

# SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

How can you as a member of Immanuel provide support?

**“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2**

At Immanuel, we think of fostering and adopting as an opportunity for all of us to make the real Jesus non-ignorable by making Immanuel an endlessly hospitable and generous place for families involved in foster care or adoption. We see an example of communities of support banding around people doing work that the Lord has called them to in Nehemiah 4. In this passage, Judah was called by the Lord through the prophet Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The builders of the wall faced much opposition and **“the strength of those who bear the burdens is failing**. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall” (4:10). As a result, the Jews who lived nearby returned to the area, and Nehemiah stationed them at the base of the wall “with their swords, their spears, and their bows” (4:13) to protect those who were building the wall and he told them to **“remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes”** (4:14).

We model our support after this passage. Many Immanuel families are called to do the hard work of fostering and adopting. These families are committed to this work, but their strength can often fail by the weight of the burdens from this huge undertaking. As a part of a family’s system of support you have the privilege of defending those doing the hard work of fostering and adoption by bearing one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2).. And all the while, we remember the greatness of our God, pressing on diligently to the work that He has called us to.

**Below are some specific opportunities:**

## 1. Pray

Praying is the most significant way that you can intercede for families who are engaging in foster care or adoption. [Check out this link for a guide](#) for specific ways to pray for children in foster care or adoption, fostering or adoptive families, biological families, the system of foster care and adoption, and for Immanuel as we support children in foster care and/or adoption.

## 2. Join a Community Group

- Community groups are the most direct and impactful route for loving and supporting other members of Immanuel. If you want to love and support a family who is fostering, join a community group and get to know the families in your group, love them sacrificially, and seek them out as you live your lives together:  
<https://immanuelnashville.com/groups>
- Become a [Family Partner](#)
  - Family partners are a family’s go-to support person and are typically connected through Immanuel Community Groups. We want to take the burden off the family for reaching out for help - that’s where the family partner comes in! Our hopes for this role include weekly check-ins, distributing needs to your community group or to Immanuel as a whole, training and/or learning how to specifically love fostering/adoptive families.

## 3. Join the Immanuel Foster and Adoption Care email list

- Sign up at <https://immanuelnashville.com/groups> (scroll to the bottom of the page). By joining the CCB group you will have access to important emails that are sent out, need requests that arise, meal trains, and prayer opportunities.
- Help meet needs when they come across your email. Note that CCB emails sometimes go to your “Junk” file, so you may have to change some settings.
- Attend our monthly lunch gatherings which are a time of fellowship and encouragement. This is a great way to get plugged in and get to know families, their journeys, and where support opportunities could be! You could also provide child care for monthly meetings.

#### 4. Provide Specialized Support

- Join the list of people at Immanuel who can provide specialized support by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/gxRVTwm3bRf2NAaMA>
- Specific needs that families at Immanuel have right now include:
  - Trauma informed child care and respite care
  - Medical and mental healthcare
  - Exceptional education training

#### 5. Help financially

Finances can be one of the greatest fears and barriers for families wanting to adopt. While adoption in particular can be quite costly, there are costs associated with paperwork, home studies, and kid-specific needs across the board for programs. Supporting a family financially in their adoption journey, or for support once a child has been placed is a huge blessing.

- Many adopting families create fundraising pages — these will be posted on CCB
- Gift cards (**Target, Wal-mart, and Amazon**) are welcomed to help cover specific needs that arise for home studies and once a child is placed (bedroom furniture, clothing, car seats).
- If you are gifted in fundraising, event planning, and rallying groups of people, our families would love your help

#### 6. Learn: Educate yourself about how to intentionally care for families



*Tennessee Kids Belong Training* (1-hour Video at the bottom of the website; [powerpoint slides](#)): helpful for those in close relationships with the family or who may be interacting with the child/children directly. Also consider checking out this powerpoint with lots of great tips.

[https://americaskidsbelong.org/lp/tn\\_foster-family-wrap-resources/](https://americaskidsbelong.org/lp/tn_foster-family-wrap-resources/)



*Show Hope's Conferences and Resources*: A great place to start for a helpful list of books (for parents, support folks, and children), articles, and DVD materials, ShowHope Conference and training information

<https://showhope.org/recommended-resources/>