families.
- Become part of a support team for host families through prayer or meeting tangible needs.
- Utilize a skill or business to minister to a host family, legal family, or child (tutoring, discounted services, job training, etc.).
- Organize a support group for host families.
- Organize a team to welcome legal families who visit churches.

## Contact Us for More Information on Harbor Families:

Email: [HarborFamilies@lifelinechild.org](mailto:HarborFamilies@lifelinechild.org)

*Harbor Families - Lifeline Children's Services* ►

