



Volunteer Guide

We are thankful for your interest in volunteering to help our foster youth and the families that care for them!
Foster VC Kids partners with the following organizations to support our families in ensuring children in care thrive.
Please take a look and see what areas interest you.

[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 support our foster community. Please check our website <http://homeswithheartvc.org/bwh/> for all details on services and discounts for restaurants, dentists, mechanics, recreational activities, furniture, barbershop, and much more!
If you would like to refer a business to Businesses with Heart, please email HomeswithHeartVC@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 <http://homeswithheartvc.org/faith-in-motion/> for more information or email HomeswithHeartVC@ventura.org to get your congregation involved, or to be connected with a Faith in Motion partner!

[Necessities and Basic Needs for Foster Youth and Caregivers](#)

[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 or helping a family move. Please call Sherrie Paul to set up a time to come by. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please email action@actionvc.org or call 805-987-0300, Website: www.actionvc.org

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[Catalyst](#)

Catalyst Church has a closet of gently used girls and boys clothing (newborn to age 6), diapers, toothbrush, toothpaste, and new underwear. Resource families 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

[Child Hope Services](#)

Child Hope Services, Inc. is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They can provide a range of support to families interested in fostering and adopting! Child Hope Services provides a new placement Hope Chest that contains items needed for the first week of placement. Please visit www.childhopeservices.org and complete an application to be considered for support. Child Hope Services can also be contacted at 805-419-6182 or info@childhopeservices.org.

[Children's Services Auxiliary](#)

The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to Ventura County dependent foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. Please visit www.csavc.org or www.HomeswithHeartVC.org to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be provided to you by calling 805-654-3220. To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org. **Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.

[Defending the Fatherless](#)

Defending the Fatherless is a ministry-based group that collaborates with churches throughout Ventura County. Defending the Fatherless works to support and equip foster and adoptive families through family events, networking, and support groups. They connect families with the love closet and will bring you items upon placement, and provide meals and peer mentors throughout your journey through foster care. The love closet carries clothing up to 5T, infant care items, cribs, strollers, and other care related items. Contact them at defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.defendingthefatherless.net/>

[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 and is located in Ventura. To receive Heart-to-Heart resources, please contact Kids & Families Together at 805-643-1446.

[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

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throughout the year to support children and teens in care such as baby showers for youth in care, monthly life skills classes for teen parents, girls rescued out of trafficking and an annual back to school event. To donate or volunteer, email jamesstorehouse@gmail.com 805-499-7161. Se habla Español, 3543 Old Conejo Rd #105, Newbury Park 91320

[RaisingHOPE, INC](#)

RaisingHOPE provides advocacy, awareness and funds to current and former foster youth in the Ventura County area through community events, mentoring, life skills training and legal services. RaisingHOPE is the organization that plans and executes the annual HOPE4Kids Festival & Run. Funds 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 such as bus passes and anything that might benefit the youth. For more information on RaisingHOPE, request a mentor, or to donate, contact info@raisinghope.org or call 805-491-KIDZ (5439).

[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

[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, Alpha Leadership Development, education on healthy lifestyles and relationships, mentoring courses, scholarships and care items, food and clothing vouchers. Transitional foster care youth & Probation youth are provided with Christmas Gift Bags, Transitional and after care support, Transitional housing and referrals for support. To mentor, volunteer or donate, email helpingyouth@wosmoh.org

Mentoring

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County](#)

Big Brothers Big Sisters serves foster youth across the county. The Big Brothers Big Sisters program matches volunteers who are over 21 with children in foster care and probation. The program serves boys ages 8 – 15 and girls, ages 6 – 15; however, they accept older than 15 youth if they are still in placement. Matched children can remain in the program until they are 21. A staff member provides support on a monthly basis to the Big, the Little, and the child's guardian.

“Bigs” spend time weekly with their “Little”, one on one, for a period of at least a year. By making that weekly visit, volunteers instill the message that someone cares, and that each Little can and should care about themselves and their future. The average match lasts 2 ½ years but some matches last a lifetime.

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Before volunteers can be matched, they must be interviewed individually by a staff member, pass an on-line background check, and provide three references. Any type of conviction on the volunteer's record would need to be disclosed and discussed. In addition, the volunteer must attend a 3-hour free training held at our office. For an application or more information, visit www.bbsvc.org, email info@bbsvc.org or call 805-484-2282. Address: 555 Airport Way Ste.D, Camarillo, CA 93010. Se Habla Espanol.

[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

[RaisingHOPE Mentorship Program](#)

Just one person is all it takes to change the course of a child's life. RaisingHOPE's mentoring program connects trainer, background checked mentors with youth to give a reliable, stable caring adult connection for a lifetime. RaisingHOPE serves all foster youth, but primary focus is on the older youth (pre-teens, teens and non-minor dependents), and also take referrals for youth up to age 25 that are still need of support.

All mentors are screened, trained and evaluated. This program is voluntary for all youth, and youth are screened to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the relationship. Once approved, mentors meet with mentees 2 times per month minimum to build relationships and visit within the community. Mentors are required to commit to the relationship for a period of one year.

For more information on the mentorship program, email mentors@raisingHOPE.org.

Respite Care

[Channel Islands Social Services](#)

Approved Resource Families (RFA) are eligible for up to **12** hours of FREE respite care each month. Families caring for **Ventura County dependent children** ages 16 or under, or a child with special needs, are automatically eligible and can contact [Channel Islands Social Services](#) directly at **805-384-0983** to register. If your family is caring for children over 16 or requires more than 12 hours, social workers can

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request an exception to the basic eligibility. These cases will be reviewed for need, natural support system, and plan for when the short-term exception ends. FFA certified homes are eligible for respite and should contact their agency for more information.

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

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 online tutoring only. To schedule a tutoring session contact Lynette Lucas at 714-989-6159 or email www.ewcata.wixsite.com/ewcata

Project Understanding Tutoring Centers

Tutoring Centers provide extra instruction for students grades K-5 with volunteer tutors in one-to-one interaction. Project Understanding has 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 <http://www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring/> or contact Carol Pillado, Program Manager – 805-652-1326, ext. 303, cell: 805-825-7978 cpillado@projectunderstanding.org

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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 visit: www.fosteringthefuture.net/ or <http://www.csavc.org/> Submit application on: [Scholarship Application](#) or contact Donna Acosta at fosteringthefuture.net@gmail.com via email or 805-469-8783.

California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth

May qualify for up to \$5,000 a year to help pay for college, childcare, transportation and rent while you are in school. You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college or university or career or technical school, as well as schools in other states. Must be a current or former foster youth and not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July of the award year. The court must have established your dependency when you were between the ages of 16 and 18. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will verify your foster youth eligibility status. Must submit FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application and Chafee Grant Application (for first time applicants). Visit <https://chafee.csac.ca.gov/>

TEACh Fund Scholarship

This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors and graduates under the age of 25 who are or have been in foster care or a group home in Ventura County, California. To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must be current or emancipated foster youth who will attend or who are currently attending a community college, trade/technical school, or four-year college/university. Financial need is not a requirement, but will be considered. For more information or to apply visit: <https://vccf.org/apply-for-scholarship/>

Foster Care to Success

FC2S collaborates with organizations, foundations, and individuals to deliver scholarships to foster youth across the country. The website lists multiple scholarships available to current and former foster youth. www.fc2success.org/programs/scholarships-and-grants



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