

fosteringHOPE | AUSTIN

Fostering Hope Ministry ADVOCATE

Job Description and Commitment

Advocates are key team members in building a fostering and adoption ministry. Advocates champion the needs of families and care for each family and their foster children by building, training, and helping sustain strong Family Teams. Advocates aid their church leadership in casting vision, celebrating and supporting families, and helping guide culture change within a church body and within the heart of their people.

Responsibilities

- Support families by building, training, and encouraging Family Teams and providing ongoing mentoring to Family Team Leads as they support the foster family
- Casting vision and creating awareness around foster care and adoption, with the heart of raising up more volunteers within their church
 - Create awareness for 5 Areas of Need, understand and clearly articulate the crisis within the foster care system, and the opportunity for churches
 - Offer gentle and informative reminders to church leadership of the crisis and opportunity of the 5 Areas of Need by passing on blogs, stories, scriptures, etc.
 - Build relationships with families within the church; share and celebrate their stories with the church body
 - Coordinate with Fostering Hope Austin to host I Said Yes, Compassion Building Presentations, and other training support when gaps are identified for our families or church community



Commitment

To ensure that the Fostering Hope ministry advocates within each church will flourish, we are asking every Advocate to commit to the following statements:

- I commit to serving my church and the leadership humbly, honorably, and with hope
- I agree to a background check
- I agree to attend the initial Advocate Orientation, and then 2-3 total meetings per year thereafter
- I will do my best to attend and help host at least one I Said Yes: Intro to the 5 Needs per year at my church
- If needed, I will request help and guidance from Fostering Hope on how to overcome challenges and obstacles
- I will support families and volunteers with resources and I will work with Fostering Hope to provide these resources
- I commit to pray regularly for every family and Family Team at my church
- I will promptly respond to emails, phone calls, and other needs that arise
- I will represent my church and Fostering Hope honorably in a manner marked with humility, hope, and honesty
- I will respect the family and child's privacy (i.e. not ask details about their story and keep details learned confidential)
- I will respect children's birth families, support reunification, and be encouraging of the process
- If I need to leave my role as my church's Advocate, I agree to help find and train a qualified replacement

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

