



FOSTER BUDDY MENTORSHIP MINISTRY

A practical, low-cost ministry that creates consistent, encouraging relationships for children in foster care by pairing each child with a trained, caring "Foster Buddy" from the congregation. These buddies provide notes, cards, small encouragement gifts, and presence at church events—offering stability and affirmation to kids who often feel unseen or alone.

MINISTRY VISION & PURPOSE

Why the Church Cares for Foster Children

VISION

The Foster Buddy Mentorship Ministry shares the love of Christ with children in foster care through consistent, simple acts of encouragement. A buddy becomes a stable, positive presence in a child's life—someone who notices them, prays for them, and offers hope through meaningful connection.

BIBLICAL BASIS

Scripture shows God's heart for vulnerable children and His desire for His people to step into their lives with sacrificial love.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." — James 1:27

PURPOSE

To provide foster children with a safe, stable, and uplifting relationship within the church community—one that reinforces their value, strengthens their confidence, and reflects the heart of Jesus.

Many foster children experience loss, instability, and trauma. A consistent mentor who remembers their birthday, prays for them, and shows up with kindness can be life-changing. This ministry helps the church embody the compassion of Christ through simple, relational care.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Many foster children feel unseen, isolated, or disconnected in new environments.
- A consistent, trustworthy adult provides emotional support and healthy relational modeling.
- Encouragement from a safe adult reinforces a child's identity and builds confidence.
- This ministry allows the church to support reunification goals by caring for the child without replacing the role of parents.

OUR COMMITMENT

As a church, we commit to:

- Provide each child with a buddy who serves consistently and compassionately.

- Ensure all buddies complete screening, guidelines training, and boundaries training.
- Maintain confidentiality and safety in every interaction.
- Pray regularly for foster children, families, and agencies.
- Support foster families by offering additional relational encouragement to the children in their care.

HOW IT WORKS

A Foster Family Enrolls a Child

Families complete a short Foster Buddy Request Form to enroll their child and specify preferences or needs.

A Buddy Is Assigned

A screened volunteer is paired with one child for ongoing encouragement and relationship-building.

Consistent Encouragement Begins

Buddies connect through simple, approved interactions:

- Monthly card or note
- Birthday and holiday encouragement
- Occasional small gifts (church-approved)
- Sitting with the child at church events
- Being a familiar, friendly face each week

Boundaries & Safety

All interactions follow church safety policies, including:

- No one-on-one unsupervised meetings
- Communication through parents or coordinators
- Approved gift guidelines
- Maintain confidentiality

LEADER'S ROLE

- Recruit and train church buddies.
- Introduce the ministry from the stage or through announcements.
- Pair buddies with children.
- Provide ongoing support, communication, and accountability.
- Celebrate stories of impact.

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

- Send one note, card, or small encouragement item each month.

- Sit with or greet the child at church when possible.
- Pray regularly for the child and their foster family.
- Maintain boundaries, confidentiality, and consistency.
- Serve for a 6–12 month term.

CHURCH NEEDS TO LAUNCH

- **Trained volunteers** willing to serve monthly.
- **A ministry coordinator** to manage pairings and communication.
- **Church Buddy Request Form** for foster families.
- **Encouragement supplies** (cards, stickers, gift guidelines).
- **Announcement slides and graphics** to introduce the ministry.

PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITIES

- County Child Welfare Offices
- Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)
- Foster & Adoptive Family Support Groups
- Local Schools
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- Community Organizations Serving Foster Youth
- Family Resource Centers
- Crisis Nurseries
- Nonprofit Mentorship Programs
- Other Local Churches

IMPACT

- Creates belonging and stability for foster children.
- Builds emotional resilience through positive adult interactions.
- Supports foster families by reinforcing the child's sense of connection.
- Mobilizes volunteers with a simple, relational ministry.
- Reflects James 1:27 by caring for vulnerable children in meaningful ways.

SAMPLE ENCOURAGEMENT ITEMS

- Birthday or holiday cards
- Simple craft kits
- Scripture verse cards
- Stickers or activity pages
- Church event invitations
- "We're praying for you" notes

(Always follow approved guidelines—no high-value gifts or personal communication channels.)

CHURCH PROMOTION SCRIPTS

30-SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

We're launching a Church Buddy Mentorship Ministry! Many foster children feel unseen or alone. A buddy offers simple, consistent encouragement through notes, cards, and a friendly presence on

Sundays. If you can smile, pray, and show kindness once a month, you can make a lasting difference.

60-SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

Foster children often carry deep wounds from instability and loss. Scripture calls us to step into their lives with love and compassion. Our new Church Buddy Mentorship Ministry pairs each child with a screened volunteer who provides monthly encouragement and a consistent church presence. A simple card, a kind greeting, or remembering their birthday can speak hope and identity into their lives. Join us in reflecting the heart of Jesus.

CHURCH BUDDY REQUEST FORM

(Template to use to make the document)

Name of foster child:

Age:

Family contact name & phone:

Preferred ways for buddy to encourage child:

Allergies/dietary notes:

Important considerations or sensitivities:

Would you like the buddy to sit with your child during church events?

VOLUNTEER QUICK SHEET

BEFORE STARTING

- Complete screening and training.
- Review child's preferences and needs.
- Prepare a simple monthly encouragement plan.

DURING EACH MONTH

- Send a handwritten note, card, or small approved gift.
- Greet the child at church with warmth and positivity.
- Maintain consistent presence and kindness.

BOUNDARIES & SAFETY

- No unsupervised meetups.
- Communicate only through parents or coordinators.
- Never ask sensitive personal questions.
- Do not post photos or share information online.

AFTER ENCOURAGEMENT

- Mark monthly contact as completed.
- Notify coordinator of any concerns or prayer needs.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Helpful questions to evaluate and strengthen your Foster Family Meal Support Ministry

- Are foster children in this ministry experiencing consistent, simple encouragement that helps them feel seen, valued, and welcomed within the church?
- Are Foster Buddies serving as stable, positive presences through regular notes, prayers, and appropriate presence at church events?
- Are all volunteers fully screened, trained, and clear on boundaries, confidentiality, and safety expectations?
- Is the pairing process thoughtful and responsive to each child's age, sensitivities, and preferences shared by foster families?
- Are Foster Buddies maintaining consistency over their 6–12 month commitment rather than serving sporadically?
- Do foster families feel supported and respected by this ministry without their role being replaced or overstepped?
- Are encouragement methods (cards, small gifts, greetings, birthday recognition) appropriate, approved, and meaningful for each child?
- Is communication flowing clearly and appropriately between buddies, foster families, and ministry leadership?
- Is the ministry being led and coordinated in a way that provides accountability, support, and celebration of impact?
- Are we seeing evidence of impact such as increased belonging, emotional encouragement, trust, and confidence in the lives of foster children?