

# CAREPORTAL

## HOW IT WORKS

CarePortal exists to help vulnerable children and families.

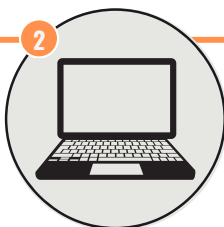
It connects people and churches to the needs of foster children and hurting families in our community.



Case workers in child serving agencies encounter needs of children in crisis.

Needs often include:

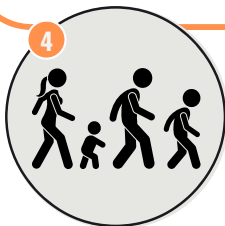
- Diapers, beds, furniture, clothes
- Home repair/yard work help
- Financial assistance for utilities, transportation or supplies
- Social support or relationships



Case workers enter vetted needs into CarePortal, which immediately makes local churches in the community aware of them.



Mercy's CarePortal team, other area churches, individuals, and businesses have the opportunity to respond to the need in real time.



Volunteers are mobilized to meet the accepted need.

Response team members and families may choose to form an ongoing relationship to provide continued support.

### Impact

Direct support is given to families in crisis, relationships are formed and positive interactions occur between the church and the community.

Responses help strengthen or reunify a biological family, improve a child's wellbeing, prevent a child from entering foster care, assist in making a kinship or adoptive placement, or support a youth aging out of foster care.

# CAREPORTAL IN OUR COMMUNITY

## VIRGINIA FOSTER CARE STATISTICS\*

5500+



Children in Virginia currently in foster care. 45% are age 14 or older.

21 MONTHS



The average length of time a child stays in foster care in Virginia. 29% return to their birth family.

1700+



Number of children in foster care awaiting an adoptive family. 35% are under age 5 and 30% are over age 13.

19%



Children who exit foster care each year by aging out at 18 **without** a permanent home. This is one of the highest rates in the nation.

80%



Foster youth that become homeless or incarcerated within 2 years of aging out. 20% become instantly homeless upon aging out.

## CAREPORTAL IMPACT IN VIRGINIA

Every time you respond, whether you meet physical or relational needs, you help children and families in one of nine ways:

### Support

Improve a child's well being

**231 children**

Strengthen a biological family

**355 children**

Support youth aging out of foster care

**1 children**

### Preserve

Help prevent a child from entering care

**59 children**

Help preserve foster/kinship placement

**60 children**

Help preserve an adoptive placement

**3 children**

### Unite

Help reunify a biological family

**104 children**

Help place a child in foster/kinship care

**54 children**

Help unite a child with an adoptive family

**3 children**

**983**

CHILDREN SERVED SO FAR

**\$331,644**

ECONOMIC IMPACT

TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT [MERCYPRES.ORG/CAREPORTAL](https://www.mercypres.org/careportal)