



For Immediate Release

Federal Government Recognizes Georgia-Based Child Welfare Agency as Foster Care Model

FaithBridge Foster Care Works to Restore Troubled Families of Origin

ATLANTA (May 11, 2020) – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has cited Atlanta-based FaithBridge Foster Care, a Christ-centered child placement agency, as a model foster care agency because it seeks to restore families so foster children may be reunited to healthy birth families.

In a new document released last week as guidance under the federal Administration on Children, Youth and Families, HHS cited FaithBridge which “believes that restoring families and working towards reunification is just as important as licensing new resource families and caring for children in foster care.”

FaithBridge works on a model with two key principles commended by HHS:

- It is in the child’s best interest for foster parents to engage in a partnership in parenting the children who are placed in their care.
- Families of origin thrive when they have a community of support. FaithBridge calls it a *Community of Care* model which encompasses a support system beyond the foster parents and often are members of a church.

“We firmly believe our model -- that seeks to fully restore healthy families -- is in the best interest of children because of the strong bond between a parent and a child,” said Bob Bruder-Mattson, CEO of FaithBridge Foster Care. “A team approach that encourages that is always what is most ideal for children – especially when they can return to a happy and healthy family.”

The information can be found in this HHS report:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/im2006.pdf>

In many foster care placements developed by FaithBridge, the foster parents and birth parents interact and have meals with them, attend family outings, share parenting skills and even attend church services with the foster children.

Under the FaithBridge model, nearly 25 percent of foster families maintain relationships with foster children even after they have been reunited with their parents, Bruder-Mattson said.

“Any long-term support that birth parents can get from their child’s foster parents is the type of encouragement they need to keep their lives on track,” he said.

FaithBridge currently has 266 foster children placed in homes throughout metro Atlanta, primarily in families recruited through local churches.

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About FaithBridge Foster Care - FaithBridge Foster Care is the largest Georgia-based and Christ-centered child placement agency in the state. They recruit, train, and support foster care families in local churches and license them to provide community-based, short- and long-term traditional, medically fragile and therapeutic care for foster children in Georgia. FaithBridge Foster Care’s vision is for every foster child to experience the hope, healing, and unconditional love of Jesus Christ and their mission is to mobilize, organize, and equip local churches to solve their community’s foster care crisis.

It pioneered the Community of Care® model which is designed to surround every foster family with a network of trained volunteers and professionals providing the support they need to provide safe and stable homes for foster children. Each family is also paired with a FaithBridge Foster Family Consultant who will walk through the journey of foster care with each parent. Since 2007, FaithBridge has served more than 2,700 children in foster care through partnering with 91 churches. For more information, please visit www.faithbridgefostercare.org

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