

Guide For Creating a

WRAP AROUND MINISTRY

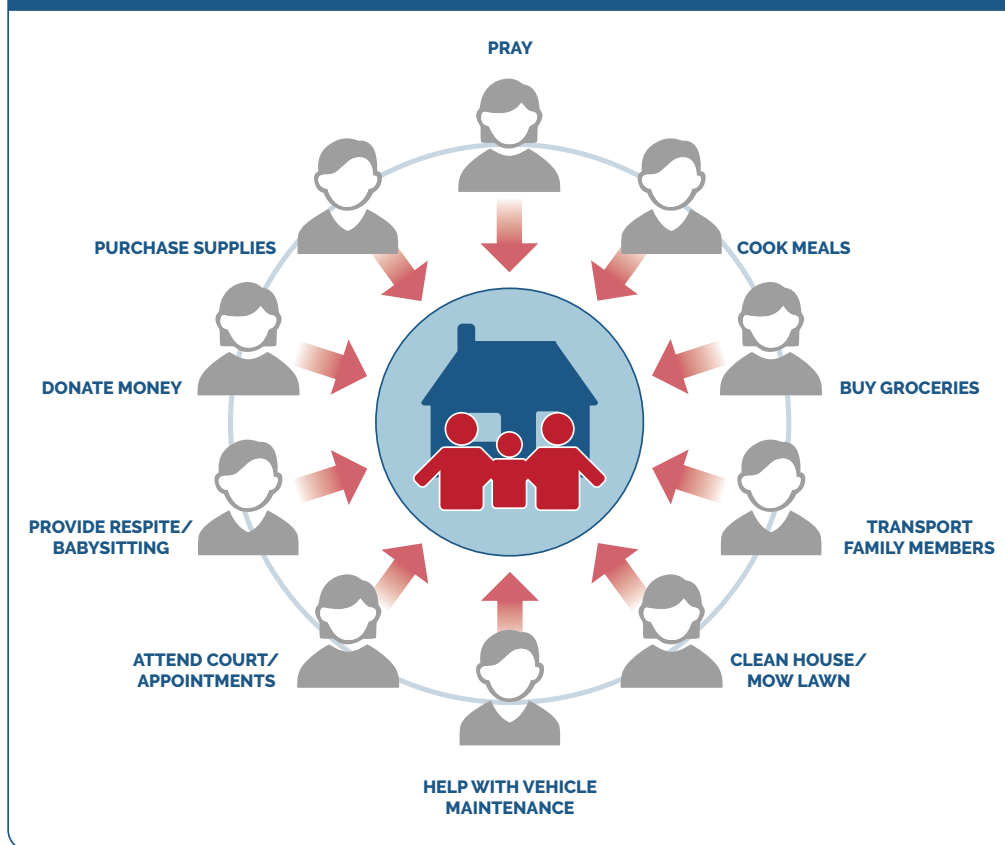


Some are called to foster or adopt.

We all are called to care.

Launching a "Wrap Around" Ministry at your church is crucial to the support and retention of foster and adoptive families. One of the top reasons foster parents terminate their home as a placement is a lack of social support. It is the Church's role to come alongside these families with tangible, emotional and spiritual support - to "wrap around" foster families. Whether you are a 10-year-old who can mow a lawn to help a parent spend more time with their foster children, or you are 80 years old and can bake muffins to drop on a family's doorstep for breakfast, there is a role for everyone in the Church!

WRAP AROUND CARE MODEL For Foster and Adoptive Families



Ways your church can support foster families in your community:

Educate your church about the necessary, broader view of orphan care.

The church is commanded to care for orphans (James 1:27). It's important that the Church better understands the goals of foster care and begins to see engagement in foster care, not just adoption, as a critical piece in orphan care. Foster care is caring for a child/children until parents or family members can. A holistic approach to orphan care includes supporting agency goals for a child in foster care to return to their family. Foster care in the United States is comparable to orphanage systems in other countries; the main difference being that the U.S. works toward reunification which is proven to have better outcomes for children and their families.

Form a Leadership Team of Adoptive/Foster Parents.

It is helpful to have leadership who have walked the adoption/foster care journey and have first-hand experience to oversee different elements of the ministry (such as with Waiting Families, Foster Parents, Adoptive Families). These individuals will have the most insight into how to best serve families who are navigating the complexities of foster care and adoption.

- Contact and develop a relationship with local child welfare office . Ask about ways to serve that region (such as updating visitation room, providing items needed at that office for children, hosting foster parent appreciation dinners for the community, etc).

Develop a process to serve new foster and adoptive families

This could include a meal train being set up, having a gift basket from the church delivered, or matching a family with a resource family who has walked a similar journey. Create a 'Foster Care Closet' using space in the church for gathered and organized donations such as clothing, toys, and bedding, for foster families with a new placement.

Identify largest needs in the current congregation

This may look like a large number of foster or adoptive families who could benefit from community play groups for children, or educational resources brought into the church on attachment, trauma, and connection. It could also mean a large number of families signing up to become certified foster parents, allowing for a small group to run a foster resource closet for immediate needs of foster families.

Provide training opportunities and resources for foster and adoptive families

Plan and host speakers and seminars on attachment disorders, sensory issues, etc. Consider becoming a screening location for the annual Empowered to Connect conference (empoweredtoconnect.org). Implement ongoing courses for foster and adoptive families taught by trained social workers. "The Connected Child" by Dr. Karyn Purvis serves as an excellent educational outline for these classes.

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WRAP Around Ministry Description

W **Wrestling In Prayer** *(One family or person for each foster/adoptive family)*

One family/person who is committed to intentionally praying for a foster/adoptive family daily

Things to pray for:

- Protection from the evil one
- Protection of their marriage
- Protection of their children
- Discernment on children they should foster and not foster
- Strength to get through the difficult times
- Endurance to continue
- Compassion for the children
- Understanding of the trauma they have endured
- Discipline to stay in the Word
- Support to surround them

R **Respite/Babysitting** *(Two families or people for each foster/adoptive family)*

Two families/people that are committed to babysitting for a foster/adoptive family at least once a month

- Provide a couple with a date night
- Babysit their children in foster care while the rest of the family is on a short vacation (1-3 days)

A **Acts of Service** *(Two families/people for each foster/adoptive family)*

Two families or people that are committed to serving a foster/adoptive family at least once a month

- Mowing lawn/snow removal
- Cutting hair
- Providing a meal
- Cleaning their house
- Care package- diapers, wipes, clothes, school supplies, groceries,...
- Transport child/children
- Car maintenance
- House maintenance
- Bring them a meal
- What are you good at, serve in that way

P **Positive and Encouraging Words** *(One family/person for each foster/adoptive family)*

One family/person that is committed to sending an encouraging note to a foster/adoptive family at least once a month

- Write a note to your foster family encouraging them on their journey in foster care
- Send financial gifts or gift cards

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WRAP Around Family/Child Questionnaire

WRAP AROUND

Family/Child Questionnaire

Guidelines for participating in the WRAP Around:

- Fill out the WRAP questionnaire and turn it in to _____, the WRAP Coordinator. _____ will contact you and you will be matched with a WRAP team as soon as one is available.
- Your WRAP questionnaire will be shared with your WRAP team, but please know that we will guard all confidential information. We only ask for first names of all children.
- You will be given a communicator and she will contact you on a regular basis. Your communicator is there to listen and to help keep your WRAP team up-to-date on what your family needs are.
- Notify [WRAP Coordinator] at [email address] if you have any questions or decide to no longer participate in the ministry.

Signature

Date

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WRAP Around Family Questionnaire

WRAP AROUND Family Questionnaire			
Parents Name:		Today's Date:	
Phone Numbers:		Email:	
Best Time to Contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Morning	<input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> Evening
Preferred Method	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call	<input type="checkbox"/> Text Message	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Current Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Birthdays:		Anniversary	
Are you a Member of a Church?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If YES, Where?			

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WRAP AROUND CHILD INFORMATION

<i>First Name:</i>	<i>Age:</i>	<i>Birthday:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Placement Date:</i>			<i>Biological</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>Foster</i>
<i>School:</i>			<i>Grade:</i>		
<i>Favorite Things:</i>					
<i>Favorite Activities:</i>					
<i>Things You Should Know:</i>					

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PRAYER REQUESTS

How Can We Pray for Your Family?

CURRENT SUPPORT

Is your family currently receiving support as you are caring for children in foster care? YES NO

If YES, in what ways are you being supported?

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DESIRED SUPPORT

How can a WRAP team best serve your family?

PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU WRAP TEAM

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GROCERY LIST

Please write down your family's top 15 items you regularly purchase from the grocery store:
e.g. (2% milk, bananas, ground beef, cheddar cheese slices, etc...)

1. Diapers/Pullups size _____
2. Wipes
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- ...