

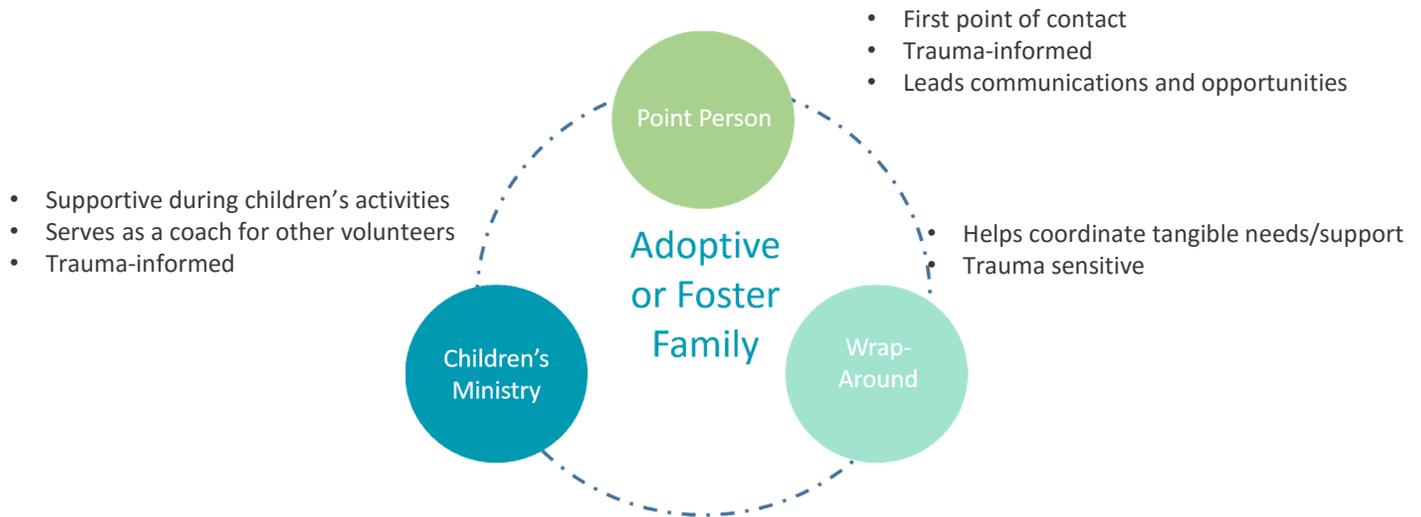


Fostering Hope Austin supports foster and adoptive families with excellent training, resources, and encouragement. We also work to dramatically increase the amount of healing foster and adoptive families from the church to care for our local children. We know that a lasting solution for our notoriously broken child welfare system requires that State, agencies, and churches work in collaboration.

We have three goals:

1. Support and encourage foster and adoptive families so that the love of Christ can be more fully experienced by children, families, and community and so that there is an increase in foster/adoptive families
2. Offer opportunities for everyone to get involved with caring for the least of these
3. Represent church ministries with the State and child-welfare agencies.

What Does This Look Like At Your Church?



Fostering Hope Austin:

- Equips and supports the ministry team so that they can:
 - Mentor families
 - Train families and those in supporting roles
 - Bring healing to children
 - Recruit new families with integrity and long-term support
 - Care and support the families in their church and community circles
- FHA does this by offering:
 - Materials/curriculum and professional referrals
 - Videos, print media for church ministries to use
 - Coaching and training leaders
 - Community-wide conferences, events, presentations
- Identifies areas of need/obstacles in the community for families and children, and we work with the State, agencies, and the church to overcome them

Partnering with FHA

As a partnering church with FHA, we can collaborate with each other and community churches because we have similar beliefs and best practices:

Church Relationships

1. Lay ministers are under the authority of the Church Pastors and must have a consistent line of communication with them
2. Collaboration with other churches, State, and child welfare organizations is required to overcome our notoriously broken foster care system.
3. An accessible presence to your church members is necessary (online, bulletins, etc)

Family and Children Support

1. Church ministries must support their families and children with excellent trauma-informed care that is holistic, compassionate and consistent with God's heart for the orphan (TBRI is our gold standard)
2. Church ministries support their families to overcome crises
3. While every church will have their own unique passion area, we recognize that the full solution to the foster care/orphan crisis is 5 aspects: Biological family support, adoption, foster care, serving the aged-out population, and wrap-around support.

Getting Started



Once you meet with FHA and identify leaders, we will train your leaders in trauma-informed care and supporting families. We then work with you to determine how to best serve in the foster/adoptive community. Our partnership continues by on-going coaching/resources and opportunities to bring lasting change to our foster care system.