



The Communities for Families Program Host Home Volunteer Description

DC127's Host Home volunteers provide temporary housing for children while their parents work to create a safer and more stable home environment. The Host Home is a critical part of the volunteer team that supports families, as it provides a safe space for children to reside so that the parents are able to have rest, work on goals, and seek any support they need. As a Host Home, you are responsible for caring for the children as if they were your own. Host Homes are NOT foster homes; parents retain full custody of the children. Host Homes commit to supporting only one family at a time.

Responsibilities

- Passionate about caring for vulnerable families and children in D.C.
- Voluntarily open your home to children and provide a safe and welcoming home environment
- Communicate with parent(s) concerning child's needs prior to hosting
- Ability to quickly respond to the needs of the child while they stay in your home, which may include, but is not limited to, meals, healthy sleep patterns, transportation, safety, behavioral, and/or medical needs
- Communicate with the parent and Team Coordinator to plan the hosting schedule at least 2 months in advance of hostings and relay the hosting dates to DC127
- Attend team meetings throughout hosting placement
- Respond to any medical emergencies that the child may have while in your home
- Volunteer must be 21 years of age or older

Support for Host Homes

- Every Host Home is connected with a team of volunteers that includes a Team Coordinator. The Coordinator checks on the Host Home regularly and ensures Host Homes are supported in keeping children safe and cared for.
- DC127 provides on-going trainings throughout the year to help guide you on certain issues you may need more support in (e.g. trauma-informed care). Although these trainings are not mandatory, they are highly recommended.
- Connection with a Church Advocate from one of DC127's partner churches to find donated items from the church (e.g.: diapers, a meal train, gas cards, etc.)
- Access to DC127's babysitter listserv for periodic babysitting while hosting

Time Commitment

Host child(ren) two weekends a month from Friday-Sunday (typically Friday night to Sunday night). The respite Host Home commitment is for six-months and typically around 1-3 hours a week of communication with your team, the supported family, and/or DC127 staff.

DC127

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