

## What is Faith in Motion?

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There are more than 1,000 children in Ventura County who need temporary foster homes. It is vital that our foster families and relative caregivers have the support of their community. Faith in Motion is a unique collaboration between Ventura County Foster Care, Foster Family Agencies, child welfare partners and faith communities. Faith communities offer an important message of hope, calling and compassion to families in foster care. Our goal is to engage faith communities in the foster care system to ensure that every child is nurtured in a stable, caring family and extended community. Through establishing foster ministries or action teams within your congregation, together we have the ability to dramatically impact children's lives: hearts are mended, families restored, hope renewed.

## How can I get involved?

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Encourage your church or temple to become a Faith in Motion (FIM) community. FIM will support your foster ministry or program by offering resources and support, connections to fostering families, foster ambassadors to speak with your congregation, connections to other FIM communities and onsite training. Of course, the biggest way to impact a child's life in foster care is to become a foster or adoptive parent.

## How else can I serve?

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**FIM offers support for congregations stepping forward to help foster youth.**

**We ask that each FIM community consider the following steps:**

- ♥ Set up a meeting between your pastor, associate pastor and/or the member who will be leading your foster care program.
- ♥ Designate a motivated and passionate congregant to be your FIM representative.
- ♥ Sign up for 1-3 project areas that best suit your congregation (we have a suggested list)
- ♥ Invite a FIM Ambassador or Foster VC Kids representative to speak during your service for 3-10 minutes.
- ♥ Schedule a Foster Care Information Session at your facility specifically for your congregation.

**Ongoing ways to provide support for foster youth:**

- ♥ Educate your faith community about local foster care in your newsletters/communications
- ♥ Schedule an annual "Foster Care" focus month or week
- ♥ Develop a support group for local foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers
- ♥ Helping support the reunification of children and families



[fosterVCkids.org](http://fosterVCkids.org)

For more information contact ~~Tami Barnett~~, CFS Foster Care Recruitment Specialist at ~~(805) 289-1950~~ or ~~tami.barnett@ventura.org~~.

