



Safe Families
for Children

2023



TREASURE VALLEY IMPACT REPORT



LUTHERAN
Community
Services
NORTHWEST

Children *SAFE* Families *TOGETHER*



TREASURE VALLEY 2023 IMPACT REPORT

Dear Community Partners & Supporters,

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and a sense of purpose as we reflect on 2023. Your encouragement, generous giving, and sacrificial service remain the foundation of Safe Families for Children Treasure Valley, and we are honored to present the highlights of our journey together.

Nationally, Safe Families for Children is celebrating 20 years of serving and strengthening over 40,000 families! Our Treasure Valley chapter launched in 2021 and this year, the need has increased tenfold as so many parents are struggling to meet the basic needs of their family. Because of our generous donors and active volunteers, we have been able to meet that need head on. **This report illustrates the impact of investing in prevention and the simple notion of families helping families.**

We believe in the power of compassion to change lives and transform communities. Since we opened our doors, we have kept 204 children safe and 79 families together, creating a ripple effect of possibility and stability in the lives of those we serve. It is because of you- volunteers, donors, and community partners- that we have been able to invest more deeply in parents and children and provide hope to families who had nowhere else to turn. **Each family's story of hope is a testament to your hospitality, generosity, and compassion being lived out locally.**

As we press on in 2024, we do so with great faith, knowing that we have a committed community of dedicated individuals willing to learn, grow and give towards keeping children safe and families together.

Thank you for being the driving force of good behind Safe Families for Children!

*Jessica Ruehrwein, LCSNW District Director
& the Safe Families Team
Emily Erickson, Michelle Batten, Lisa Kraft & Patty Larson*



*Your investment keeps
CHILDREN SAFE AND FAMILIES TOGETHER!*

WHAT WE *Do*

We are motivated by faith to keep
CHILDREN SAFE & FAMILIES TOGETHER.

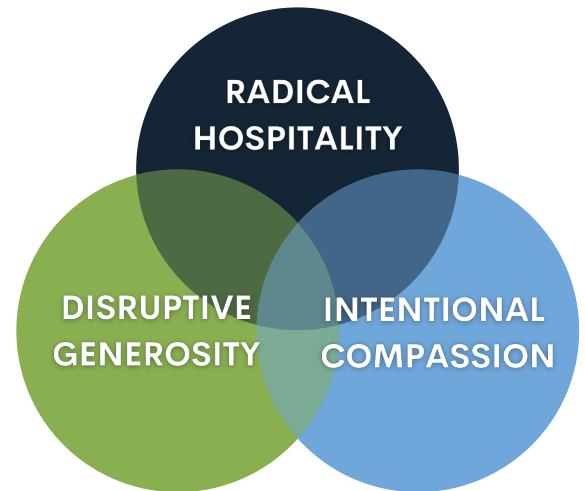
We host children in volunteer homes and provide a network of support while parents get back on their feet. The goal is to help families thrive and prevent children from unnecessarily entering foster care.

PREVENT
CHILD
ABUSE &
NEGLECT

SUPPORT
&
STRENGTHEN
FAMILIES

DEFLECT
CHILDREN
FROM FOSTER
CARE

CORE *Values*



WHO WE *Serve*

Children & families who lack support and are facing a crisis, such as:

- Medical Emergencies/Births
- Unemployment/Loss of Job
- Domestic Violence/Trafficking
- Homelessness/Eviction
- Alcohol/Drug Rehabilitation
- Single Parenting & Isolation



SAFE FAMILIES
PROVIDES A
CIRCLE OF SUPPORT
FOR CHILDREN AND
PARENTS WHO ARE
FACING A CRISIS



We build
relationships
to offer love, meals,
transport & respite



Volunteers provide
safe, temporary
homes
for children



Families stay
connected &
parents maintain
full custody



All host families
and volunteers are
fully vetted

STORIES OF HOPE

RADICAL HOSPITALITY



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

"It was midnight and Safe Families staff gathered at the Boise airport to meet a baby, her mom, and a volunteer host family. The baby's father had taken her out of state and then abandoned her on a doorstep. Baby was placed into foster care and somewhere along the way, she was harmed. We supported mom to bring her baby back home. Today, baby is getting lots of love and staying with a Safe Families' host family while her mom, a full time student, works on how to be a mom and finding a new home. The families visit weekly and mom breathes a sigh of relief -- without Safe Families I wouldn't have my baby."

- **Single mom of 6 month old**

"Safe Families for Children gave me hope. I didn't know what I was going to do. Now my life looks completely different. This is the first time I've ever had anyone care about me and act like I was a real person. It feels so good to have someone call to check on me or someone to tell me that I'm doing a good job. I wouldn't know how to be a dad or even have my kids with me if it wasn't for Safe Families."

- **Single dad of 3**

"On behalf of my family, my kids told me last night to tell everyone thank you for the opportunity to provide for my family hope."

- **Single dad of 4, ages 3 - 14**

"I am so beyond blessed by Safe Families. It has been a horrific few years in so many ways. Thank you for restoring my empty heart with the beautiful spirit of God's love and thoughtfulness! Wow!!!"

- **Single mom of 12 year old**

"We just couldn't do it any more. We had been homeless for 2 years, then we lost our car, and our boys needed more. We didn't see a way out of the same foster system we had come from. Safe Families saved us. They gave our children a place to stay until we got jobs and were back on our feet. They helped our family stay together. I just don't know where we'd be without them. They blew my mind."

- **Parents of 3 boys, ages 3 - 5**

The problem with our world is we draw the circles of our families too small. - Mother Teresa

Volunteers Engaged

8

TREASURE VALLEY
PARTNER CHURCHES

28

HOST FAMILIES

156

SAFE FAMILIES
VOLUNTEERS

\$17,708

DONATED GOODS TO
FAMILIES IN NEED

Families Supported

76

REQUESTS FOR HELP

56

FAMILIES SERVED
& SUPPORTED

122

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED &
STRENGTHENED

100%

CHILDREN SAFE &
FAMILIES TOGETHER!

➔ 600% increase in need from 2022

Services Provided

485

HOURS OF RESPITE
CARE FOR CHILDREN

630

SAFE BED NIGHTS
FOR CHILDREN

915

HOURS OF MENTORING &
COACHING FOR PARENTS





LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS & GIVING HOPE

VOLUNTEER LOVE IN ACTION



Host Family Testimonial

"It's so beautiful to watch your kids reach out to other kids. The kids that we had just loved us and they were excited to be with us -- but they adored our children. Our kids gave up their bedroom, their toys and they bunked with each other to make room. And they didn't just give up some of their toys -- like the discarded toys -- they gave them the best toys. It truly was a family ministry for us...

You don't have to host kiddos in your home -- there are so many things you can do with Safe Families!"





LCSNW STAFF & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Jessica Ruehrwein

District Director



Emily Erickson

Program Supervisor



Michelle Batten

Program Manager



Patty Larson

Office Volunteer

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHURCH PARTNERS

Churches recruit volunteers, share resources and help with financial support.

These churches are saying YES to Safe Families to live out their faith.

Thank you for your partnership and providing health & hope to families in crisis!

If your church would like to live out love through Safe Families, contact us.



SINCERE GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS & LOCAL PARTNERS THANK YOU!

100 Women for Good
Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation
Idaho Community Foundation
Northwest Intermountain Synod
Harry Morrison Foundation
Scentsy
True Hope Collister
Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation
Avenues for Hope
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Idaho Resilience Project
Casey Family Programs
Idaho Children's Trust Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Stonehill Church
Thrivent Match Giving
HP Match Giving
Bethel Church of the Nazarene
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Christ Reformed Church
Eastwind Community Church
and so many individual friends & donors!

Faces of Hope
Cake for Kids
Interfaith Sanctuary
Dept. of Health & Welfare, Navigation
FOCAF/Head Start/WICAP
Salvation Army
Parents As Teachers
St. Vincent De Paul
Anna Grace Foundation
Idaho Relatives As Parents
Women & Children's Alliance
Nampa Family Justice Center
House Next Door
Meridian Resource & Gathering
Path Pregnancy Center
Center for Juvenile Justice
Central District Health
Hand in Hand Mentoring
Jesse Tree
CATCH
Love INC



LIVING OUT SAFE FAMILIES

**RADICAL
HOSPITALITY**

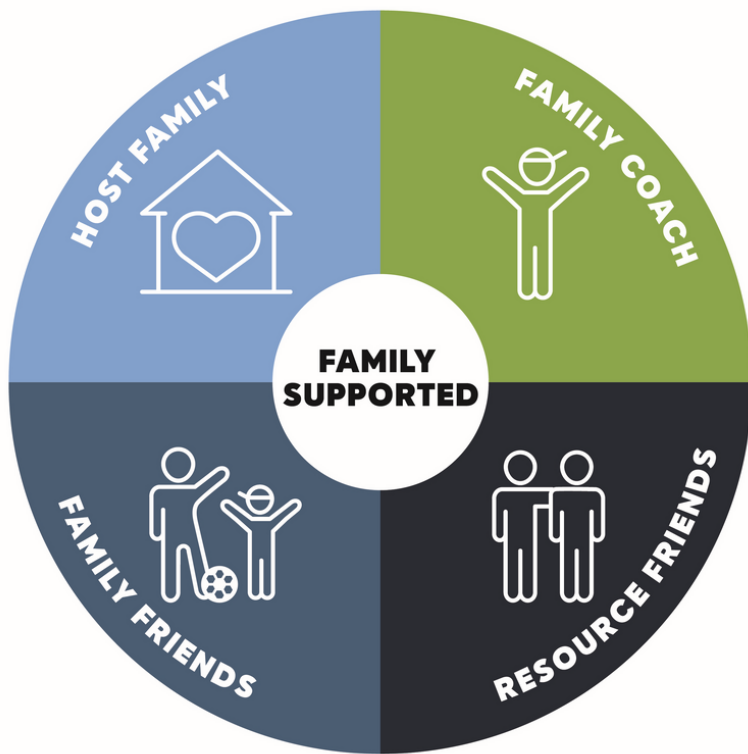
**DISRUPTIVE
GENEROSITY**

**INTENTIONAL
COMPASSION**

CORE VALUES

HOW IT WORKS

Through a network of compassionate volunteers, we create extended family-like supports for parents who are struggling, alone and unable to care for their children as they would like. From hosting children in approved volunteer homes to connecting parents with tools and resources, Safe Families helps fill in the gaps to keep children safe and parents supported so that families can get back on their feet.



HOST FAMILIES



Open your home to care for children for a few hours, overnight or up to 6 months.

FAMILY COACHES



Mentor & walk alongside parents to help them reach their goals.

FAMILY FRIENDS



Support families with meals, babysitting, transportation, etc. or just a listening ear.

RESOURCE FRIENDS



Provide goods and services such as cribs or haircuts.

MINISTRY LEADS



Recruit volunteers through your church to put faith into action!

DID YOU KNOW?

Safe Families for Children:

- Is an evidence-based child abuse prevention program
- Reduces trauma and is helping families thrive in 40 states
- Began in Idaho in 2021 after legislation was passed
- Is a voluntary, safe option for parents
- Has kept 100% of families together
- Is a program of LCSNW and we invite YOU! →



TO LEARN



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NORTHWEST

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More