

Creekside Foster and Adoption Ministry

Creekside's Foster and Adoption Ministry (FAM) launched in May 2020 with the purpose of providing support to help ensure a safe and stable environment for vulnerable children. FAM offers one-time and ongoing support in multiple areas of family life to help foster/adoptive/at risk families manage the stress of daily living as they care for children.

Core Principle: Some will foster, others will support those who foster, everyone can do something.

Main Areas of Support:

- **Inspiration:** Phone call/text, card of encouragement, asking for prayer requests
- **Practical Help:** Freezer meal, lawn care, car seat, bedding, school supplies, etc.
- **Relational:** One-on-one time with a child, parent night out, sponsor family time activity

FAM receives its funding through Creekside Missions and none of the support/service opportunities below require out of pocket expenditures.

CONTACTS

Church Staff Liaison: Barry Clark - barry@creeksidechristian.com

FAM Co-directors:

- Suzette Prasatek suzette.fam@gmail.com
- John Stagliano – jstagliano11@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Family Liaison - Connect with foster family at least twice monthly via phone, text, email, or in person to provide encouragement and identify ways that support is needed (see above for example)

Liaison Coordinator – help orient new liaisons, notify FAM team about needs of FAM families, gather monthly information regarding what support activities were provided to FAM families

Team Member – provide support in one or more of the areas above as schedule allows. Coordinators will send out a monthly email with support opportunities as well as when specific needs arise.

Freezer Meal Coordinator - maintain inventory of freezer meals, create sign-up lists when more freezer meals are needed, and keep Freezer Meal Bin stocked (containers, recipes, etc.)

Creekside Activities Coordinator - send texts/emails to FAM families, letting them know about upcoming Creekside activities (Children's Ministry, Women's/Men's Ministry, Sports Ministry)

Prayer Coordinator – gather FAM family prayer requests from liaisons; share with FAM

team (via text when request is urgent; otherwise, part of FAM monthly update)

Card Ministry - Birthday/Encouragement/Thank you

MINISTRY HISTORY

Nov. 2019:

- Local foster care missionary visited Creekside Christian Church, explaining the powerful impact a church can have on foster care children/families
- On their own, 50% of foster parents will stop within the 1st year • With ongoing support from a church, 95% of foster families choose to continue

August 2020: FAM started providing ongoing support to 2 families (4 children)

2021:

- FAM started partnering with CarePortal
- Care Portal is an online platform that offers churches/community members opportunities to meet needs of vulnerable children and families in the community
- Responded to 4 CarePortal requests: provided bunk beds, car seat for child with spina bifida, box springs, diapers/wipes

2022

- Provided ongoing support to 10 families and responded to 5 CarePortal requests
- Surprised 7 single foster moms in the community with Mother's Day baskets

2023

- Provided ongoing support to 14 families and responded to 7 CarePortal requests
- Provided "back to school" gift cards and Christmas baskets to FAM families
- Helped to sponsor local Christian foster care conference
- Joined "Faith-Based Initiative" Community Group – monthly meeting with St. John County child welfare agency and area churches to minister to foster/at-risk families.
- Made care bags for employees of St. Johns County Child Welfare Services

2024

- Providing ongoing support to 11 families and have responded to 3 CarePortal requests
- Provided lawncare 5 times and washed 10 loads of laundry
- Handyman tasks – assembled 4 bookcases, installed indoor swing, replaced a toilet
- Helped 5 times as Mother's Helper • Freezer Meals – assembled 77 meals; delivered 56 meals