



Volunteer opportunities

Below are a variety of ways you can serve through Defend the Fatherless. Our organization relies on volunteers to make us successful and we truly are thankful for our community's support. Please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Marybeth Robinson at mrobinson@defendthefatherless.org or 704-650-1592 to set up a service opportunity. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser, please reach out to our Executive Director, Caitlin Sund at csund@defendthefatherless.org.

1. Make Frozen Homemade Meals

This is a great way for groups of all ages to serve together. We ask that you make meals that are easy to re-heat and stored in disposable containers. The meals should serve between 5-6 people at a minimum and ingredients and cooking instructions must be clearly labeled. Family-friendly meals are best! We have had groups make all types of meals including lasagna, crock pot dump meals, breakfast casserole, taco casserole. Once meals are prepared, please set up a time with Marybeth (704-650-1592) to deliver to one of our drop off locations around Fort Mill. Families truly value a night out of the kitchen without dishes to wash!

2. Make Frozen Cookie Dough Balls

Imagine the hesitation walking into a new home as a child in foster care... We love to have quart sized Ziploc bags of frozen cookie dough balls to give away to families to pull out of the freezer on a hard day or when a new child is coming into their care. We like to think the smell of fresh baked cookies may lift the mood of the child or help make new positive memories in their new home environment. Please write the cooking instructions on the outside of the bag. Once cookie dough balls are prepared, please set up a time with Marybeth (704-650-1592) to deliver to one of our drop off locations around Fort Mill.

3. Join our York County Foster Closet 'Emergency Responder Team'

We have a core group of volunteers who work with us year round on a consistent basis to help us manage the stock in the York County Foster Closet and meet families by appointment (even on nights and weekends) to shop. Ideally, these volunteers feel comfortable using a computer, are able to lift >15 pounds, have weekly availability to work on our team, and are looking to interact one on one with families. *Background check is required for this service opportunity

4. Host a Giftcard Drive or Sock/Underwear/Pajama/Tennis Shoe Drive

These are items that we are always in need of and bless the families we serve greatly. It's vital to our organization that we receive items we need, due to limited storage. Please make sure to reach out BEFORE hosting a drive for our specific needs. We are only able to accept NEW socks, underwear, and tennis shoes. We give away gift cards to Walmart, Target, Old Navy, Amazon,

Dick's and Academy to teens to purchase clothing and shoes that match their style as we do not carry sizes larger than KIDS 12 in the York County Foster Closet. This is always a HUGE need!

5. Sort Donated Clothing for the York County Foster Closet

These volunteers help with quality control. Clothing is inspected for rips, stains, and excessive wear and sorted by gender, size, clothing type, and season. We hang all the needed clothing in the Closet for display. Sorting and hanging projects are most easily completed at the Defend the Fatherless House. We will provide sorting/hanging instructions. This can be done as a one time serve event with a group OR on an ongoing basis.

6. Clean the Defend the Fatherless House and the Closet

Help us keep the Defend the Fatherless House an inviting place to welcome families and "shop" at the Closet. Instructions and supplies will be provided.

7. Decorate Canvas Shopping Bags for the York County Foster Closet

We keep decorated canvas shopping bags at the Closet for taking home supplies for children and families. The design will be up to your inner artist however we ask that it is uplifting and does not mention family terms that would be triggering for a child. We are happy to provide pictures for inspiration. You are required to provide all supplies for this service opportunity.

8. Volunteer at a Connection Event

We host connection events working one on one with children and families throughout the year. Some events require larger amounts of volunteers. If you are interested in this, we can add you to our list of interested volunteers and we will email you with details regarding the event to invite you to serve if you are able. *Background check is required for this service opportunity

9. Hold a Prayer Meeting for Defend the Fatherless and Families Served

We can provide you with a Prayer Guide. You organize a meeting of friends and/or family to pray for foster/adoptive families in the community and vulnerable children worldwide.

10. Lead a Bible Study for Defend the Fatherless and Families Served

Coordinate and lead a Bible Study Opportunity for the families we serve.

11. Reach Out to Your Church on Our Behalf

Our goal is for all York County Churches to know about our organization. Help us connect with your outreach pastors so we can make sure we are serving all of the York County Foster and Adoptive families!

12. Talk to Your Company About Matching Grants and Volunteer PTO

Did you know that many large companies offer matching grants? Does yours? Many companies also offer PTO for volunteer hours. You could use this time to meet the above needs of our organization.

13. Do You Have a Special Skill or Talent You Could Donate to a Foster/Adoptive Family or Our Organization? Do You Own a Business That Could Host a Connection Event?

We have been networking with foster families to find practical ways to serve them. Recently, a family mentioned a need of having all clothes purchased altered to fit their child. Can you sew? Babysit? How can you help?