# WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUTH WITHOUT FOSTERING



When churches and communities engage in child welfare, our neighborhoods and cities are changed for the better. Not everyone is called to foster, but everyone can do something. There are many ways you can get involved!

# **Respite Family**

Provide temporary care for children in foster care to give regular foster parents a break. Essentially, help by giving the primary foster parents time away to rest, recharge, and care for themselves, while ensuring the child's needs are still being met in a safe, loving environment.

#### **Care Teams**

Be part of a care team who comes together to support a foster family or a child in foster care. This team provides practical, emotional, and logistical support to help ease the challenges of fostering, especially when times get tough. It's essentially a network of people who come alongside foster families and children to offer a sense of community and stability.

## **Prayer Warrior**

Pray for foster families! This is such a powerful way to support them, especially because foster care can be incredibly challenging and emotional. Your prayers can provide strength, encouragement, and peace for both the families and the children they care for.

## **Clothes Closet**

Volunteer at Chosen for Life's store clothes closet – sorting clothes, organizing, serving as a greeter to help families find what they need – can be an incredible way to support foster families.

#### My Name Matters

Volunteer to help assemble or distribute gift sets as a part of this compassionate initiative by Chosen for Life designed to support children entering foster care. Recognizing that many children arrive in foster homes with few belongings, often in trash bags, we aim to provide a sense of dignity and comfort during a challenging transition.

# **Supply Drive**

Organize or volunteer at a supply drive! Items can range from clothing, toiletries, and school supplies to food, toys, or cleaning products. This is one of the most practical and powerful ways to support kids in foster care and the families who care for them.

### **Foster Family Social Events**

Volunteer at an event to provide foster parents with an opportunity to take a break and spend quality time together as a couple. Often, foster parents juggle numerous responsibilities—caring for children with complex needs, managing appointments, and balancing their personal lives. A date night offers them a chance to recharge, reconnect, and strengthen their relationship, which is essential for their well-being and continued ability to care for the children in their home.