

*Fill a child's heart
with joy...*



*...as well as
your own.*

*For more information or an
application, call The Maryland
Salem Children's Trust:
Ph: 301-689-8176*

How Can You Become a Resource Family?

- Meet with Salem staff to get acquainted with the agency, to let them get to know you, and to discuss which child would fit best with your family. Salem works hard to match each resource family with the right child.
- Meet at Salem with "your" child, and determine whether he/she is a good fit for your household.
- Complete a Resource Family Application obtained from the Salem staff member who interviews you or from the Salem office (301-689-8176). The State of Maryland requires that all applicants undergo the following checks:
 - physical and TB
 - driving record
 - fingerprints
 - criminal background
 - Child Protective Services

All information will be kept confidential.

The Maryland Salem Children's Trust



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The Maryland Salem Children's Trust



*Guide to
Becoming a
Resource Family*

*Dedicated to Helping
Children in Need*

Salem Children's Trust



Salem is dedicated to children who have been let down by broken promises and failed responsibilities. It provides a loving home and family where boys and girls can grow in a safe, nurturing environment.

All children need safety, nurture and love. Those who have been abused, neglected and abandoned have an overwhelming need to know that they are special to someone. Being a resource family is one more way to give and show that love.

What is a Resource Family?

A resource family provides children who have no one with loving, safe, and healthy relationships in the local community. Most children at Salem have never known what it is to be part of a healthy, functional family. While Salem provides a healthy family model, children also need their “own” family to whom they are uniquely special.

Resource families see a child approximately once a month. This may be for a few hours, for an evening, or even—if they like and it is appropriate—for a weekend. Children may spend holidays with their resource families.

Who Can Be a Resource Family?

- Resource families begin with a married couple, who may or may not have children of their own. The entire family should be in favor of this involvement.
- Resource families should be stable and loving, but they do not need to be perfect.



What is Expected of a Resource Family?

- A monthly visit of 2 - 4 hours. You might plan a family picnic, bowling, or some other activity. Or just welcome your child into your home and into your life. These children need to see how a healthy family functions. (Visits may become longer and more frequent if you wish.)

Don't buy gifts for your child (except for special occasions), to avoid setting expectations that can't be met.

- Have each visit approved in advance by the child's counselor.
- Have at least two family members present at all visits.
- Complete a Visit Evaluation Form after each visit so we can help to make sure everything is going well for you and your child.
- Bring your questions and concerns to the child's counselor. We want this to work for you and your child!
- In case of emergency
 - notify Salem
 - take your child to the emergency room