



Volunteer Guide

We are thankful for your interest in volunteering to help out our foster youth and the families that care for them!

Foster VC Kids partners with the following organizations to assist our families in helping to smooth the transition of placement and help children in care thrive.

Please take a look and see what areas interest you.

Meet The Need!

[Meet the Need Online Portal](#)

You can go online to view needs of foster children and families and sign up to receive updates sent to your email as new needs arise. Basic items such as car seats, clothing, cribs and food are posted as specific needs arise for families in need. You can accept those needs and make a huge impact in the life of a child. Go to www.fostervckids.org, hover over the 'Ways to Help' tab, and click on 'Volunteer or Donate' to see where you can help!

Basic Needs

[LoveDoesBags](#)

LoveDoesBags provides new placement bags to children coming in to care. These bags contain essentials and items of comfort, including pajamas, new clothing, hygiene items, school supplies and blankets. If you'd like to host a LoveDoesBags donation drive, contact Sonia Walker at 805-850-5649 or email lovedoesbags@gmail.com

[James Storehouse](#)

James Storehouse is a nonprofit that secures donations for resource families/foster and relative caregivers, birth parents and youth in care. Items include furniture, clothing from newborn to teen, toys, diapers, and all baby/child gear including cribs and car seats. James Storehouse also hosts events throughout the year to support children and teens in care. To donate or volunteer, email jamesstorehouse@gmail.com

805-499-7161. Se habla Español, 3541 Old Conejo Rd #117, Newbury Park 91320

[Rachael's Closet](#)

Rachael's Closet aides foster, relative, kinship, or resource care providers by providing assistance with new and gently used clothing, car seats, strollers, cribs & and care bags. To donate, contact Lisa Carlson-Pugh at 805-285-3790 Lisa@VCFPA.com



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[Child Hope Services](#)

Child Hope Services, Inc. is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They provide a range of support to families interested in fostering and adopting, and provides a new placement Hope Chest that contains items needed for the first week of placement. To find out more, email info@childhopeservices.org or call 805-419-6182

[Children's Services Auxiliary \(CSA\)](#)

The CSA partners with Children and Family Services to provide a range of financial supports to foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational scholarships. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. To help fund or fundraise, contact www.csavc.org

[Heart-to-Heart](#)

Heart-to-Heart, in partnership with Kids & Families Together, donates gently used items to resource families, foster parents, relative caregivers and children. To donate items, contact 805-643-1446

[Defending the Fatherless](#)

Defending the Fatherless is a ministry based group that partners with churches throughout Ventura County. They work to support and equip foster and adoptive families through family events, networking, and support groups. Defending the Fatherless provides a love closet for families and will bring items upon placement, provide meals and peer mentors. To help out, email defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com

[Catalyst](#)

Catalyst Church has a closet of gently used girls and boys clothing (newborn to age 6), diapers, toothbrush, toothpaste, and new underwear. Foster parents can come and collect as needed for their new foster child. To donate clothing or items, call 805-766-1916 241 N. Mill St., Santa Paula

[Shelter Care Resources](#)

Shelter Care Resources is based out of Oxnard and provides materials and resources such as gently used and new clothing, diapers, wipes, car seats and furniture to resource families. To donate clothing or items, call 805-612-7091 or email ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com



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[Women of Substance & Men of Honor \(WOSMOH\)](#)

WOS&MOH, Inc. addresses the needs of guidance and support for at-risk youth by providing rehabilitation & restoration services, education on healthy lifestyles and relationships, Leadership mentoring courses and scholarships and items including hygiene products, and food and clothing vouchers. Transitional foster care youth & Probation youth are provided with Christmas Gift Bags, Transitional and after care support, a Community Nest, Transitional Housing and referrals for support. To mentor, volunteer or donate, email helpingyouth@wosmoh.org

[RaisingHOPE, INC](#)

RaisingHOPE provides advocacy, awareness and funds to abused and neglected children, many of whom are or were in the foster care system, in the Ventura County area through community events, mentoring and legal services. RaisingHOPE is the organization that plans and executes the annual HOPE4Kids Festival & Run each spring. Funds from this event go directly to helping children in foster care or recently transitioned out of foster care with payment for extracurricular activities, orthodontia, textbooks for college, help with transportation and anything that might benefit the youth. For more information on RaisingHOPE or to donate, contact info@raisinghope.org or call 805-491-KIDZ (5439).

[ACTION](#)

ACTION is a Ventura County nonprofit organization that mobilizes volunteers, churches, and businesses to volunteer and help people. By matching up volunteers with needs, volunteers find ways to help that fit their abilities and resources while those in need benefit. Possibilities include basic household repairs, help with yard work, helping a family move or supplying basic household goods/appliances for those that can't afford them. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please email action@actionvc.org or call 805-987-0300.

Mentoring

[CASA of Ventura County](#)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Ventura County believes that every court-dependent abused or neglected child should be safe, have permanence and the opportunity to thrive, and have a strong, compassionate volunteer advocate. CASA recruits, screens, trains, supervise and support volunteers who advocate for foster children appointed by the Juvenile Dependency Court to the CASA program. The CASA Advocate is the person who can be counted on to respond to those most basic needs for reassurance, guidance, comfort, representation and advocacy in times of extreme uncertainty, and is the one constant, positive presence in the child's life until a permanent placement can be secured. To get more information on becoming a CASA, email www.casaofventuracounty.org



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[Businesses With Heart](#)

Businesses with Heart provides an opportunity for businesses to partner with Foster VC Kids to help support our foster youth and caregivers. Businesses provide discounts on their products or services, mentor a youth to provide an inside look at what goes on in the day of a particular business, even offer an internship or job! Businesses can also give back by connecting with one of many non-profit partners which directly supports our foster community.

Please check our website www.fostervckids.org/BWHPartners for all details on services and discounts for: restaurants, dentists, mechanics, recreational activities, furniture, barber shop, and much more! If you would like to suggest a particular need or would like to refer a business to Businesses with Heart, please contact Jaci Johnson at jaci.johnson@ventura.org.

[Faith in Motion](#)

Faith in Motion is a unique collaboration between the County of Ventura Children and Family Services and Ventura County faith communities. Faith communities throughout the county are stepping in to provide a range of support to our fostering families. Families can be connected to a fostering ministry or social program at a congregation within their community. Faith in Motion partners can provide emotional and practical support to caregivers, basic need goods, respite care support, and special holiday events. Visit www.fostervckids.org/faith-in-motion/ for more information or email Crystal Stratton at Crystal.Stratton@Ventura.org to get your congregation involved, or to be connected with a Faith in Motion partner!

[Respite Care](#)

Channel Islands Social Services www.islandsocialservices.org

County licensed foster parents, relative caregivers, and resource families are eligible for respite child care each month. If you would like to provide child care or respite for foster youth, contact [Channel Islands Social Services](#) directly at **805-384-0983**



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Youth Education

Educational Rights Holder: If you would like to help a child in foster care navigate the education system, come learn about becoming an “Education Rights Holder.” When a child in foster care does not have a viable adult in his life to support, advocate, and remove barriers to his education, the court must appoint a responsible adult to carry out these duties. Ventura County has a need for volunteers who are willing to be assigned education rights for one or more children in foster care. Foster parents, mentors, and other trained, committed volunteers are appropriate education rights holders. Minimum commitment to an assigned child is one year. Contact the Foster Youth Services Program at 805- 437-1525 fys@vcoe.org

Tutoring

Project Understanding Tutoring Centers

Tutoring Centers provide extra instruction for students grades K-5 with volunteer tutors in one-to-one interaction. Project Understanding currently has 11 tutoring centers throughout Ventura County, in El Rio, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Saticoy and Ventura. Free for all students. For more information, or to volunteer as a tutor, visit www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring-centers/ or contact Maria Gonzalez, Program Manager – 805-652-1326, ext 303

Eureka! Tutoring

Free tutoring for foster youth in all subject areas, kindergarten through college. Embracing the Whole Child Foundation sponsors educational assistance. One-on-one tutoring available through in-home webinars and in home. For more information on how to sign up to tutor youth, contact Lynette Lucas at 714-989-6159 or email ewchild@yahoo.com

Scholarships

Joan Gendreau and Fostering the Future Scholarships

Children's Services Auxiliary recognizes the need and awards scholarships to Court Dependent graduating high school students or GED equivalent who are applying to at least one of the following: Vocational/Trade School, Community College, 4-year College and/or applying to the Military after high school or GED completion. One on-line application applies for both scholarships. For more information, or to donate visit: www.fosteringthefuture.net/ or contact Leeann Mesa at 805-217-6187.