



THE CHURCH OF ELEVEN22

CARE COMMUNITIES

CARING FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AS A DISCIPLE GROUP

WHY CARE COMMUNITIES?

Care Communities are volunteer-led and provide a strong support system for foster families.

Caring for vulnerable children requires an investment and parents need the support of local community. Care Communities create the opportunity to serve at-risk kids and their families in practical, hands-on ways. By supporting foster families, we can provide a healthier context for a child's transition into their new home.

James 1:27 NIV says: Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

We are all called to care for our most vulnerable members in society. How we do this may be different, but every role is vital.

CARE COMMUNITIES OFFER SUPPORT IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

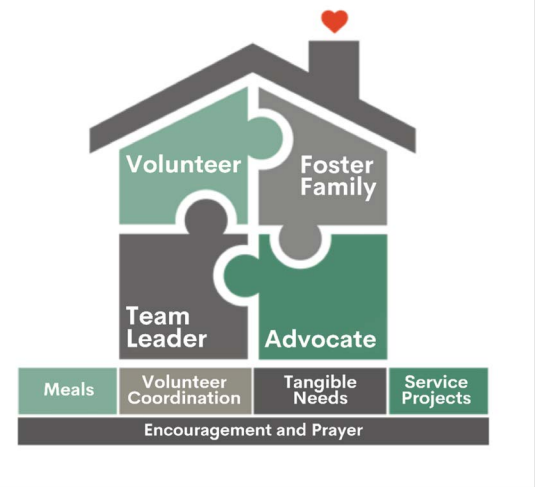
- Delivering cards of encouragement or gift cards
- Doing service projects for the family
- Dropping off a meal
- Delivering a care package
- Sourcing tangible items like clothing, beds, baby equipment, etc.
- Intentionally praying for the family
- Any other gift or talent to bless the family

HOW TO SERVE ON A CARE COMMUNITY

A Care Community can exist of four or more volunteers and easily work within our disciple group model. Each person on the team plays a part, allowing them to use their gifts and talents to serve the family.

Want to learn more about the foster care initiative? Email cayela.moody@coe22.com

ROLES OF THE CARE COMMUNITY



VOLUNTEER: We ask you to commit to serving the family **one-time per month for one-year**. You will serve in ways that will help your supported family. Perhaps you'll be able to deliver a meal, drop off a birthday treat, deliver a card, providing clothing, do yardwork or meet any other needs that would be helpful to the family.

TEAM LEADER: This role allows you to get to know the supported family more closely - usually the mother. Generally, tasks will require a time investment of **less than one hour per week**, however, a consistency is required when serving in this role. You'll make a quick weekly phone call to the supported family and note their needs and prayer requests. You'll then update the online calendar and send a weekly group email or text to the team. Optional monthly training is available for team leaders.

ADVOCATE: The advocate role champions the cause of vulnerable children and families. They promote awareness and are the campus leaders for the foster care initiative. They also coordinate and oversee the formation of Care Communities. They utilize Promise Serves to organize the families and volunteers. **This role can take 1-2 hours per week.**

FOSTER FAMILY: When the foster family opens their homes for a long-term placement of a child, we ask that they communicate with the team leader once per week. It can be a quick text exchange or a phone call. This allows the family to be served the most affectively, while communicating the needs to volunteers.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify 1-2 people who will serve as the team leader(s). This role is typically highly relational and organized.
2. Email- Cayela.Moody@coe22.com or Tyler.Putnal@coe22.com
3. The advocate will schedule a meeting to do an initial training with Promise Serves, the online Care Community Management System.
4. The team leader(s) helps the volunteers in the disciple group set up their Promise Serves accounts and does a brief training.
5. An advocate will contact the team leader when a foster family has been matched with the disciple group.