



## DRIVEN TO PROTECT— COMMITTED TO CHANGE

### MISSION:

Fostering Change Washington is a faith-driven nonprofit committed to protecting vulnerable children and upholding their God-given and constitutional right to life. We work to inspire common-sense solutions and take courageous action to seek justice, defend the oppressed, and advocate for truth.

### CORE VALUES:

- **Faith in Action:** Guided by a biblical call to care for the vulnerable, our faith moves us to act. Our belief in God's design for life, family, and freedom drives everything we do, with His Word as our ultimate authority and guiding lens for advocacy.
- **Truth Over Trends:** We stand firmly on objective truth—biblical, biological, moral, and constitutional. We are unmoved by shifting cultural opinions or fleeting trends. Data, design, and discernment guide our mission.
- **Generational Impact:** God calls us to live with purpose, creating a legacy for the future. We steward this moment in history, preserving what is good, right, and holy, so that future generations can walk in truth and flourish in freedom.



## OVERVIEW:

Fostering Change Washington is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to driving child-centric reform in the Washington State dependency system. As a faith-driven media and advocacy platform, we work to protect children from harm, equip communities with love and truth, and mobilize the Church to fulfill its biblical mandate to care for the vulnerable. Through legislative advocacy, compelling storytelling, and public engagement, we aim to achieve lasting policy change and cultural transformation that prioritizes the well-being of every child.

## VISION:

A Washington State where every child thrives in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment—free from harm, protected by policy, supported by the Church, and surrounded by a community that champions their voice, dignity, and future.

## STRATEGIC PILLARS:

### Legislative Advocacy

We will actively engage with Washington State lawmakers to propose, support, and monitor legislation that aims to improve the foster care and dependency system. Our focus will be on policies that promote child safety, permanency, well-being, and family reunification when appropriate.

- **Amending the "Keeping Families Together Act":** Our primary legislative focus is the urgent amendment of the "Keeping Families Together Act" to protect children from Fentanyl exposure. While intended to support family reunification, a critical flaw in this legislation prevents the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and law enforcement from removing children from homes where known substance abuse, particularly fentanyl, poses a deadly risk. This unintended consequence has tragically resulted in a 200% increase in preventable deaths of children in Washington State due to fentanyl exposure. We advocate for immediate legislative action to modify this act, empowering authorities to intervene and ensure child safety in environments with known substance abuse, thereby preventing further fatalities and safeguarding the well-being of our most vulnerable population.
- **Policy Research and Development:** Research existing policies, identifying areas for improvement, and analyzing data on child fatalities linked to the *Keeping Families Together Act*. Our policy proposals will prioritize child safety, especially concerning the fentanyl crisis.
- **Lawmaker Engagement:** Build and maintain strong relationships with state legislators and their staff, meeting regularly to discuss legislation and advocate for our positions.
- **Coalition Building:** Collaborate with other advocacy groups and nonprofits to form coalitions that amplify our collective voice.

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch campaigns to inform the public about critical legislative issues in the foster care and dependency system and encourage civic engagement.

### **Podcast Launch**

To expand our reach and educate a broader audience about the complexities and needs of the foster care and dependency system, we will launch a dedicated podcast. This platform will serve as a vital tool for sharing stories, expert insights, and calls to action. By raising awareness, this will hold our leaders and legislators accountable to modify the laws that are endangering children in Washington State.

- **Podcast Name:** Change the Story
- **Target Audience:** Foster families, biological families, social workers, policymakers, community members, and anyone interested in child welfare.
- **Content Themes:**
  - Interviews with foster parents & former foster youth: sharing stories and raising awareness.
  - Discussions on current foster care and dependency policies, along with proposed legislative changes.
  - Expert interviews on child development, trauma-informed care, and family support.
  - Stories of resilience and success within the foster system.
  - Calls to action for listener involvement in advocacy efforts.
- **Launch Strategy:**
  - Develop a professional podcast studio setup and recording schedule.
  - Create compelling content outlines for initial episodes.
  - Promote the podcast through social media, email newsletters, and partnerships with relevant organizations.
  - Ensure episodes are available on major podcast platforms (Youtube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts).

### **Community Engagement and Support**

Building a strong community around Fostering Change Washington is crucial for long-term success. We will provide resources and opportunities for individuals to get involved and support our mission.

- **Social Media:** Utilize Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube to connect with the community and raise awareness.
- **Workshops and Events:** Organize virtual and in-person workshops and community events to raise awareness and provide training on foster care related topics.
- **Fundraising:** Implement a sustainable fundraising strategy to support operational costs, legislative advocacy, and podcast production for our 501(c)3 non profit organization.

## **Expanding the “Safe Families Program”**

Support the expansion, reach, and impact of the *Safe Families for Children* program across Washington State, which provides a vital support system for families in crisis. Proactively promote the program to eliminate the shortage of safe and nurturing homes for children, thereby preventing them from entering into the foster care system.

- **Awareness and Recruitment Campaigns:** Launch targeted campaigns to raise awareness about the Safe Families program among churches, community organizations, and potential volunteer host families and support teams.
- **Partnership Development:** Forge strong collaborations with local churches, faith-based organizations, and community groups to establish and support Safe Families chapters in new regions of Washington State.
- **Advocacy for Program Integration:** Work with child welfare stakeholders to explore opportunities for closer integration and referral pathways between the Safe Families program and existing state child welfare services, ensuring it is recognized as a primary prevention and diversion strategy.
- **Impact Measurement and Reporting:** Track and analyze Safe Families program data to measure growth, families served, and effectiveness in preventing traditional foster care. Findings will be regularly shared with stakeholders and the public to demonstrate impact and guide strategy.

## **About Safe Families Central Washington**

Safe Families is a family preservation movement passionate about keeping children safe and out of the foster care system. Our goal is to protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect and partner with families facing crisis situations alone and in isolation. Safe Families exist to host children and support parents with caring, compassionate community so they can work through their crisis and get back on their feet.

By partnering with local churches, we create extended family-like supports for parents through a community of devoted volunteers who are motivated by faith to keep children safe and keep families together. We are a nonprofit, volunteer movement that provides hope and support to families in our local community.

Visit their website: <https://centralwashington.safe-families.org/>