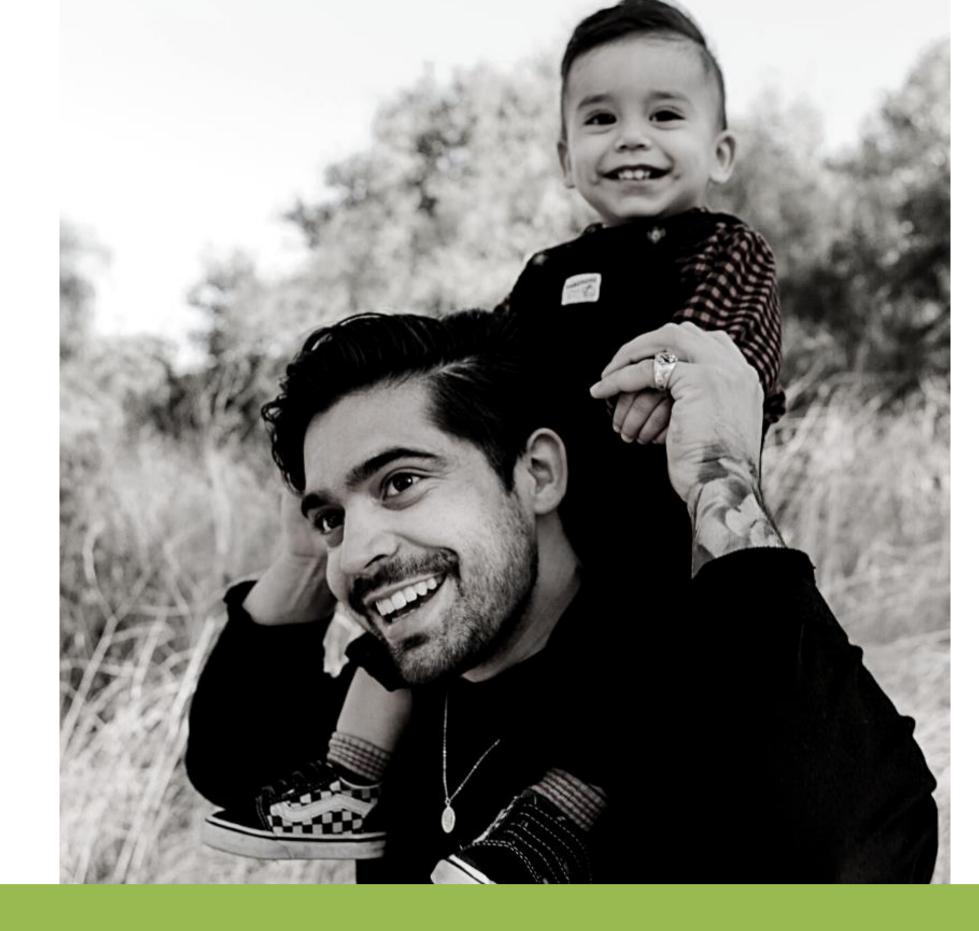
# Introduction to Olive Crest

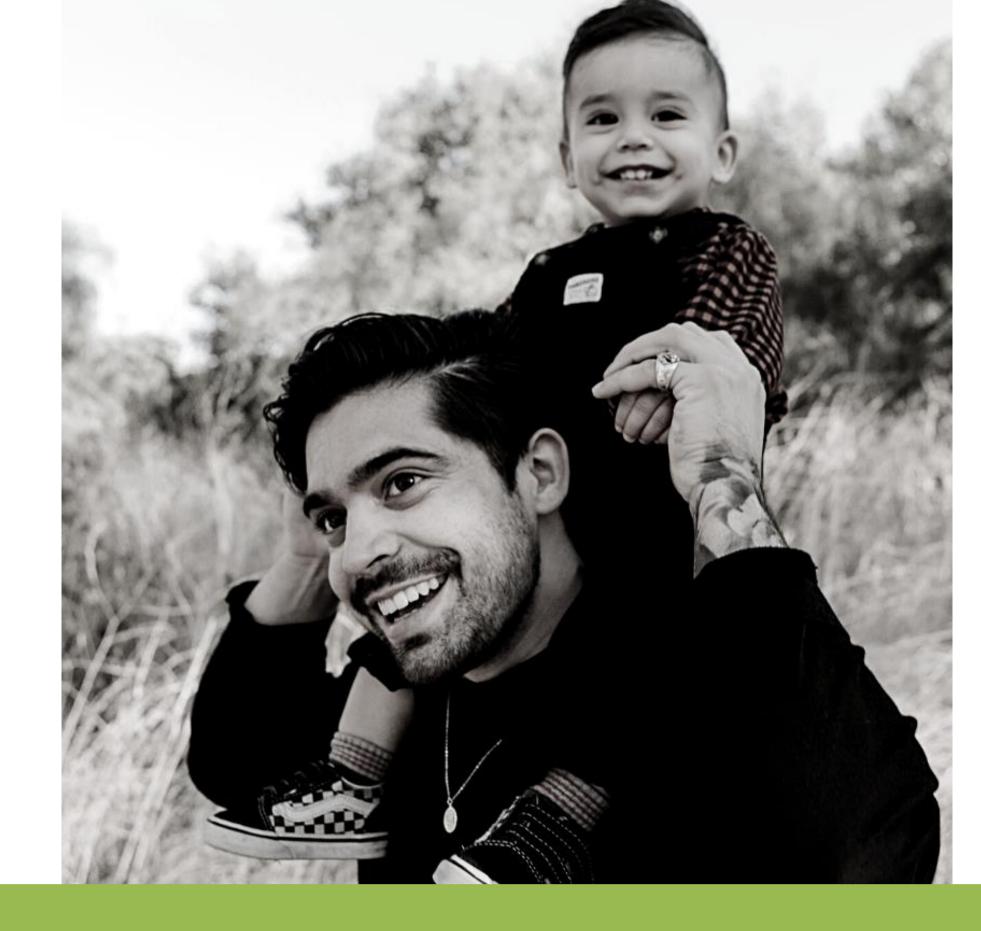
- Founded in 1973 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!
- Have served over 200,000 children and families to date.
- Currently, we are operating in 5 regions including the Pacific Northwest and Las Vegas.



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

## Introduction to Olive Crest

- Dedicated to preventing child abuse by *strengthening*, *equipping*, and *restoring* children and families in crisis...
   "One life at a time."
- We help churches serve vulnerable children and families - often touched by the foster care system.



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

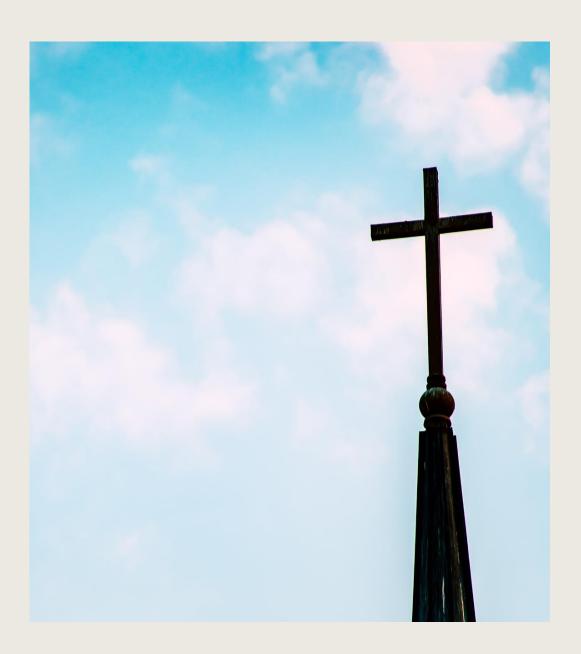
Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- Matthew 25:34-40

#### The Church





## Everyone can do something.

#### **FAMILY**

Invite children into your home through Foster, Adoption, or Volunteer Hosting

#### **FRIEND**

Provide support for
Foster Families or Host
Families as a Family
Friend

#### **CHAMPION**

Contend for families through prayer, time, and/or resources

What's your something?



## Friend

Wrap a family with burden-bearing love

The transformational ministry of sharing God's love by supporting children and families in practical ways through Care Communities.



## The Crisis



Nationwide,
50% of Foster Parents stop
fostering after the first year.

# What is a Care Community?

A team of 6-8 committed church volunteers that act as an extended family to support a foster, adoptive, kinship, host or biological family.



## Care Community:

## **Team Roles**





# Volunteer Host Program





## What Is a Volunteer Host Program?

#### **Volunteer Hosts Families in Crisis** Screened/approved Children 0–17 Safe home Maintain custody **Community Support Temporary Hosting** Short-term Safety Net (minimum 1-night) Resources No cost



## Why are Volunteer Hosts Needed?

- Medical emergencies
- Substance abuse
- Homelessness
- Mental health care

- Escaping domestic violence
- Financial difficulty
- Incarceration
- Lack of reliable childcare

#### Social Isolation

"Who do I turn to when I need help?"



## **Key Distinctives**



Supplementary Care, not substitutionary care



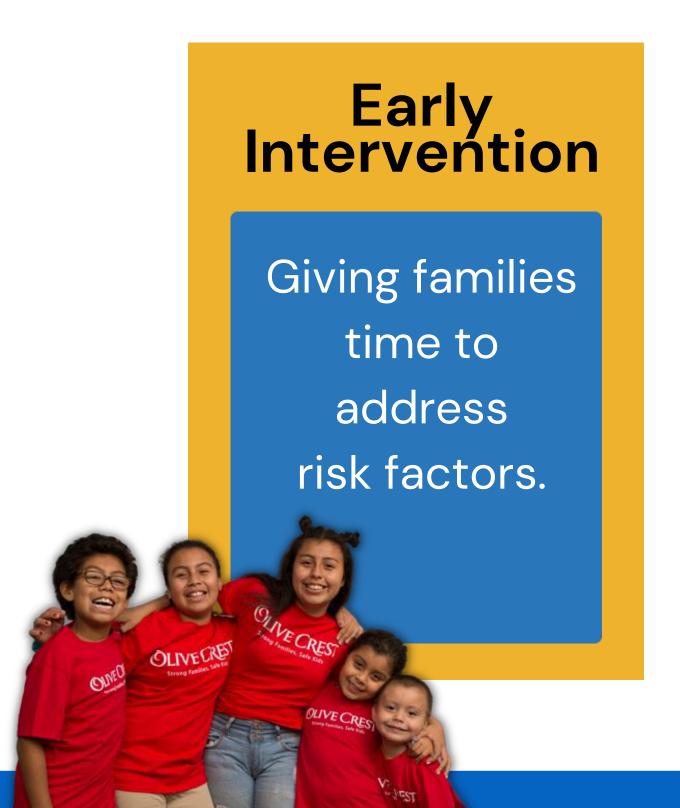
Host Families are volunteers, no financial compensation



Hosting is voluntary, custody is maintained



## Olive Crest's Three Objectives



### Child Abuse Prevention

Providing a safe and temporary place for the child without threat of losing custody.

## Family Support & Stabilization

Becoming the extended family support that a parent never had.



## How do families hear about us?

- Relatives & friends
- Social service agencies
- Homeless shelters
- Drug/alcohol treatment centers
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Law enforcement
- Churches





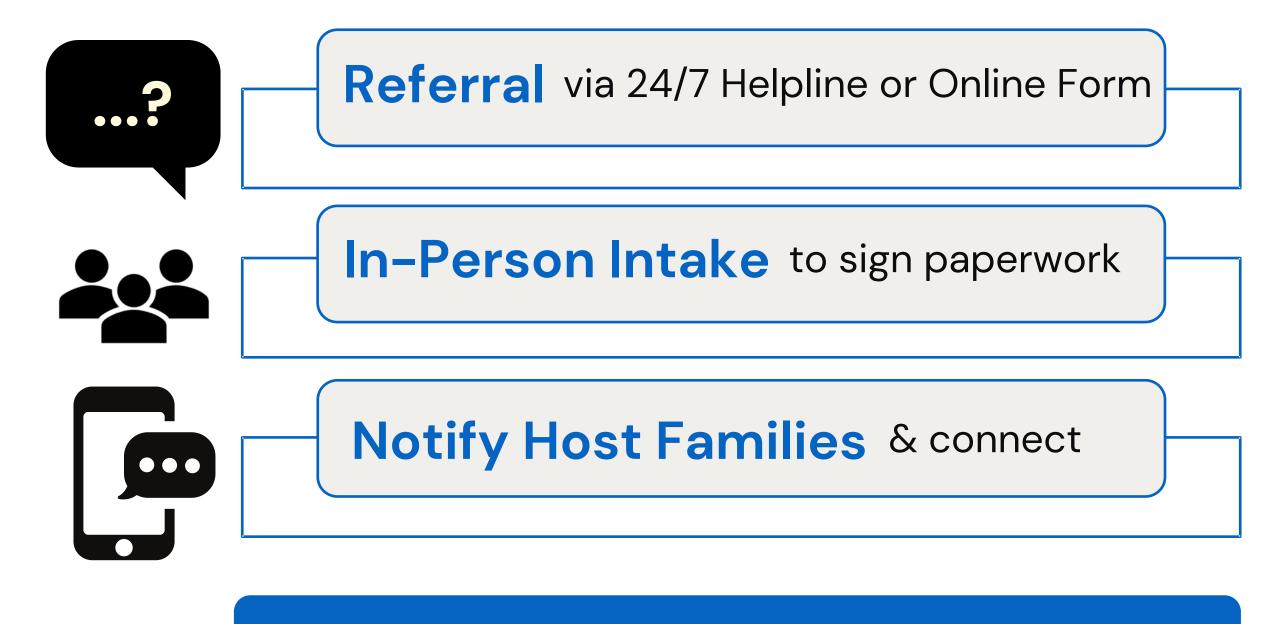
LAC+USC



Sharing the compassion of Christ for over 130 years



## Intake Process



Processing time varies family by family



## Safety is Our Priority

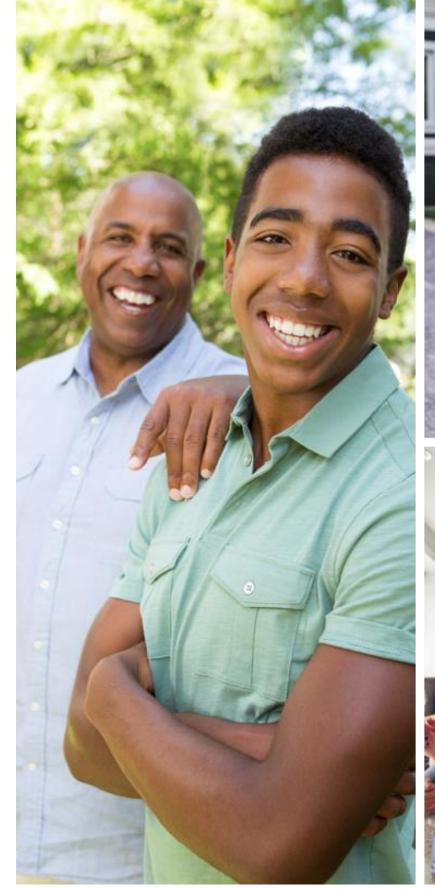
#### **Volunteer Hosts:**

- Live Scan, Fingerprinting, & Record Checks
- Training & Home Study

#### Parents/Guardians:

- Agreement and Release Forms
- Caregiver Affidavit

**24/7 Family Helpline** 800–550–2445 x1234









## So many parents experience...

- Generational trauma
- Unhealthy relationships
  - Isolation
  - A lack of support
  - Learned mistrust

which makes children at risk of child abuse and neglect.

But together, we can help!



## Frequently Asked Questions

Are children kept in their same school?

Do siblings stay together?

YES, if possible

How long are the hostings? How often can a child be hosted?

- Case by Case
- Minimum 1 night
- Based on the need and availability
- Paperwork renewed every year



# Frequently Asked Questions Pt. 2

#### What is the relationship between the hosts and bio family like?

We prioritize relationship and communication between families

#### What is unique about our program?

- We are a preventative program
- 100% voluntary

\*We do not bypass mandated Child Abuse reporting\*



## Community Engagement Contact Info

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renae-kennedy@olivecrest.org



Strong Families, Safe Kids