

# FAITHBRIDGE FOSTER CARE



More than 800,000 nationwide. Nearly 13,000 in Georgia. Only 25–30 percent of the necessary families to serve them. The number of foster children needing care, and the lack of available foster families, at first seems overwhelming.

However, if you believe, like we do, that the local church has a biblical mandate to care for widows and orphans, then this problem is not as unsolvable as it initially appears.

There are more than 400,000 Christian churches in our country, serving an estimated population of more than 100 million evangelical Christians. That's potentially 250 Christians for every foster child. Or conversely, two foster children for each church.

FaithBridge Foster Care has a strategy and a model to mobilize, organize, equip and release local churches and local communities to solve our country's foster care crisis. Together, we stand in the gap for foster children and foster families.



"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap..."  
Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV)

The Old Testament tells of Jerusalem and a call to action for its people. Formerly a city of honor, the holy city is destroyed and unprotected with broken walls and gates. God's servant Nehemiah calls for the people to rebuild their own walls, caring for and taking responsibility for their community.

Today, Nehemiah's call still rings true for us. We too must rebuild our own communities. At FaithBridge Foster Care, we prayerfully seek others who, like us, see the need and will stand with us in the gap, rebuilding the families and communities around us.

REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES

"Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.'

...They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began this good work."

Nehemiah 2:17, 18 (NIV)

# WHY “FAITHBRIDGE”?

Our name is derived from our business model, whereby the faith community bridges the gap between a large societal crisis and individuals in need. The bridges we build are relational, economic and emotional.



Relationally, we connect all the parties in the foster care system—county and state government, biological and foster families, healthcare workers, community service providers and others. Each foster child and his or her foster family is surrounded by volunteers from a network of church members and trained volunteers, supplementing the legislated level of direct care with loving, stable communities. A FaithBridge consultant is available 24/7 for each family and helps manage all of the resources and relationships around a child’s care.

Economically, we work to bridge investors with a proven business model and strategy that aim to reframe the \$8 billion foster care crisis. This model addresses the crises of capacity, stability and

quality in the current system, offering a scalable and sustainable community-based approach that helps provide meaningful, fulfilling connections for children and families in need. Partnering with local churches that have existing ministries and systems helps extend our organizational reach and ensures wise stewardship.

Emotionally, FaithBridge Foster Care’s strategy and business model help bring together an entire community of caring individuals—professionals, pastors and volunteers—who surround children and families in loving, nurturing relationships and who help bridge the emotional traumas often caused by neglect, abuse or other challenges.

## ABOUT FAITHBRIDGE FOSTER CARE

A Christ-centered, tax-exempt corporation intent on changing U.S. foster care, FaithBridge Foster Care works with the local church to solve and take ownership of its community’s foster care crisis. FaithBridge partners with local churches to create independent foster care ministries around a small group model, called the Community of Care<sup>SM</sup>, which provides foster families with unparalleled support and resources. This relationship-enhanced model scales to create local foster family capacity with built-in stability and quality, bringing children and families together in a safe, loving community.

