

# FOR CHURCHES

**How can you partner with my church to minister to vulnerable children and support the families who have opened their homes to them?**

Baptist Children's Homes and the Baptist State Convention believe that our North Carolina churches are the answer for impacting the 16,000 children, on average, who are in the custody of the state's foster care system. **EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption Ministry** comes alongside your church to:

- Train and license couples in your church who God is calling to foster or foster-to-adopt. Training takes place at your location on a schedule convenient for you.
- Help your church establish its own ministry to provide ongoing community and support to the foster and adoptive parents in your congregation and their children
- Provide ongoing support to your church and families. If there are issues or a crisis, we can consult with you.
- Offer trauma-informed training to help with boys and girls who come from traumatic circumstances.
- Train and license through a Christian perspective.

## How does my church get started?

Consider inviting us to your church to discuss the foster care and adoption process, answer questions, and share the need firsthand. There may be people in your congregation whom God is already calling to this ministry, but they may not recognize it until the need is shared with them. **To take the next step that is right for your church, contact Mark Smith, Baptist Children's Homes Foster & Adoption Church Liaison, at 828.450.9136 or mesmith@bchfamily.org.**

Videos and other information to help you learn and share are available at the "For Churches" page at [every-child.org](http://every-child.org)

*every*  
**CHILD**  
foster & adoption ministry

*every*  
child wants a home.

*every*  
child deserves a family.

*every*  
child needs hope!

  
Baptist Children's Homes  
of NORTH CAROLINA

*On Mission Together*  
NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

[every-child.org](http://every-child.org) | 1.800.476.3669

Your church is the answer for ensuring every child receives the compassionate home he and she deserves.





There are approximately  
**16,000**  
children in North Carolina's  
foster care system.

Children who need a home.  
Children who need **HOPE**.

**Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are on mission together** because we believe that through the local church **every child** in the state's foster care system can receive the safe, caring home he or she deserves. Through **EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption Ministry**, we are able to equip churches and families to accomplish this vital mission.

### What is EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption Ministry?

**EVERY CHILD** is a statewide ministry and resource offered to churches and families through **Baptist Children's Homes (BCH)** in partnership with the **Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC)**. Our foster care and adoption staff provide a variety of services in order to connect vulnerable children with Christian homes:

- Train couples and individuals to become licensed foster parents
- Work with couples and individuals to adopt or foster-to-adopt domestically or adopt internationally
- Help churches establish their own ministry to provide ongoing community and support for foster and adoptive parents and their children
- Provide ongoing support to these churches and families
- Offer trauma-informed training to help with boys and girls who come from traumatic circumstances

### Why choose foster care and/or adoption?

*No matter their circumstances, all children are the same: they need a home, they deserve a family, and they desire to feel valued and loved.* You have the opportunity to be that family for a boy or girl that has no permanent home. You can give a child the love he or she has never experienced. You can be a difference maker that not only impacts his or her life today but introduces that child to the love of Jesus Christ.

### What is foster care and a foster care home?

By becoming a trained and licensed foster care family through **Baptist Children's Homes (BCH)**, you provide care for a child over a planned period when his/her family or legal custodian cannot provide care. A family foster home is your family's residence. You offer a home for up to five children providing them with daily, 24-hour care. Five children may receive care in a family foster home, including your own children. Members of your family over 18 years of age are not included in the capacity. Adult supervision must be provided during the time foster children are living in your home.

### Who are the foster children?

Foster children can be any child who enters the North Carolina foster care system ranging in age from infancy to 21 years old. Each child has their own unique background, experiences, and specific needs. Many come from situations of abuse and neglect and do not possess a healthy self-esteem. Foster children need a family atmosphere, a place where they can belong. Most of all, they need to be loved and nurtured.

### Can we adopt our foster children?

Possibly. The goal of foster care is reunification with the biological parents, however, if it is determined that reunification is not possible, adoption can become an option for permanency.

### What are the adoption programs you offer?

**Foster-to-Adopt:** This program is designed to find permanent homes for children currently in the foster care system when re-unification is not possible. We place children of all ages from all different backgrounds. Because reunification with a child's biological family is always prioritized in foster care, and that process can take time, many of the children who are eligible for adoption (due to reunification not being an option) are older and may be part of a larger sibling group.

**Domestic:** This program works with women facing unplanned pregnancy to offer them the option of placing their child for adoption with one of our Christian families waiting to adopt. We place children, primarily newborns, of all races, both genders, most of whom are considered healthy and many who are born with some challenges. However, many are able to overcome some of those challenges with the nurture, love and resources provided by adoptive families.

**International:** We are accredited to do intercountry adoptions in Czech Republic and the Philippines to place children ages 2-15 with Christian families. All intercountry adoptions are processed through Baptist Children's Homes' adoption program, a Hague Accredited agency. The children have been cleared for adoption and have not been placed domestically in their country of origin. To be cleared for adoption in the active countries we work with, an extensive and ethical process is done to determine the suitability for adoption. Children come into care for many reasons and can have a wide range of ages and life experiences.

### Can we specify preferences of the child we adopt?

Families are allowed to limit their preferences; however, openness to race, gender, health risks, prenatal exposure and other special needs will affect a family's acceptance in our program as well as the time frame in which they will receive placement. Generally, the more open and flexible a family is, the better fit for our program they are.

**For foster care and adoption eligibility requirements, additional information and resources, including videos, visit [every-child.org](http://every-child.org).**

**"We know the love of Jesus Christ, and we should plant that seed anywhere and everywhere we can, and it begins with a child."**

*Shanell Cook, Foster & Adoptive Mom*

