

**Bridge Resource
Families
Communities
of Faith
Building Bridges
for Children
Strengthening Families
Helping Children
Stay Connected**



Children and Family Services Division

Congregational Services

Congregations can also provide services to the more than 11,000 children in OKDHS custody. These services could include:

- Provide clothing
- Quilting ministry
- Music lessons
- School supplies
- Duffle bags and luggage
- Diapers
- Personal care kits
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Birthday parties
- Adoptive showers
- Gift certificates
- Host an adoption party
- Adopt a foster or adoptive family
- Adopt a worker
- Sponsor a support group meeting
- Provide a meeting space

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: To look after orphans, and widows in their distress.”
James 1-27 NIV



What Is A Bridge Resource Family?

A Bridge Resource Family is a family who may be asked:

To provide temporary care, love and nurturance to the child and serve as a mentor actively helping the parent improve their ability to safely care for their children while staying connected and assisting in the transition to reunification, legal guardianship, or adoption to another family; and/or

To serve as the legal guardian for the child while maintaining a child’s connection to kin, culture and community; and/or

To adopt the child while maintaining a child’s connection to kin, culture and community.

Bridge Resource Families must be willing to work toward reunification with the biological family, as well as support and mentor them.

In circumstances of adoption, Bridge Resource Families must be willing to assist a child in maintaining contact with the biological family, if ties are established.

Bridge Resource Family Requirements

- Have the ability to love, understand, care for and accept a child to whom they did not give birth.
- Be at least 21 years of age and preferably no more than 55 years older than the child considered for placement.
- Applicants and each household member, 18 years of age or older, must submit fingerprints for a state and national criminal history records search.
- Submit to a search of all OKDHS records, including Child Welfare records.
- Ensure that no household member has a prior conviction of any sexual offense.
- Attend 27 hours of pre-service training.
- Have sufficient income to meet current expenses.
- Be in good physical and mental health to provide for the needs of the child – physical exam is required.
- Be legal residents.
- Have a working vehicle and a telephone.
- Provide sufficient beds and bedrooms for additional children.
- May be married, single, legally separated or divorced.
- Provide information for a family assessment – home study.

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me.”
Matthew 25:35 – 36 NIV



Your Faith in Action

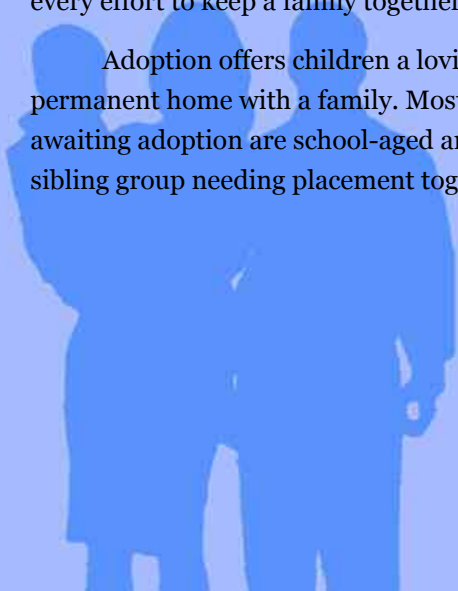
Communities of faith have a unique opportunity to share their love and life with a child. When a child can no longer remain safe at home due to abuse or neglect, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services seeks to place the child in a safe, nurturing home. People of faith can make a difference in the life of a child by opening their homes and becoming Bridge Resource Families for children in foster care or awaiting adoption.

The children range in age from birth to 18 years old, are brothers and sisters, represent many ethnicities or races and may have unique physical, mental or emotional needs. They all have one thing in common – They need a loving home.

Building Bridges for Children

Foster home care offers children temporary, loving care – a last resort when every effort to keep a family together has failed.

Adoption offers children a loving, permanent home with a family. Most children awaiting adoption are school-aged and part of a sibling group needing placement together.





**For more information
about how you can help children
and families
in your community:**

1-866-612-2565

**www.okdhs.org/fostercare
www.okdhs.org/adopt**



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