

## **Fostering Together an Intersect Project**

The goal of the Intersect Project is to make serving simple. Serving is not always an easy thing to do, however, it can be simple to sign up and get involved. Through that mantra the Intersect Project partners with organizations in the Atlanta area to connect North Point Community Church members and attenders with simple ways to serve in their community.

### **Foster Care**

There are 400 children at some stage in the foster care system within a several mile radius of the North Point Community church campus. Many of these children sleep in group homes or other less than desirable locations instead of being placed in a foster family because there are simply not enough qualified families to house them.

There is a very simple explanation for the lack of qualified foster families: A lengthy process to become qualified; a confusing mix of government agencies and regulations; and a lack of support after the foster relationship has started.

All foster families must be trained and fill out a mountain of paperwork to become a qualified foster family. This process can take up to 3 months to complete and many times leads to families dropping out of the process due to frustration and timing. If a family does complete the training they are then faced with 23 different government agencies with which the family must contend. Remember that the goal of this family was to provide a loving and nurturing temporary home for a foster child, not to deal with a load of paperwork and maze of government offices.

### **FaithBridge**

FaithBridge was created to lower the barrier for families desiring to minister to children through foster care. The FaithBridge process allows families desiring to provide foster care to focus on the child and not on the government agencies or paperwork.

FaithBridge condenses the time and paperwork mountain into a very workable and easily digestible weekend experience. Depending on your family's timetable you can have a child placed into your home in 2-4 weeks from the beginning of the process. FaithBridge provides a person who serves as the point of contact for all 23 government agencies on your behalf. This affords you the opportunity to focus on providing a nurturing and loving home for the child placed in your care.

### **Fostering Together**

Fostering Together is about the community of believers at North Point Community Church serving children in all different capacities. Church members might think that if they are unable to provide a home for a child that there is nothing they can do. The moniker "Fostering Together" is an attempt to convey that all people: high school students, families,

widows/widowers, empty-nesters, singles, and even those with limited financial resources can all be a part of serving foster children.

There are a myriad of ways to become involved with FaithBridge. Children need to have transportation, clothing, school supplies, respite care, babysitting, tutors, job skills coaches, family coaches, mentors, meal preparation, event volunteers, and prayer partners.

The word Fostering is used to push someone over the edge to commitment. It evokes the sense that they have already made the decision to learn more and become involved with this new Intersect Project. The -ing at the end indicates that foster care is an ongoing endeavor, that there is already care being provided, and there will be care to provide in the future.

Together is used to remind care givers that there is a support system in place to allow them to focus on their assigned task. A transportation volunteer doesn't have to worry whether or not the child will have clothes or school supplies, a tutor doesn't have to worry if the child is being fed or well cared for, and a foster family does not have to worry that the biological family is not receiving counseling and care. Each person is able to be fully present in their area of service because they know they are not alone.

## **Goal**

Fostering Together is an Intersect Project with the goal of placing 30 children into foster care with a North Point Community Church family by New Year's Eve 2010. There are many families at North Point who are already providing foster care and many more that are seriously contemplating their involvement in serving foster children. Fostering Together is the vehicle to ensure that these 30 children will end 2010 right where they should be: tucked-in.