SERVICES PROVIDED:

Safe Families for Children engages volunteers from church communities to provide friendship and respite to children when families are in crisis, minimizing the risk for abuse or neglect and giving parents the time and tools they need to help their families thrive. Safe Families for Children strives to meet three objectives:

**Child Welfare Deflection:** Safe Families provides a safe alternative to child welfare custody, thus significantly reducing the number of children entering the child welfare system.

**Child Abuse Prevention:** Providing an overwhelmed and resource limited parent with a safe, temporary place for their child without threat of losing custody. By offering support, the goal is to avert potential abuse/neglect episodes.

**Family Support and Stabilization:** Many parents struggle because of limited social support and unavailable extended family. Many Safe Families Volunteers become the extended family that a parent never had.

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

The student will work closely with staff on three primary objectives:

1. To increase and support the number of qualified volunteers to serve using best practices of volunteer management.
2. To increase and support the number of child and family referrals.
3. Matching families seeking service to the appropriately qualified volunteer family and assuring they are well supported.

The student will learn what it takes to work with volunteers, about social services, non-profits, community collaboration and community mobilization to provide services to families in crisis.

ROLE OF THE PRACTICUM/INTERN STUDENT:

- Assist in volunteer screenings including (but not limited to) recruitment, screening, training, recognition and retention using best practices.
- Screening and intake of families seeking services.
- Works with and assists program coordinator on a variety of processes including public relations, community collaboration and events, program sustainability including communication and reports, and some clerical support.
• Completion of a special project as determined by supervisor and student. Possible projects may be newsletter, fundraising, Facebook management, twitter, community awareness event.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICUM/INTERN STUDENTS:

• College course work congruent with social service work
• Flexibility and initiative that will allow the student to function within an interdependent teamwork structure
• Non-judgmental, strength-based approach to working with families
• Good listening skills
• Ability to present themselves professionally
• Ability to communicate well orally and in writing
• Ability to deal with difficult situations
• Experience using a computer for word processor, spreadsheets, PowerPoint and database management.
• Three personal or professional references. Anyone, but family
• Must pass a criminal background check

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED

As of April 15, 2011, practicum sites that use the Department of Human Services Background Check Unit will now conduct a weighing test and fitness determination when an individual has been identified as the perpetrator of abuse in certain cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse or financial exploitation. The Background Check Unit will specifically consider the most serious cases of abuse reported and substantiated from January 1, 2010, forward.