FAMILY ADVOCACY MINISTRY (FAM)

FAM helps provide what vulnerable children need most: strong families.

Churches are often full of people who want to make a positive impact in the lives of vulnerable children, but they may not know how. They simply need a plan and guidance.

We call church-led ministries that serve vulnerable children and families Family Advocacy Ministries or FAM. A FAM supports children and families through one or more strategies of prevention, intervention and connection. Each FAM is unique, and the direction of your FAM depends on the heart of your congregation and the specific needs of children and families in your local community.

The leaders of a FAM, called Advocates, are equipped with training, resources and ongoing support to help build and manage a sustainable ministry. Launching a FAM at your church allows God's people to respond to His call by serving nearby vulnerable children and families.

The mission is simple: meet needs in Jesus' name.

THE CHAMPION OF A FAM

Advocates, typically volunteers with a passion for the cause, are the champions of a FAM. With a pastor's blessing, an Advocate will be fully equipped to custom-build a FAM to match the passion and identity of the church.

SEND Relief

THE LEAD ADVOCATE'S ROLE IS TO:

- Champion the cause of vulnerable children and families to a listening congregation.
- Promote awareness and opportunities for God's people to respond to local needs.
- Coordinate and oversee the formation of a FAM offering of choice.
- Strive to form an Advocate Team of at least two people working together to lead the FAM.

THE LEAD ADVOCATE IS SOMEONE WHO:

- Wakes up with the needs of vulnerable children on his/her heart and mind.
- May be a former or current foster or adoptive parent.
- Serves as a volunteer or staff member at the church.
- Works well on a team.
- Is able to delegate tasks to other leaders or volunteers.
- Leads others well.
- Inspires and encourages volunteers.
- Can dedicate 2-4 hours a week (average for new Advocates).

HOW TO LAUNCH A FAM IN YOUR CHURCH:

- Pray for God's guidance.
- Find at least one person to join you on the Advocate Team.
- Ask your pastor to support the ministry's formation.
- Launch your ministry with the guidance and support of Send Relief.

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