



Imagine LA

Becoming a Faith Partner

Empowering Faith Communities to help end family homelessness...one family at a time.

Imagine LA seeks faith communities of all denominations to become "Faith Partners." Becoming an Imagine LA Faith Partner is deciding as a Faith Community to do a different kind of charity work: teaching a family how to fish, not just giving them fish. By making this two-year commitment you will be a part of a solution to end family homelessness.

Each Faith Partner creates a volunteer Family Support Team (FST) that is trained and matched with a homeless family in a two-year "Housing First" and mentorship program. The **goal of the program is to help the family permanently exit homelessness and poverty** by securing housing, working with the family to achieve self-sufficiency and helping their children thrive.

Imagine LA screens and matches formerly homeless families from transitional housing facilities with nearby faith communities – one family and one faith community at a time. Our staff helps the Faith Community build its Family Support Team. The FST is screened, trained and guided by Imagine LA staff. Through this process the family secures housing and each family member gets mentored by FST members in needed basic life skills such as: budgeting, career building, education, health, nutrition and childhood development. The Mentors build relationships with the families and help them achieve their goals. The result--lives begin to change.

The Faith Partner's Role

Becoming a Faith Partner is a lay-led, volunteer-driven effort managed by Imagine LA. Although the Imagine LA process needs the clergy's blessing and interface with staff, it has a minimal impact on these resources and should be primarily viewed as a way to empower volunteers.

To become a Faith Partner, a faith community needs to do the following:

1) Build a Family Support Team

- This effort is lead by 2 volunteer Co-Leaders who are good connectors to the congregation.
- Team members, recruited gradually, can include: Budgeting Mentor; One-to-one Mentors; Technical Mentors/Tutors (computer skills, tutoring, job training and search); Resource teams that address housing, career / education, childcare, healthcare, transportation. Please see "Creating your Family Support Team" for details.
- Each Team members agrees to:
 1. Attend mandatory **homeless sensitivity and mentorship training**
 2. Follow the Imagine LA mentorship and program guidelines
 3. Not pressure or require any religious activities
 4. Maintain confidentiality about the family and undergo background checks
 5. Not give money or gift cards directly to the family
 6. Update the congregation regularly with news of the family's progress

2) Help the Family find and move into affordable long-term housing (if needed).

This includes collecting donations from the congregation to furnish the home.

3) Provide \$5,000 in Family Sponsorship Funds. Funds are used for rental deposits and other expenses needed to help the family achieve their goals. **Note: Matching and scholarship funds are available for congregations who lack funds; finances should not hinder any faith community from becoming a Faith Partner**