| Myth | Truth |
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| 1. SFFC is just delaying the inevitable – children being placed in foster care | * SFFC monthly stats consistently reveal under 4% of children are screened into foster care instead of returning home. In 2014 the number of children screened into foster care was under 2%. * Many of the children screened into foster care were already under a safety plan which means the state department had an eye on them and in some caressed removes children when otherwise they would not. * In being with SFFC, children and parents receive love, grace, and care in ways that, many times, they’ve not previously – this experience will never leave them.   ***“And HOPE does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us” (Romans 5:5)*** |
| 1. SFFC is a program of a particular agency or church | * SFFC is a movement of compassion, grounded in relationship, through the local churches and communities. * SFFC is volunteer driven, professionally supported. * SFFC has historical precedent that was non-programmatic.   ***“then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose” (Philippians 2:2)*** |
| 1. SFFC enables bad parents to continue to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * SFFC enable parents engaged in behaviors and activities that are life-sucking, to have grace extended to them which produces life-giving opportunity. * Regardless of parent ‘outcome’s (stopping life-sucking behaviors, attitudes, and actions), the grace extended, invitation for relationship given, and children loved on, are intangibles that leave their mark, for the good. Many times are irresistible, even if not immediately seen.   ***“You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived … Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other …” (Colossians 3:7,12,13a)*** |
| 1. SFFC helps parents who are manipulative and have an entitlement mentality. | * Says who? There is only one who is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of one’s heart and mind. And that One is not us (Hebrews 4:12) * Manipulation and entitlement are only able to be realized if the one on the other end is a participant. Freely we have been given, freely we give. It is up to God to mete out judgement and consequences (Matthew 10:8; 7:1-5).   ***“There is no one righteous, not even one … there is no one who does good, not even one” Romans 3:10,12b)*** |
| 1. SFFC practices out-of-home placement which is detrimental, just like foster care. | * SFFC hosts children who voluntarily ask. Parents are not coerced nor are children removed because of an incident of abuse. The legal system is not involved. Just like you might ask your parents, sister, brother or friend to have your son or daughter overnight or for the summer, parents are making the arrangement themselves. * The trauma of out-of-home placement centers largely around the force/cause behind it, the lack of on-gong parental relationship, and lack of parental control * The lack of supportive, loving, caring adult figures in a child’s life, increases the impact of trauma – SFFC provides this relationship connection with the children and parents.   ***“… I was a stranger and you invited me in …” (Matthew 25:35, 36)*** |
| 1. SFFC decides if and when a child returns home – if certain things aren’t in place or happening, if certain change hasn’t taken place – we should make sure the child is in a better environment. | * Just like you, parents we serve have custody of their children. Unless there is a reportable incident/situation of child abuse or neglect, we are obligated to return a child to his parents. * The state system workers have the authority to decide whether it is safe for a child to stay with his parents – even when the SFFC team think otherwise * The state system steps in to protect children from their abusive and neglectful parents; not parents who struggle, even struggle greatly, and are ‘good enough’, meeting minimum parenting standards.   ***“Treat others in the same way you would want them to treat you” (Luke 6:31)*** |
| 1. SFFC is successful when parents in crisis have reached their goals. | * We succeed when we have been obedient in loving our neighbors – Biblical Hospitality. Keeping children safe, extending an invitation to relationship.   ***“And so we are transformed, much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him” (The Message, 2 Corinthians 3:18)*** |
| 1. SFFC is a waste of time when children return to an unimproved home situation | * The family’s story is not yet over. SFFC is called by the Lord to be a part of the family’s journey, for a period of time.   ***“One plants, one waters, God gives the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:7)*** |
| 1. SFFC is no longer needed after the family served appears stable, ‘the crisis is over’. | * Often the family is stable because the safety net of SFFC has been in place. Stability has the most opportunity to continue and increase when the SFFC team – host family, family friends, family coach, and prayerfully the rest of the church family stays involved and connected. Take away the safety net, and instability reappears.   ***“Help carry each other’s burdens. In this way you will follow Christ’s teachings” (Galatians 6:2)*** |
| *HIS TRUTH - Proverbs 11:25*  *The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped (The Message)*  *A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed (NIV)*  *The generous man will be prosperous; and he who waters will himself be watered (NASB)*  *The man who gives much will have much; and he who helps others will be helped (NLV)*  *The generous soul will be made rich; he who waters will also be watered himself (NKJV)*  *A giving person will receive much in return, and someone who gives water will also receive the water he needs (VOICE)* | |