# Will you help keep families safe?

Safe Families Canada enables God's people to give life-changing support to at-risk families by extending and strengthening their community safety net. Christian host families open their homes to care for the children of struggling parents, giving the parents time to sort out their crisis and stabilize their home again.

Children stay with a host family anywhere from one night up to three months and can be of any age, most commonly under age five. Parents maintain custody of the children throughout the duration of the placement.

## **Our mission**

Safe Families Canada welcomes vulnerable children (newborn through 18 years old) into the homes of Christian families.

By the practice of biblical hospitality, these volunteer families provide needed support for parents both in short-term emergency (i.e. illness) and long-term crisis (i.e. drug addiction).



#### Amina's Story

When she was seven-months pregnant, Amina\* came to Canada from Palestine with her one-year old daughter. The two moved into a refugee centre in Toronto. Having arrived in a new country without friends or family, Amina had no one to care for her older daughter when the time came for her to deliver her baby.

Thankfully, the refugee centre knew of the ministry of Safe Families, and rather than calling the Children's Aid Society, staff members called Safe Families. Amina's daughter was placed with a loving host family during her short hospital stay, and they were happily reunited after two days.

Safe Families Canada



#### **Goals of our Placements**

- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Prevent involvement of the child welfare system
- Provide needed support to struggling parents
- Demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion for at-risk families
- Reunite parents with their children

Safe Families Canada • 9 Hewitt Ave., Toronto, ON, M6R 1Y4 647.784.7161 • info@safefamilies.ca • www.safefamilies.ca

#### History

The Lydia Home Association in Chicago started Safe Families in 2002, and the movement has since spread to over 30 U.S. states. More than 19,000 placements of children have occurred to date. Adapting the U.S. model and learning from their experiences, Safe Families Canada (SFC) piloted a new program through a local church for several years, fully launching its operations in September of 2014, after establishing the necessary legal structure. SFC currently has operations in the greater Toronto area with multiple churches joining the network and many volunteers serving from the Christian community. Children are being placed with host families, and the families of those children are finding support.

# Vision

Our long term vision is to see SFC established in cities across Canada, with working groups already established in London, ON, Winnipeg, MB, and Moncton, NB.

### Needs

We need more volunteers as well as financial support that will allow us to serve more families at a greater number of locations.



#### How can you help?

DONATE

Support our efforts to keep families whole.

**VOLUNTEER** Become a volunteer

host family, helping those in need. REFER Do you know a family in need? Let us know!

#### NEWS

Stay up to date by signing up for our newsletter.

Contact us today to get involved!

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