

# Support for Foster and Adoptive Families Opportunity Guide

Big Valley Grace Community Church • bigvalleygrace.org/adoptionclass  
Joel and Sarah Boone • 2095653538 • joelb@bvg.org

## GOALS

- #1 CONNECT FAMILIES TOGETHER
- #2 BUILD A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT
- #3 EDUCATE AND PROVIDE RESOURCES

## We have Jesus

We have Jesus, this is a fact that should highly impact the way we seek to provide support to one another in the Foster and Adoptive process.

*14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV)*

## Support for Identified Families

Identify a Family, and take action to support them.

### ***Pre-Placement***

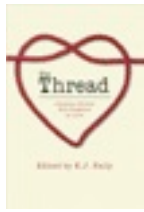
#### *Educate yourself on Foster and Adoptive Terminology*

Positive: Biological/Birth Parent	Negative: Real Parent
Positive: Biological/Birth Child	Negative: Own Child
Positive: Court Termination	Negative: Child Taken Away
Positive: Child	Negative: Foster or Adopted Child
Positive: Parent	Negative: Foster or Adopted Parent

#### *Protect the Story*

Be committed to protecting the fragile story of the child's history. They have been placed in Foster or Adoptive Care for sensitive reasons. Real support, care, and love can be provided to a Foster or Adoptive Family without knowing all the specific details of a child's past. Allow for the future dignity and honor of this child to be protected.

*Educate yourself on the realities of Foster Care and Adoption*



The Thread

K.J. Nally

*The THREAD begins when two lives intersect: one who is pregnant but needs someone to care for this life growing inside her womb, and another with arms open wide waiting for a child to cherish. Journey with heroic birth mothers; couples who have given all to fight for a precious child; and grown children once labeled orphan, now a son or daughter with a hope and celebrated future. Available on Amazon*



How much did you pay for her

Christine Rhyner

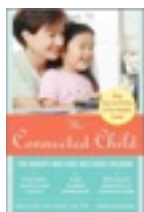
*Understanding why people say what they do is the first step toward compassion, as it allows us to glimpse another's perspective. This can lead to giving others grace an undeserved gift of letting people off the hook for what they say that eventually leads us to forgive them. Available on Amazon.*



Walk to Beautiful

Jimmy Wayne

*Imagine yourself a thirteen-year-old hundreds of miles away from home, in a strange city, and your mom leaves you at a bus station parking lot and drives off into the night with her lover. That's the real life story of country music star Jimmy Wayne. It's a miracle that Jimmy survived being hungry and homeless, bouncing in and out of the foster care system, and sleeping in the streets. But he didn't just overcome great adversity in his life; he now uses his country music platform to help children everywhere, especially teenagers in foster care who are about to age out of the system. Walk to Beautiful is the powerfully emotive account of Jimmy's horrendous childhood and the love shown him by Russell and Bea Costner, the elderly couple who gave him a stable home and provided the chance to complete his education. Jimmy says of Bea, "She changed every cell in my body." Available on Amazon*



The Connected Child

Karyn Purvis

*Written by two research psychologists specializing in adoption and attachment, The Connected Child will help you:*

- *Build bonds of affection and trust with your adopted child*
- *Effectively deal with any learning or behavioral disorders*
- *Discipline your child with love without making him or her feel threatened.*

*Available on Amazon*



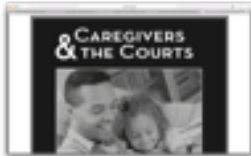
Created to Connect

Karyn Purvis

*A Christian's Guide to The Connected Child was created by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Michael & Amy Monroe to help illuminate the biblical principles that serve as the foundation for the philosophy and interventions detailed in Dr. Purvis' book, The Connected Child. This study guide is designed to help adoptive and foster parents better understand how to build strong and lasting connections with their children, and is ideal for use in small groups as well as by individuals or couples. Available on EmpoweredtoConnect.org*



TBRI- Trust based relational intervention Karyn Purvis  
*TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. While the intervention is based on years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research, the heartbeat of TBRI® is connection. child.tcu.edu*



*Caregivers and the Courts*  
*A Primer on Juvenile Dependency Proceedings for California Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers*  
[courts.ca.gov/documents/caregivers.pdf](http://courts.ca.gov/documents/caregivers.pdf)

### **Fundraising**

Meal Event: Pancake, BBQ, Spaghetti,  
 Garage/Yard Sale  
 Goods Sale: Bake, Craft  
 Engage your children to participate

### **Placement**

#### *Celebrate the new parents!*

Idea: “Celebration Shower” creating a “baby-shower” experience that is appropriately geared for the age and stage of the placed child(ren). Even if family doesn’t really need anything, a “Celebration Shower” shows support, excitement, and is an opportunity to build a community of support.

#### *Donate Household Items*

Diapers  
 Formula  
 Clothing  
 Car Seat  
 High Chair  
 Crib/Beds  
 A Larger Dinner Table  
 Go Shopping or Garage Sale’ing Together with the Family

#### *Gifts*

Gift Baskets  
 Board Games  
 Gift Cards  
 Socks  
 Family Outings  
 Family Photo Shoot

## ***Ongoing***

### *Meals*

There are some very timely moments when a prepared and delivered meal can ease the pressure that a Foster and Adoptive Family is experiencing in their normal daily life.

During the initial Welcoming Home Period of a new child  
Visit Days and Court Days

### *Respite Care*

Respite is a request by the foster child's current foster family to have a break. Respite care allows for the foster children to be placed with another caregiver for a short period of time – not to exceed 72 hours per session. Take action by one of two routes: 1) Work specifically with the social worker of your identified family. 2) Work directly with Stanislaus County to become a certified respite home.

### *Acts of Service*

Go Grocery Shopping

Clean House

Do the Dishes and Laundry

Watched Siblings for Court and Visit Days

Hang out at House if not Respite Certified and Allow a much needed Break for a Shower or a Nap

### *Encouragement*

Cards of Encouragement

Encouraged with Scriptural Truth of God's Promises

Asking "How Can I Pray for You Today?"

Following Up on Prayer Requests

Call/Text and Call/Text Often

Visit Families, Spend Time Building A Friendship

Spend Time Listening, Don't Feel Obligated to Respond with an Answer

Place Court Dates on your Calendar and Send a Encouraging Text with Scripture and Prayer

### *Start a Support Group*

Start a support group with the people you are getting connected with during this class. It can be specific to Foster Care or Adoption, or parenting in general, and can include Foster and Adoptive Families as well as Support Families.



### *Send them to an Encouraging Conference*

Give the gift of an Encouraging Conference or Retreat, or even a weekend away to a Foster or Adoptive Family.

Example [CreatedforCare.org](http://CreatedforCare.org)

### *Become a Mentor or Foster/Adopted Grandparent*

Becoming a mentor or tutor for a child in foster care is a great way to make the difference of a lifetime for children in need of permanency. Recommendation: identify a family with a school-aged child, and begin working with the family to create a friendship leading towards mentorship. All kids need godly mentors.

### **Post-Placement**

#### *Encouragement*

- Continue to spend time with the family
- Listen to allow room for a processing family to share
- There are lots of reasons why a placement ends, many of which are positive
- Allow for the story to be heard and celebrated

*15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15 ESV)*

## **General Community Support**

Identify an avenue, and take action to create a Foster and Adoptive friendly community.



### *Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate*

Nobody longs for a safe and loving family more than a child in foster care. As a CASA volunteer, you are empowered by the courts to mentor youth & support them in court to help make this dream a reality.

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



### *Become a "Safe Family for Children" or a Supporter*

"Safe Families for Children" are volunteer homes that take children in while parents get back on their feet. This is an intervention before the children are placed into state care. Become a Safe Family or support the program.

[Safe-Families.org](http://Safe-Families.org)



### *Become an Adoption Friendly Workplace*

Adoption-Friendly Workplace works to make adoption an affordable option for every working parent. The Dave Thomas Foundation provides free guidance on how companies can implement programs.

### *Provide Pro Bono Therapy Services*

Are you a qualified therapist? Our counseling department can work to connect therapists with foster youth for weekly, pro-bono therapy for as long as it takes.

### *Provide Pro Bono Legal Services*

As a lawyer, you can make a difference in a child's life by volunteering as a pro bono attorney. We recommend connecting directly with a local Foster or Adoption agency.

### *Foster Youth Internships*

Work with your company to create an internship role or an internship program for foster youth. Remember foster youth don't have parental support, so PAID internships with an IDENTIFIED MENTOR within the organization are ideal!

### *Stanislaus County Respite*

Two Current Stanislaus County Foster Care System Goals depend on Respite:

- 1) *Mockingbird model*, one core family, with other families that support through respite
- 2) *Large sibling groups*, one core family, with other families that support through respite

### *Olivianna's Closet*

The purpose of Olivianna's Closet is to provide assistance to any qualifying parent or guardian of infants and toddlers through bi-monthly appointments. We gather gently used items and newly purchased items to distribute to those in need. We also support other local community organizations that would benefit from our storehouse of resources.

Gently Used Items:

Blanket, Sleepers, Onesies, Apparel, Socks/Booties, Burp Cloths

Newly Purchased Items:

Diapers, Baby Wipes, Lotion and Bath Products, Socks, Bibs, Bottles, Teethers and Pacifiers

Sizes: up to size 5T

PLEASE NOTE: We are accepting donations of strollers, walkers, high chairs, cribs, pack n plays, toys and books. We cannot accept car seats and drop side cribs.

Drop off location at Big Valley Grace Community Church

There is a permanent accessible drop-off site for donations. Look for the white crib with the Olivianna's Closet signs in the hallway next to the infant check-in area.

### *Comfort Kits*

Many children enter foster care with just the clothes they are wearing or a few belongings in a garbage bag. Please create a Comfort Kit for a child who has just been uprooted from his/her family. Your loving and thoughtful donation will help a child make it through a difficult transition. Contact Crystal [crystalmckiernan@gmail.com](mailto:crystalmckiernan@gmail.com) for any questions you have, as well as information for distribution of your Comfort Kits. Thank you for making a difference in a child's life!