

# equipped & encouraged

Nationwide 50% of foster families quit by the end of their first year. Together, we can change that.

## HOW CAN YOU SIMPLY & EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE YOUR CHURCH OR MINISTRY IN SERVING BREVARD FOSTER FAMILIES TODAY?

### GIVE FOSTER PARENTS A BREAK

Schedule a Foster Parent Night Out. Include trauma awareness training for your children's ministry staff and volunteers.

### MEET TANGIBLE NEEDS

Organize a collection for local foster families. There is an infinite number of ideas. Here are a few:

**Wrap It Up:** collect gift wrap, tape, bows, tags, gift bags, tissue paper

**Socks and Locks:** collect socks and hair care items (brushes, combs, ponytail holders, bows, etc.)

**Dinner's on Us:** collect \$25 gift cards to various restaurants

**Bed, Bath & Books:** collect a set of PJs, a bottle of bath soap, and a book for each child (This one would require more detailed planning including signups for PJ sizes.)

**Thrilled to Build:** collect small sets of building toys (LEGO, KNex, tangrams, blocks, any small building set)

### TEACH YOUR CONGREGATION ABOUT THE NEED

Share God's heart for foster and adoption with your church. Invite us to speak or ask us for input.

### HOST EVENTS AND TRAINING FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

**Uplift Family Support Groups** are held in various parts of the county, providing training and peer support for foster and adoptive families.

**TBRI and Trauma-Informed Care:** Annually, the Hope for the Journey virtual conference gives foster and adoptive parents training in Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) to guide them in caring for children who have experienced trauma. Churches host and provide childcare. E&E also has two TBRI Practitioners on staff who can provide training to caregivers, church staff and volunteers, and community responders.

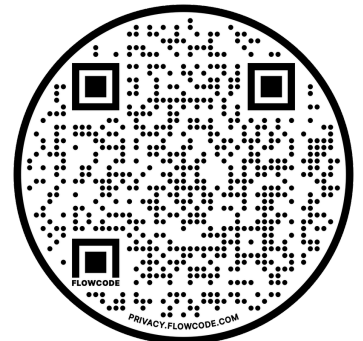
**Family Fun Events** are opportunities for foster and adoptive families to gather with other foster and adoptive families, have fun, and build connections. They can be simple like a playground meet-up with dinner from a food truck or huge like a carnival event with bounce houses and catered food.

### DIY A FOSTER CARE MINISTRY

But not really DIY because we'll work with you! Is there a group in your church that might like to kick off a local foster care service program? Maybe your church has a group of mechanics who want to do free quarterly oil changes for foster families, or a group of woodworkers who want to start a bed-building ministry, or a group of quilters who want to make quilts for kids in care, or a group of cooks who want to start a frozen dinner ministry? ... there are as many ideas as there are people. If you have an idea, let us know, and we'll work on building it together!

### HELP FINANCIALLY

Donate to help cover costs of training, supplies, events, and more. 100% of your donation serves families. E&E's staff is all volunteer.



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