

February 2016

Happy Valentines Day

Safe Families *for* Children

Monthly Newsletter



Events: *SFFC Volunteer Orientation*

When: Saturday, February 20th 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Where: Twin Cedars' Coleman Center, 701 Lincoln St., LaGrange

Who's invited? Anyone interested in SFFC ministry

**** Please RSVP by email to cgibson@twincedar.org ****

Volunteer Opportunities

- Host Family
- Ministry Lead
- Family Coach
- Family Friend
- Resource Partner
- Community Outreach
- Support Groups
- Intake

There's a place for everyone to serve.

For More Information:

To become a SFFC Volunteer or to refer a family to SFFC, please contact:

Candi Gibson,
Safe Families Coordinator
(706) 298-0050 ext. 1073
cgibson@twincedar.org

www.twincedar.org

www.safe-families.org

Facebook: /SFFCWESTGA

Month of Love...

February has become known as the month of **LOVE**, at least for one day, the 14th. There are many words to define love, such as fondness, tenderness, intimacy, endearment, etc... God's Word teaches us a lot about love, especially agape love. Agape love is the highest form of love. In definition, agape love means selfless, unconditional, charity, the love of God for man and of man for God...

When I think of examples of agape love, I think of serving others for Christ. A perfect example was shown to us while serving families. Here is a conversation between the mom receiving service and

our host family serving her through Christ:

Mom: "I would like to thank you...; you just don't understand how much you mean to me and my kids... Y'all are stuck with us! God bless y'all..."

Host parent: "To think that He (God) is sovereign in beginning SFFC here in LaGrange and that He would guide you in deciding to be a part of it, as He led us into it as well, BLOWS my mind! He is a HUGE Holy God... and I want to thank you for letting us be a part of your life and allowing us the opportunity to see God at work in ALL our lives!"

Volunteers motivated by their faith...

Host Family Process...

Becoming a Host Family is fairly simple. After returning your application, training will begin both in person and online, as it fits your schedule and time availability. There will also be a home evaluation that will need to be completed. Then, once references are checked, drug screens and finger print background checks are clear, the Host Family will be eligible for approval.

Once approved, children may be placed in the Host Family's home for care.

Host Families temporarily care for children and become a safe place while their parents overcome their crisis situation. Host Families are encouraged to become like an extended family to the biological parents and continue a mentoring relationship long after children are returned

home. Host Families remove the barrier of isolation and connect families to much needed support and resources.

Our Host Families have often explained how their service to families in this capacity has enriched their own family as well. It is a true blessing to see God's children selflessly at work for each other, while building the Kingdom of God together.

What a perfect example of true hospitality and a genuine love for others. There is no greater example of agape love than to love God and others (strangers) as God loves us.

Host Families truly embrace the call of Biblical hospitality which is to welcome and care for strangers. The 'stranger' was identified as vulnerable people groups such as the poor, sick, homeless, orphans, widows, foreigners, sojourners, and those in prison. And 'welcoming' meant a process of many things such as greeting, restoring, dwelling together, and sending forth in health.

May we love others with a passion of hospitality.

Happy Valentines!

"Ministering God's love to families in need"