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## **Application for Ministry Support / Participation**

Good News Church's (GNC) mission is to lead people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by loving God, loving one another, and serving the world. One tangible way to practice this is through our missions which we're called to be involved in and to support financially.

### **Guidelines (things that are important to us)**

- The gospel message is shared
- There are opportunities for involvement at different comfort levels
- Helping people use their God-given abilities to work and to take care of their own needs.
- Missions abroad must focus on unreached people groups
- Personal ties, members of our church family answering their call
- Spreading our missions support among justice/those suffering oppression, compassion, and evangelism.

### **Application**

1. **Title of Mission/Project:** Safe Families For Children
2. **Contact Information:** Tracy Folkerts, Safe Families Coordinator
3. **Agency's/Applicant's Name:** Bethany Christian Services
4. **Name of Principal Contact:** Tracy Folkerts
5. **Primary Phone Number of Principal Contact:** 605-336-6999
6. **E-mail of Contact(s):** tfolkerts@bethany.org
7. **Web Site of Contact(s):** [www.safe-families.org](http://www.safe-families.org) and [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)
8. **Mailing Address:** 400 S Sycamore Ave Suite 103-1
9. **City/State/Country(s):** Sioux Falls, SD 57110
10. **Church Affiliation (if any):** Agency Founded in Reformed/ Christian Reformed, but we serve many Christian denominations.

11. For the specific ministry for which you are requesting funding, check the applicable lines below and then briefly describe specifically where and how the ministry works in these areas: (1/2 page maximum):

Local     Regional     World

Evangelism

Poverty

Church Planting

Hunger

Racism

Those Suffering from

Medical

Oppression / Injustice

Education

Other (Please Explain.)

Social Justice

Justice, Compassion, Evangelism, Biblical Hospitality, Church Partnership/Equipping, Church Member Discipleship, Family Ministry Option, Child Welfare, Family Preservation

12. What is the mission of your agency? Describe the scope of the specific ministry for which you are requesting GNC participation. (State the overall major goal(s) and general means for carrying out the mission, including how this ministry helps people use their God-given abilities to work and to take care of their own needs.) (1/2 Page Maximum)

Bethany is a Christian organization that believes family changes everything. Therefore, we support vulnerable kids and families in the U.S. and around the world, because everyone deserves to be loved, connected and safe.

In Sioux Falls, we achieve this through adoption programs (domestic infant, international and fostercare), pregnancy counseling and Safe Families for Children.

Safe Families for Children, a ministry program of Bethany Christian Services, is a national movement of compassion that partners with the local church to help families and children in crisis, to “the least of these”. Approved Christian families host vulnerable children. Approved Christian mentors coach the parents-in-crisis. Congregation members-at-large provide a variety of tangible goods and services as needs surface during a hosting arrangement. In essence, we create extended family-like supports for desperate families through a community of devoted volunteers who are motivated by their faith to keep children safe and to reunite families.

13. Intended people group to whom you are ministering?

This is two-fold:

- a. Families experiencing temporary crisis who need a safe place for their children while crisis is resolved.

- b. Church members who want to experience relational evangelism in the context of their home and those who create a circle of support around them.

**14. What is your organization's statement of faith, and how does your ministry communicate the Gospel and biblical truths to the culture you are in?**

For more than 75 years, our faith has inspired us to serve children close to home and around the world. Why do we do this work? Because there's a sobering gap between the way God sees people and the way the world sees people. Until everyone sees people the same way God does, until every person is loved, connected, and empowered, people need to stand up, speak out, and advocate, loudly and courageously. So that's what we do. Our core beliefs are simple: We love God and we love people.

We are very upfront with all referral agencies about the Christian origin, motivation and organizational structure through Church partnerships. This is a witness in and of itself to many secular workers in our community.

We also share this with each family-in-crisis that reaches out for help and offer prayer. Every volunteer has the opportunity to share their faith and motivation to offer biblical hospitality.

**15. Date of Initiation of the Project and Date of Conclusion/Termination:** January 2014 - ongoing

**16. Project location(s), Project Management location(s): (Use no more than 3 or 4 lines)**

Our staff is located at the sole office. But, for Safe Families, we regularly travel within an hour radius around Sioux Falls to do intake of parent-in-crisis at area shelters, hospitals, schools, apartments. And we travel regularly to the homes of volunteers.

**17. Describe ways that Good News Church congregation members can participate in this ministry. (Please list the current participation of Good News Church congregation members if any.)**

**Mary Morgan, Ministry Lead**

**Mary & Bill Morgan, Host**

**Brad & Kathy Alfred, Host**

**Cheryl Griep, Coach**

**Nick & Stephanie Rogers, Host**

**Scott & Kayla Schnider, Host**

**Lisa Stensland, Coach**

**Deb Thalhuber, Coach**

**Jody & Shannon Verhey, Host**

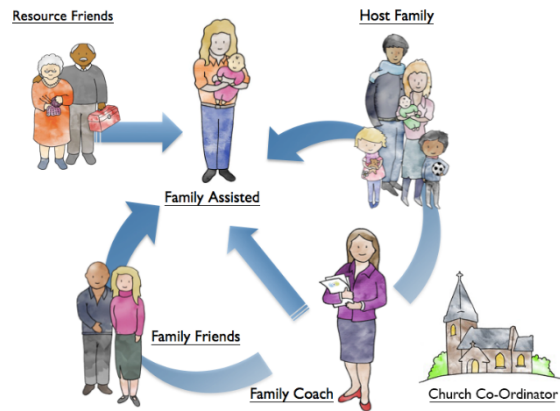
**Jason & Jessica Martens, Host**

**Justin & Jaymi Vandewater, Host**

Safe Families for Children provides multiple ways for church members of all ages to participate.

Safe Families volunteers are

- **Host Families:** Screened and approved by Safe Families, Host Families take in children for short periods of time.
- **Family Coaches:** They are trained to provide resources and casework-like services to Placing Parents. They also ensure that kids are well cared for in Host-Family homes.
- **Family Friends:** They provide support to placing families (e.g., mentoring and transportation) and Host Families (e.g., babysitting and providing meals).
- **Resource Friends:** They donate lightly used items such as beds, furniture, and clothing to help parents get back on their feet.
- **Safe Families Churches:** These are spiritual communities that support Safe Families as a ministry of their church. There are three church levels: Participating Church, Lead Church, and Community Lead Church.



There are ways to get youth and adults involved in diaper drives, gift card offerings, baby showers, and the list could go on and on. We at Bethany know that people want to help others and try to find ways to get people involved to make a difference in someone's life today!!

**18. Project Goals and Specific Objectives: (State the overall goal(s) of this mission/project and delineate the objectives. Each objective should be numbered)**

1. For the Church:
  - a. Increase Church Connection to Community
  - b. Live Out Biblical Hospitality
  - c. Spiritual Formation for Church Members
2. For the At-Risk Family:
  - a. Keep Children Safe and Families Together
  - b. Expand Network of Support Around Vulnerable Families through Spiritual Community
  - c. Reduce Child Abuse & Neglect

**19. Intended Outcome(s) of the Project Mission:**

Since the launch of Safe Families 6 years ago, this ministry has grown from 10 host families and 2 family coaches serving under 3 churches to 80 host families and 30 family coaches under 10 churches. Safe Families emerged impacting 7 children in our pilot semester to nearing our 300th impacted child. Families-in-crisis are hearing about us through a wide variety of sources such as emergency shelter staff, school counselors, hospital & clinic nurses, other non-profit agencies and a spectrum of government employees. In other words, a growing portion of our community has heard about what the local church is doing through Safe Families and recognizes the significance of how it impacts the fragile, vulnerable families they are working with and refer to this ministry on a regular

basis. The churches in Sioux Falls are viewed by a plethora of community members as a credible and dependable solution to preventing child abuse & neglect in Sioux Falls. That is an undeniable success!

**20. Describe the financial accountability of your organization.**

We value your partnership and your confidence in Bethany Christian Services. As stewards of both your gifts and your trust, we pledge the following:

- To provide clear information on our mission and how we will use your gift
- To make our current financial statements available to the public
- To use your gifts for the purposes for which they were given
- To respect your privacy and all requests to keep your personal and giving records confidential
- To respond to your questions promptly and with integrity

Bethany Christian Services is a member of Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and complies in every manner with its ethical standards and expectations. Bethany Christian Services maintains board approved, documented policies and procedures related to fundraising practices, donor protections and relations, and donations.

- [Donor Bill of Rights](#)
- [Fundraising Guidelines and Practices](#)
- [Donor Confidentiality and Communications Policy](#)

**21. Budget: State the financial needs for this project itemized (One Page Maximum)**

**The Budget statement should include the name(s) of the organization/person receiving direct financial support from GNC.**

See attached spreadsheet.

**22. How will you share with us reasons to celebrate, ways to pray, and additional opportunities for engagements with you and your mission?**

Monthly email blast of current activity, quarterly newsletters of participant stories, invitation to debriefing sessions for every host family & family coach after an active hosting arrangement.