



DC127

Communities for Families

Volunteer Opportunities

There are an estimated 1,500 families currently at-risk of entering foster care in DC, and one of the biggest reasons is social isolation – parents have nowhere to turn. This is where you come in.

We are inviting you to be a part of Communities for Families, a movement of people helping parents during times of instability. Volunteer Host Homes provide temporary housing for children while other volunteers come alongside the parents to provide support. **Will you join us and help keep families together?**

Communities for Families works when entire communities open their doors to a family. Here's how you can be part of this movement:

Parent Friend

Be a friend to a parent in crisis

Parent Friends form an intentional friendship with a parent and let them know they aren't alone. Typically, Parent Friends call a parent once a week and visit them in person once or twice a month. They can help connect parents to resources, attend appointments, and provide a listening ear. Parent Friends can also care for older children as a mentor.

Host Homes

Open your home to children temporarily while parents get back on their feet

Host Homes care for children temporarily while their parents work to create a safer and more stable home environment. Sometimes a parent is just looking for short-term care (2-4 prearranged days a month), while other times parents need longer-term care for a few weeks or months. Host Homes are responsible for caring for the children as if they were their own, and Safe Families brings a network of support around them to help with things like babysitting, transportation, diapers, bedding, and meals - it's a community effort.

Community Coaches

Coordinate a team, ensuring everyone moves forward together

Community Coaches coordinate placements and help keep track of all the moving pieces. They meet with Host Homes to ensure they have the support they need, monitor child safety, and talk with the children's parents to ensure they are moving forward and have access to needed resources. Community Coaches are supported by Communities for Families staff and can come to them with any questions or concerns.

Resource Friend

Support Host Homes and parents through babysitting, transportation, or donating resources

Resource Friends provide much-needed support to both parents and Host Homes. You can babysit, provide transportation, or donate supplies or gift cards. Host Homes are not reimbursed for their expenses, so the support of others is vital. It takes a community to make Communities for Families work. Being a Resource Friend allows you to be a part of this community in any capacity.

To take the next step, fill out an application at www.dc127.org/volunteer-forms or

email us at Volunteer@dc127.org.

DC127 implements Communities for Families with the support of D.C.'s Child and Family Services Agency.