

WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN ARE IN CRISIS

When children are suffering,
the Church's response
should be clear.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?



A MINISTRY OF CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RANCH

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WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN ARE IN CRISIS

THE FOSTER CARE CRISIS IN WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia has the highest number of children in the foster care system per capita. For every 1,000 babies born in West Virginia, 24.6 are removed due to maltreatment. This is more than three times the national average of seven per 1,000.

TRAUMA FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Over 60% of children in foster care are removed due to neglect. In West Virginia, it is estimated that 85% of child cases involve drug use. Over 60% of children in foster care will experience seven or more school changes.

A DESPERATE CALL FOR FOSTER FAMILIES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Advocates consistently report that there is an insufficient number of foster families to care for these children. 80% of families who foster stop fostering within two years. Without support and care, the future for these children can be bleak.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

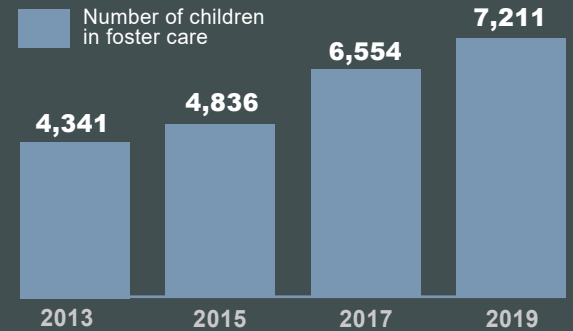
Join the movement today.

Chestnut Mountain Village ('The Village') guides and equips churches to care for vulnerable children and families through a proven, step-by-step ministry model that amplifies the Gospel, nurtures spiritual growth and involves the entire church.

Join us at cmvww.org

Pray • Educate • Participate

The foster care system continues to steadily grow in West Virginia.



Former foster youth are **2X** more likely to suffer from PTSD than combat veterans.

86% of runaway children who are child trafficking victims are in the care of social services or the foster care system.

1 in 2 kids who age out will develop a substance dependence.

7 in 10 of girls who age out will become pregnant before the age of 21.

WHEN CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING, THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE IS CLEAR



GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

The purest outward expression of an inward belief in Jesus Christ is to care for those who are suffering and broken.

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you."

– James 1:27 (NLT)



THE GOSPEL IS OUR GUIDE

The Gospel shows the Church how we should care for kids in crisis. Christ inserted Himself into our brokenness, and being broken Himself, redeemed us out of it by making us part of His family. Jesus Christ moved toward hard and broken people and places rather than avoiding or ignoring them.

LIVING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION

Helping vulnerable kids and families enable churches to live out the Great Commission by teaching people to obey God's command. When serving the less fortunate, people grow in their obedience and genuinely demonstrate Christ's love for others.

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"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law ... so that He could adopt us as His very own children ... And since you are His child, God has made you His heir."

– Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT)



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THE VILLAGE HAS A PLAN FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Chestnut Mountain Village ('The Village') guides and equips churches to care for vulnerable children and families through a proven, step-by-step ministry model that amplifies the Gospel, nurtures spiritual growth and involves the entire church.

FAMILY ADVOCACY MINISTRY

The proven model used by The Village is called Family Advocacy Ministry ('FAM'). FAM is a ministry model designed to help church partners care for vulnerable children in their communities. These ministries allow churches to have a positive impact by:

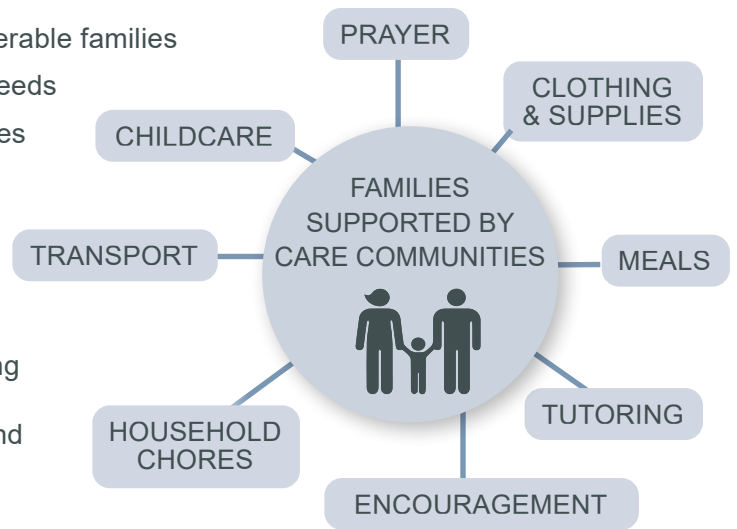
- Recruiting & supporting families to care for foster kids
- Meeting physical and financial needs of foster and vulnerable families
- Ministering to families to meet emotional and spiritual needs
- Serving foster and adoptive families in Care Communities

BUILDING CARE COMMUNITIES

Care Communities are a primary element of FAMs. In Care Communities, volunteers wrap around families to provide support to foster, adoptive and other families through activities such as bringing weekly meals, supplying practical needs, providing transportation, mentoring and tutoring children, and becoming trained to provide child and respite care.

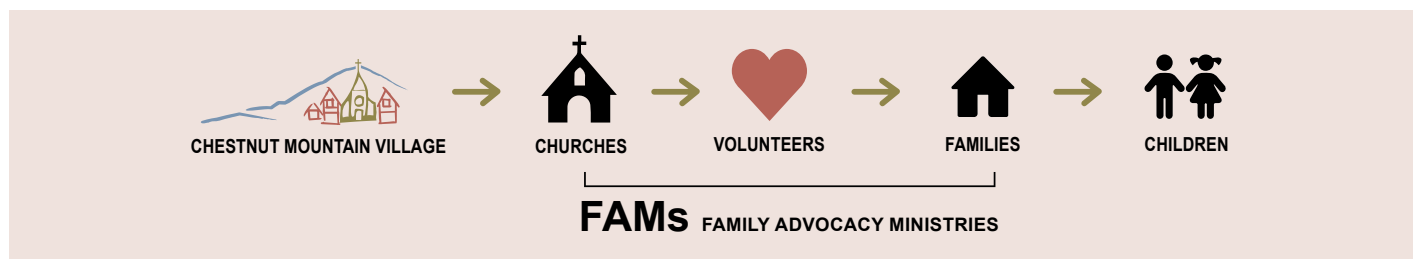
A PROVEN MODEL

The national average of families who continue fostering after their first year is about 50% and 80% of foster families are no longer fostering after two years. However, when supported by a FAM, 90% of families continue fostering into a second year. FAMs have a positive impact on both retention and recruiting of foster families and are in place in nearly 700 churches in more than 20 states.



"It has been a profound blessing for us as a church because it really does work."

– Pastor, Northlands Church



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BENEFITS OF FAMILY ADVOCACY MINISTRY FOR TODAY'S CHURCH



ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

Family Advocacy Ministry ('FAM') offers the Church an organized, volunteer-led opportunity to play defined and key roles in support of foster and adoption in their community.

"It has been a brilliant way to meet the local needs with the majority of our congregation."

– Pastor, Northlands Church

GROWING IN CHRIST

FAM is a proven, step-by-step framework for spiritual and discipleship growth. Deeper relationships with Christ are formed as ministry participants serve. Different roles allow everyone to participate using their own spiritual gifts. Growth in attendance can occur from community recognition.

"The ministry brought order to all of the hearts of the people so that people had a place to do the thing God had called them to do."

– Pastor, Mountain West Church

HOPE FOR CHILDREN

Through an effective FAM children and families are served and experience the love of Christ through the local church and community partners. Through FAM, we believe that the generational cycles of family brokenness will be positively impacted.

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WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Not everyone will be called to foster, adopt, or work directly with vulnerable kids and their families. However, once Christians understand the current situation in West Virginia, and reflect on the Church's appropriate response, we believe that many will be called to do something.

In a situation like this, what can a person like you do to help?

Here are some ways you can help West Virginia children and families.

PRAY

- Pray for foster and vulnerable children and families in West Virginia and across the nation.
- Pray for The Village ministry.
- Visit our website at cmvww.org to join our Newsletter and Prayer Listing to learn about specific prayer needs and praises.

EDUCATE

- Share what you've learned about the West Virginia foster care crisis and ways to help with others in your church, community and state.
- Subscribe to our Newsletter at cmvww.org to learn about the latest Village, West Virginia, and national news regarding vulnerable kids and families.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Visit The Village at cmvww.org or contact us using the information below:

Greg Clutter

Director of Foster Initiatives

Phone: 304 612 6265

Email: greg@chestnutmountainranch.org

Keep in touch:

Instagram and Facebook

PARTICIPATE

- Church leaders can contact The Village team to learn how to start a Family Advocacy Ministry in their churches.
- Individuals can ask their church leaders about what is already happening at their churches to care for vulnerable children and families, or they can contact The Village for ideas on how to approach leaders and others in their communities.
- Donate to The Village. Your generosity helps us reach more children and impact more families. Prayerfully consider supporting our mission. We appreciate your desire to be a part of The Village!



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WHO WE ARE



STEVE FINN

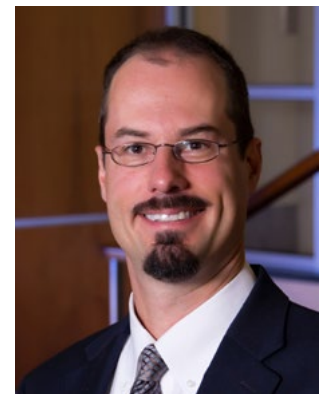
Founder and Executive Director, Chestnut Mountain Ranch

Recognized as one of the top 3 leaders in the country by the 2016 John C. Maxwell Leadership Award committee, Steve Finn witnessed first-hand how God makes the impossible possible. After 12 years as a gangs special unit metro-Atlanta police officer, he and his wife felt led to full-time ministry. Following a short tenure as houseparents for Eagle Ranch Children's Home outside of Atlanta, Steve took an even greater leap. Today, he is the Founder and Executive director for Chestnut Mountain Ranch, a 300-acre Christ-centered home and school for boys in one of the poorest areas of the country. Cautioned that building a ministry of such magnitude in that area would be almost impossible, Steve chose to trust that God would bring the seed He had planted to harvest. Together, he and his wife, Dawn, call Chestnut Mountain Ranch home with a family too big to name.

GREG CLUTTER

Director of Foster Care Initiatives, Chestnut Mountain Ranch

After a 30-year career in business and non-profit leadership roles, Greg joined Chestnut Mountain Ranch as Director of Foster Care Initiatives in 2021. Prior to joining the Ranch, Greg served for several years as Chief Operating Officer at a successful West Virginia based research and development services firm focused on chemical, energy, environmental, and software technologies. In that role, he had leadership responsibilities over functions including accounting and finance, information technologies, human resources, marketing, and legal disciplines. In addition, Greg previously served in a Director role at an economic develop and innovation based non-profit focused on diversifying the West Virginia economy. In this position, he was responsible for all aspects of a technology focused commercialization and entrepreneurship program that supported, mentored, and invested in technology-based new ventures. Greg has an MBA from the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School and a BS in Business Administration from West Virginia University. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, who also works at the Ranch. They have twin sons who are students at West Virginia University.



ABOUT CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

Chestnut Mountain Village ('The Village'), a ministry of the Ranch, is dedicated to creating Christ-centered communities to provide hope and homes for vulnerable kids and families. To do this, the Village guides and equips church partners to care for vulnerable children and families by providing a proven, step by step ministry model that amplifies the Gospel, nurtures spiritual growth, and involves the entire church. The Village also serves as a bridge between churches, local child placing agencies, and other government entities, when necessary.

ABOUT CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RANCH

Chestnut Mountain Ranch is a Christ-centered home and school in Morgantown, West Virginia. The Ranch reaches the hearts of young men and restores broken families through a structured, loving community. The Ranch vision is to restore hope to children and families. The Ranch is located just 6 miles south of Morgantown on nearly 300 beautiful acres. The Ranch is a Christ-centered safe haven for boys and families in crisis – a place for family restoration, where boys can enjoy school again and experience positive family values.



A MINISTRY OF CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RANCH

chestnut mountain village

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