



# Sunnybrook Cares

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A group of believers caring for the families of children in need & child care advocates.

## *Creating a Caring System for Foster Families in your Church*

**Coordinator** – A coordinator acts as the lifeline between a foster family and the various opportunities of support through the church, such as tutoring, life coaching, respite family options, supplies, pastoral care, a prayer team, meals, child care, etc....

- **Tutoring/Mentoring** - Tutoring is an element of school everyone can use at some point in life. Foster families could generally use assistance in tutoring and mentoring. *(Example: A 14 year old foster child is struggling with algebra and chemistry, so a local pharmacist offers to tutor for 2 hours a week, making sure the child excels in both subjects and possibly enjoys them, too!)*
- **Life Coaches** – These are individuals that are willing to work with the parents and provide real life experience assistance and encouragement. *(Example: A mother is having a hard time connecting with her 9 year old foster daughter, but the foster daughter is connecting with father... another couple that has fostered gives life experiences of what to anticipate and how to work through this.)*
- **Respite Family** – A respite family is an individual or couple having been Ministry Safe Trained and Background Checked and are willing to provide childcare for foster children from foster parents for a period of time overnight *(Example: Family wants to go whitewater rafting but has a 1 year old foster child, so the Respite Family would care for foster child during the vacation as a gift to the family.)*



- **Supplies** - "Fostering... that's a great way to make money!" This comment is perhaps one of the biggest myths out there. Most foster families go above and beyond what is provided to them through state funds for foster care. The placement of a child is 99% unknown. The when, where, who and what the child has been through and preparing before they arrive is a serious and laborious task. One gift a support team can do is provide supplies when a child/ren are immediately placed and even after a period of time of being with the family. *(Example: Family of 5 receive a phone call for a 6 month old baby girl weighing less than she did when she was born at 6:00 P.M. on a Thursday evening. Both parents work on Fridays and there is no time to prepare, so*

*supplies are brought by a support system late Thursday evening. This happens as parents go to pick baby up. On Friday a reliable childcare provider from church cares for the foster child.)*

- **Pastoral Care and Counseling** - On any given day, a number of emotions and situations may arise in which foster parents truly need assistance and direction. Survival is an everyday key, but healthy survival is desired. Pastoral Care/Christian Counseling are crucial and need to be available to foster families. Having this available and set in place before children come into the home is crucial. *(Example: A couple accepts two foster children who have been sexually abused and malnourished. Counseling through loving these children along with nurturing their marriage is pertinent.)*
- **Prayer Team** - Prayer is the major element of this big picture. What do you pray for? Reunification and healing for biological parents, consistent love and support for a child that is away from their biological parents from “parents” they do not know, stability, support, healthy children and parents. Our God is not short-handed. He equips us with some powerful tools including calling on Him when we need help. Anytime a child is taken into the custody of the state, there is a need for prayer for all involved. Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three have gathered together in my name, there am I among them.” *(Example: Couple decides to foster and is approved. They let their church know. The foster/adoption ministry creates a prayer team to support them through the process.)*
- **Meals** - It’s not uncommon when a woman has a baby for the couple to be flooded with meals from friends. This aspect is the same concept. A family opens their home to a new child and the church body of friends and family provide meals. *(Example: A family welcomes 6 and 8 year old siblings to their family of 5. The coordinator contacts them for allergies and when they may want meals, sets up a link on [www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com) and forwards the link to their church.)*
- **Child Sitter** - This is an individual that has been Ministry Safe Trained and Background Checked or the foster family knows and trusts this individual enough to leave their biological children with the person. A sitter can be useful for trips to the grocery store or places that may not be a good idea to take a foster child. A sitter can be useful for as much time as a full day 10-15 hours. *(Example: A homeschool mother only works on Friday at the Friday School and her three biological children attend there. They have a foster child that is 1 year old and needs a sitter from 7:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. A friend and church family member offers to provide this service as a gift to the family.)*

### **Sunset Hill**

**Mission:** A home of respite and hospitality for those in need.

**Vision:** Sunset Hill is a place for spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment. A home providing exceptional hospitality, service and encouragement for those caring for children in need.

**Are you interested in fostering?**

**Are you interested in supporting those who are already fostering?**

Contact us to find out how to get started!

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