



Weekend Miracles Program

WEEKEND MIRACLES PROGRAM & ADVOCACY HANDBOOK

KIDSAVE®

www.kidsave.org
1-888-KIDSAVE



100 Corporate Pointe, Suite 380
Oulver Qty, CA 90230
T 310.642.7283 | F 310.641.7283

4622 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 202
Washington, DC 20016
T 202.503.3100 | F 202.503.3131

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Weekend
Miracles
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Los Angeles Weekend Miracles Host Family Agreement

Dear Host Family:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a host family for Kidsave's Los Angeles Weekend Miracles program. As a host family, you will serve as a responsible parent(s) for the Kidsave Los Angeles child during weekend and school holiday visits, providing encouragement and support, advocacy, transportation, and opportunities to participate in planned program activities. You will allow the child to spend designated weekends and school holidays in your home, and maintain the child's routine (i.e., homework, extra-curricular activities).

Kidsave's mission is to give every child in our community the opportunity to grow up in a permanent, loving family or develop a long term, stable adult mentoring relationship. Weekend Miracles provides children with a unique experience to share weekends and school holidays with a local host family who will partner with the child to introduce him/her to the host family's network (e.g., family, friends, co-workers) in order to help find him/her a permanent, adoptive home. The goal of the weekend visits is to find a permanent home by creating connections between each child and a family in the community.

In an effort to outline what is expected of you as a host family, the following information lists the roles and responsibilities of the Host Family and of the Kidsave Los Angeles Weekend Miracles program. We understand that there are many steps to complete before hosting a child. This is because each child is a dependent of the court, and the State of California requires that specific standards be met for a child to stay in a host family's home. Please do not feel overwhelmed. **Kidsave will help you through this process!** Please review this agreement carefully before signing it and returning it to Kidsave. If you have any questions regarding the content, direct your questions to Lauren Reicher-Gordon, (310) 642-7283, lauren@kidsave.org.

HOST FAMILY'S ROLE

Preparation

The role of the Kidsave host family is extremely important to the program. The requirements below will help host families prepare for a successful hosting experience.

- Attend Kidsave's a Los Angeles Weekend Miracles Orientation meeting.
- Training: Attend 12 hours of Kidsave Los Angeles Weekend Miracles Host Training and the two-hour Program & Advocacy Training. If you would like to adopt, attend 33 hour of PS-MAPP or PRIDE training through your fost-adopt family agency or the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). Submit a copy of your MAPP/PRIDE certification and attend Kidsave's two-hour Program & Advocacy Training.
- Complete live scan for anyone 18 years and older living in your household. Kidsave will submit a live scan request on your behalf after the Kidsave Weekend Miracles Host application is filled out.
- If you want to adopt, obtain your fost-adopt license by contacting a foster & adoption agency or call the DCFS foster care & adoptions assistance hotline at 1-800-697-4444.
- If you have a current fost-adopt license, you will need to provide a copy of your current license/certification.
- Meet with the DCFS Kidsave CSW to complete a "home visit report." This face-to-face home visit will address your suitability to host, and answer any individual questions or concerns you may have about being a host parent.
- Review the recommended reading list, and thoroughly read through your Host Family Handbook and Agreement and Profile of the Older Foster Care Child.
- Ensure that all required documents are signed and submitted to Kidsave.
- Prepare and educate immediate and extended family members about your host child(ren).

Host Family Responsibilities

- **Host the child** for a minimum of two weekends or days a month, for a minimum of one year.
- **Advocate** - The most vital responsibility you have as a host family is your commitment to advocate for your host child -- with the goal of finding him or her a permanent adoptive family. DCFS social workers determine the appropriateness of potential adoptive families for the child; but your contacts, knowledge, and assistance is very valuable and critical to your host child finding a family. Your role is to help recruit families that seem to have a real interest in adopting the child, or helping in other ways. As you find people who wish to engage with the program, you should direct them to the Kidsave staff.

You are required to organize and support activities that will give your host child opportunities to meet potential families. Some recruitment activities can include the following:

- Include the child in your daily family routine and activities
- Attend block parties
- Picnics
- Sporting activities
- Take the child to your place of faith
- Provide LA Weekend Miracles information to your place of faith for news bulletins
- Invite a group of people to your home for a gathering

- Tell your friends about the child
 - Social or civic organization newsletters
 - Job newsletter or e-mail link
 - E-mails to family, friends, coworkers, etc.
 - Participate in speaking engagements about the Weekend Miracles program
 - Arrange play dates with friends and relatives
 - Plan volunteer activities for the children (helping elderly, raking leaves, etc.)
- Provide a safe, nurturing and stable home experience for your host child.
 - Attend scheduled Kidsave Los Angeles events.
 - Transport your host child to activities arranged by Kidsave Los Angeles
 - Interact with the child's foster family to make arrangements for visits. Pick up and return your host child for visits. Ensure that your host child returns to the foster placement as scheduled.
 - Maintain confidentiality about the child's sensitive information.
 - Maintain regular contact with Kidsave staff. Alert them regarding any problems, concerns or needs with your host child.
 - Familiarize yourself with the medical procedures, if your host child is in need of medical assistance.
 - Understand that corporal punishment is prohibited. Use of corporal punishment with your host child will lead to termination from the program.
 - Attend support groups for host families.
 - Do not contact school, take out of state, or start overnight visits without consulting the appropriate professionals.
 - Complete on-line Weekly Reports on your host child after each host visit.
 - Agree to allow Kidsave to share information regarding your host child to professionals, volunteers and interested families that can play a part in advocating for them with the goal of finding a permanent, adoptive family.
 - Be patient with your host child and understand the magnitude of the adjustment for him/her.
 - If for some reason you are unable to have your host child visit on an arranged weekend, immediately notify by phone the child's current care giver, the Kidsave CSW, and Kidsave staff.
 - Advise Kidsave if you are considering the adoption of your host child
 - Kidsave has a written procedure for employees, volunteers and hosts to report disclosure, suspicions or allegations of child abuse. For Weekend Miracles, the procedure is to immediately call LA County's Child Protection Hotline at **(800) 540-4000** to report the disclosure, allegation or suspicion and to inform the Director of Weekend Miracles, who advises the responsible DCFS authority.

YOUR Financial Responsibilities as a host family include:

- Providing food and care during the visits. This includes transportation and activities.
- Cost of certification of CPR and First Aid.
- Cost of TB test for every household member age 3 years and older.
- Photo memory book of weekend visits for your host child.

Host families are encouraged to keep in mind that after your weekend visits, the children must make the transition back into their foster homes. Lavish gifts will cause problems. Host families may buy things for the child, but need to do so modestly, or in collaboration with the Kidsave staff and foster family.

Paperwork Responsibilities

- Complete Host Family Application and submit it to Kidsave. Application can be mailed to the Kidsave's LA office (100 Corporate Pointe Suite 380 Culver City, CA 90230)
 - Review, sign and submit Host Family Agreement.
 - Submit Authorization for Release and Reciprocal Exchange of Information to Kidsave.
 - Review Client's Rights document and sign and submit signature page to Kidsave.
 - Review Release Form to Use Likeness, sign, and submit to Kidsave.
 - Review Confidentiality Agreement, sign, and submit to Kidsave.
 - Review Vehicle Agreement, sign, and submit to Kidsave.
- Provide proof of automobile insurance, car registration, and driver's license
- Submit TB test results (must be less than two years old) and CPR/First Aid certifications (must be less than two years old)
- Complete on-line Weekly Reports about your host child after each host visit.

KIDSAVE and DCFS WEEKEND MIRACLES ROLES

Kidsave:

- Identifies host families and volunteers who have the potential to be successful in the Weekend Miracles program.
- Coordinates monthly advocacy events for children, host families, and prospective adoptive parents to ensure permanency planning and adoption for children without families in our community.
- Introduces children who don't have identified families to families who are interested in either adopting them or helping them find adoptive families. Link families interested in adoption with children who need families.
- Recruits, guides, supports and motivates community and volunteers
- Provides and/or oversees host families' education, training, preparation and orientation for the Weekend Miracles program to help prepare host families for the experience.
- Facilitates initial contact and introductory meeting between the host family, foster family and child.
- Provides host families with ideas for recruitment of potential adoptive families.
- Provides a Host Family Handbook designed to help prepare host families for the hosting experience.
- Provides Welcome Orientation meeting for participating children.
- Oversees the facilitation of support groups for children and host families.
- Builds partnerships with civic, social, fraternal, and faith-based organizations
- Financial support of the program through fundraising activities.
- Contact host families on a regular basis to provide assistance introducing host children to potential adoptive families

DCFS:

- Identifies children who have the potential to be successful in the Weekend Miracles program.

- Provides Live-Scan and child abuse clearance service.
- Approves family for hosting.
- Provides relevant information about the child to the host family.
- Provides case management services for the child.
- Has monthly contact with the child.
- Prepares the child for hosting experience.
- Assures that each child who participates in the Weekend Miracles program is available for adoption.
- Prepares the child for adoption when applicable.
- Completes an Adoption Home study when applicable.

Kidsave and DCFS:

- Advocate for children who need families.
- Provide support and crisis intervention to all Kidsave children and host families
- Commit to program improvement in response to feedback host families and program participants
- Publicize the need for adoptive families
- Provide assistance and support to families who are interested in adoption.

Kidsave Los Angeles children may present with some of the following behaviors, including, but not limited to:

- Learning disabilities
- Developmental delays
- Delayed/retarded growth and development
- History of trauma, loss, physical and/or sexual abuse, neglect and abandonment
- Neurological impairments
- Sensory integration problems
- Speech and language delays
- Emotional and behavioral problems
- Psychiatric history
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE)
- Nutritional deficits
- Attachment problems
- Undetected health concerns
- Inadequate medical and dental care

Although DCFS identifies and screens children likely to succeed in the Weekend Miracles program, it is impossible to predict how they will make the transition to a host family setting. These are older children with life experiences that have affected them.

We cannot guarantee that the weekend hosting experience will be without complications. Kidsave Los Angeles Weekend Miracles staff and The Los Angeles County Department of

Children and Family Services (DCFS) staff will work with host families and assist them with the hosting experience.

Families who are interested in adopting their host child should discuss this with the Kidsave staff.

Weekend Miracles Host Family Agreement

My/our signature acknowledges that I/we have read and understand the terms of the Host Family Agreement, and I/we agree to abide by its terms and conditions.

I/we understand that neither Kidsave, its governmental partners, the coordinator, nor the local volunteer committee can be held responsible for any problems my/our host child(ren) may have or cause. I/we understand that the information Kidsave has given to me/us about the host child(ren) is provided by governmental partners, and Kidsave is not able to determine its accuracy or sufficiency.

I/We agree to cooperate with Kidsave and its governmental partners to do nothing to stop this or any other Weekend Miracles host child from meeting other families during the visit.

I/we acknowledge that a child may be moved to a different home if:

- (1) I/we violate any terms or conditions of this Host Family Agreement,
- (2) The child is directed to move by the governmental partners, or
- (3) It is determined it is in the best interests of the child to be moved.

I/We further acknowledge that I/we may also ask Kidsave Weekend Miracles to remove the child from my/our home.

My/our signature further constitutes my/our agreement to hold Kidsave, its governmental partners, and the volunteer coordinators harmless from any claim or cause of action whatsoever, resulting from the host child(ren)'s and/or my/our participation in this program, including but not limited to:

- All matters directly or indirectly related in any way to the host child/children, his/her weekend placement, his/her health, psychological, learning or behavioral issues.
- Any costs or damages arising from any change of government policy, additional document requirements for hosting which were heretofore not a requirement, war, terrorism, force majeure, acts of God or natural disasters.

Host Family Member 1 (Print)

Host Family Member 2 (Print)

Host Family Member 1 (**Signature**)

Host Family Member 2 (**Signature**)

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Criteria for Host Family

The GOAL of the **Kidsave Weekend Miracles Program** is to prepare individuals and families to become Host families. Host families who make good decisions and grow in their new roles provide the best partnerships to help children and youth have stability and permanence with a family.

As successful Host parents you must be able to:

1. Know your own family.
Assess your individual and family strengths and needs; build on strengths and meet needs.
2. Communicate effectively.
Use and develop communication skills needed to host, foster or adopt.
3. Know the children.
Identify the strengths and needs of children/youth who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, and/or emotionally maltreated.
4. Build strengths; meet needs.
Build on the strengths and meet the needs of the children/youth who are matched with you.
5. Work in partnership.
Develop partnerships with children/youth, birth families, the agency, and the community to develop and carry out plans for permanency.
6. Be loss and attachment experts.
Help children and youth develop skills to manage loss and attachment.
7. Manage behaviors.
Help children/youth manage behaviors.
8. Build connections.
Help children/youth maintain and develop relationships that keep them connected to their pasts.
9. Build self-esteem.
Help children/youth build on positive self-concept and positive family, cultural and racial identity.
10. Assure health and safety.
Provide a healthy and safe environment for children/youth and keep them free from harm.
11. Assess impact.
Assess the ways hosting will affect your family.
12. Make an informed decision.
Make an informed decision to host, foster or adopt.

Report

Submission for form Weekend Miracles Host Family Weekend Report at 09/08/2011 1:15 AM

First Name: Host

Last Name: Family

Phone: 555-5555

Your E-mail: hostfamily@gmail.com

Weekend Miracles Child Name: Child A

Date(s) of Visit(s) in Your Home: 10/5/2010 (not in home)

Hours: ~4

1. What did you and your host child do together?

I brought Child A a digital camera to have. We went to the bowling alley and bowled a couple games while he took pictures with the camera. We stopped at the local library to show him how to charge it with a computer and USB camera (unfortunately he was denied access due to overdue books). Then we went to a nice sit-down Mexican restaurant in San Dimas. We both ate lots and he took a lot of pictures there too.

2. How do you think the visit went?

I think it was a great start to the mentorship. I was glad to see Child A so engaged taking pictures. It was nice to commemorate the occasion with a nice meal and he was really amazed with the meal. We connected, which I feel like we always do, and we had fun.

3. How did the child respond? Did s/he enjoy/participate/engage with you?

He was super present and engaged. For the briefest moment bowling he seemed to get frustrated, but not in an unusual way - he was presumably just upset because he had not scored so well for a few bowls. He was engaged with the camera, the activities and with me at the meal and everywhere else. He was also incredibly respectful to the wait staff at the restaurant - I was really proud!!

4. Did you learn anything new or special about your child during this visit?

He informed me that he heard from his mom that "his dad was a photographer before he went to jail". He told me that he was on D list because he bit somebody last week when they were putting their foot in his face. (We talked about how important it was to never behave in any violent way like that towards anybody, even if it seems silly like biting.) When we were at the public library we learned that his account was on hold because he had \$140 in lost/overdue books on his record. He was given a list of the books.

5. How did your host child respond to your family members? Were there any difficulties?

n/a

6. Do you have any concerns regarding your host child's behavior and attitude during the visit? I think it's important that Child A take responsibility for those books and regains access to the library. I sent Guardian X a heads up about the issue.

7. Do you have any unmet needs for support? Are there any concerns you would like to discuss with the social worker? no

8. Please provide best time to reach you and preferred method of contact (email, phone, etc.): email – hostfamily@gmail.com phone – 555-5555

9. Are you involved in any planned interventions or activities on behalf of your child (i.e. behavior plan, IEP)? What was the outcome this week? : No

10. What advocacy efforts have you engaged in this week?

I have taken off most of my shift to take Child A to an adoption fair. I also arranged for him to spend a few hours at my work afterwards, where he can get to know some people in that community - I think he could feel a real connection there as there are a lot of families, a heavy Hispanic influence, and the salon owner has 4 adopted children with his partner.

11. Is there someone you would like Kidsave staff to contact on the child's behalf? If so, please provide name(s) and contact information: No

12. What is the date of your next planned meeting?

Nov. 1 for the Adoption Fair. At that time we plan to schedule our next outing.

Confidentiality Guidelines for Kidsave Host Families

The role of the host family is to advocate for the child and partner with them in finding an adoptive home.

Host families CAN share with others:

- Their experiences in hosting the child in their home
- Child's likes and dislikes
- The child's behavior in the home
- Impressions of the child's personality
- The child's interaction with siblings or others in the home
- The child's grade in school
- The child's family composition (if part of a sibling set)

Host families CANNOT share with others:

- Identifying information about the child's family or prior caregivers
- Information about child's background (details about the abuse history)
- Information about the child's placement history
- The child's legal information
- The child's medical information
- The child's psychological evaluations or diagnoses
- Anything that the child discloses in confidence (which does not include current abuse or risk of abuse in the current placement)

Please Note: Kidsave has a written procedure for employees, volunteers and hosts to report disclosure, suspicions or allegations of child abuse. For Weekend Miracles, the procedure is: (1) to immediately call Los Angeles County's Child Protection Hotline at **(800) 540-4000** to report the disclosure, allegation or suspicion; and (2) to inform the Director of the Weekend Miracles program, who advises the responsible DCFS authority.

Host Name
Address, City, State ZIP
CELL PHONE – E MAIL
DATE

Contact Name
Company Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip

Dear _____,

After _____ INSERT WHAT STARTED YOU ON THIS JOURNEY, my family has decided to take a bold step. Starting _____ we will become the Kidsave “host family” for NAME, a ___-year-old BOY/GIRL who lives IN FOSTER CARE/OR A GROUP HOME and is in need of a permanent family. NAME, lives in foster care during the week. Our role, on the weekends, is to be a bridge for NAME and to try to help HIM/HER find an adoptive family and/or a lasting mentor.

We are hoping that by introducing NAME to our friends and others in the community we will provide HIM/HER with the opportunity to find the person who will be a lifelong part of HIS/HER life.

_____ is a _____ TELL SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE CHILD.

The nature of the Kidsave program is to get the word out on kids who are usually hidden from view. We welcome stories about the kids in the media to attract families who might be interested in them. I would appreciate it if you could do a story on HIM/HER and help us get the word out about this amazing child who needs help.

Additionally Kidsave hosts events once a month so that people can meet kids in their program. The next event is _____ at _____ and NAME and I will be there.

My family and I are so excited to be involved. We take so much for granted when we grow up with parents who care. I hope through our efforts NAME will meet someone that HE/SHE can eventually call mom and dad.

I will do whatever I can to help you do a story on NAME. A photo of is attached. Please let me know if you have any questions I can answer for you.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

Weekend Miracles Key Message Points

- Approximately 107,000 children are in foster care waiting to be adopted. Unfortunately, the older kids are almost always left behind. It's NOT OK. We know that kids who grow up as permanent members of a family or permanently connected to stable and safe adults have a better chance of success than kids without families or dependable connections.
- Kidsave has tested a Family Visit Program in Los Angeles, that gives kids age 9-18 the chance to meet families who support the child in finding an adoptive family or permanent connection.
- The kids we help are the hardest to place, the children that have little to no hope of finding a permanent family. Most live in group homes and some live with foster parents who are not willing or able to adopt them.
- Kids in the program spend two weekends a month in host families. Hosts get to know the children and introduce the children to people who might be interested in adoption or mentoring, and help the children find adoptive families.
- The youth experience, sometimes for the first time, adults who aren't paid to take care of them – who helps them because they care. Over time youth begin to open up and trust their hosts. TALK ABOUT A SPECIFIC CHILD -- THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE CHILD – WHAT DO YOU THINK IS SPECIAL ABOUT THE CHILD THAT WILL APPEAL TO OTHERS. WHY IS IT NICE TO HELP AN OLDER CHILD?
- People interested in learning more about the program should contact the host at _____ , or visit www.kidsave.org or email JessicaP@kidsave.org.

ABOUT KIDSAVE

- Kidsave is the gold standard for orphan and foster care hosting programs program as we have been refined the Family Visit Model over the past 17 years. By using Family Visits Kidsave's offers states, counties and child welfare professionals nationwide the opportunity to multiply their success finding permanent connections for older kids.

My Advocacy Resources

Family:

- Prepare a family dinner to introduce your family to your host child.
- Ask for their help in advocating
- Ask them to inquire with colleagues and friends about their interest in adoption

Work:

- Place host child's picture on your desk
- Place advocacy flyer on bulletin board
- Discuss Kidsave & the host-child with co-workers
- Invite Kidsave to present during a "brown bag" lunch
- Write a story for the company newsletter/ e-newsletter
- Ask your Human Resources department to post a Kidsave event on your company's intranet – do so consistently

Local media:

- Get a local reporter to cover Kidsave, your hosting experience or a weekend event
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper
- Contact your cable company; announce a community event or the need for families to their Public Access channel

Place of worship:

- Place a story/advocacy flyers in the weekly bulletin
- Attend BBQs and other functions with your host child
- Ask the priest/Rabbi to announce a weekend event during services
- Host Kidsave booth
- Present at your congregation (or ask Kidsave staff to make the presentation)

Community/volunteer groups (sorority, golf, Rotary, book club, fitness class):

- Share advocacy flyers with members
- Encourage members to spread the word
- Join a community/volunteer group to participate in an activity with your host child

Kidsave events:

- Attend as many as possible and introduce yourself and child to other families
- Invite families, friends, and coworkers who are interested in adoption or the Kidsave program to attend events

Neighbors:

- Inform your neighbors about the program and the child who will be spending a lot of time in the neighborhood
- Ask them if they know anyone interested in adoption
- Provide them your advocacy flyers and ask to help distribute
- Attend neighborhood picnics and other functions with your host child.
- Invite neighbors/friends into your home; discuss the Kidsave hosting experience

Local school:

- Bring up your efforts with PTA
- Attend sports events (e.g., soccer, baseball); talk with families
- Meet with the principal and inquire to discuss with staff about the need/adoption

Personal:

- Add a signature line about hosting to e-mails

Neighborhood:

- Post events/Kidsave flyers at your local library, grocery stores, doctor's office, schools, real estate agencies, health clubs, coffee houses, delis, museums, and any local business.
- Attend local community events (e.g., farmers' markets, community fairs, etc.) and distribute flyers at a Kidsave booth.

Social media

- Make a Facebook page advocating for your host child
- Tweet about Kidsave and your host child
- Create a blog discussing your Kidsave journey and your host child's need to find an adoptive family

Reach out to Kidsave Host Families:

- Plan "Pocket Parties" together!
- Do they know families looking for a child like your host child?
- Ask for their advice and support

Family:

- Prepare a family dinner to introduce your family to your host child.
- Ask for their help in advocating
- Ask them to inquire with colleagues and friends about their interest in adoption

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- Present at your congregation (or ask Kidsave staff to make the presentation)

Community/Volunteer Groups:

- (Sorority, Golf, Rotary, Book Club, Fitness class)
- Share advocacy flyers with members

Neighbors:

- Inform your neighbors about the program and the child who will be spending a lot of time in the neighborhood
- Ask them if they know anyone interested in adoption
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- Attend neighborhood picnics and other functions with your host child.
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- Tweet about Kidsave and your host child
- Create a blog discussing your Kidsave journey and your host child's need to find an adoptive family

- Encourage members to spread the word
- Join a community/volunteer group to participate in an activity with your host child

Kidsave Events:

- Attend as many as possible and introduce yourself and child to other families
- Invite families, friends, and coworkers who are interested in adoption or the Kidsave program to attend events

Reach out to Kidsave Host Families:

- Plan “Pocket Parties” together!
- Do they know families looking for a child like your host child?
- Ask for their advice and support

Role Play Example #1 Workplace

Person #1

Hey, how was your weekend?

Host Parent

It was great! I'm actually currently spending time with a child who is looking for a family to adopt him. We spent Saturday playing basketball, and then we cooked a great dinner together. It was nice to be able to share some time with him.

Person #1

Oh wow...so you guys just hang out? Where does he live right now?

Host Parent

He lives with a foster family. He was referred to the organization I work with, Kidsave, by the LA County Department of Children and Family Services, as a child who wants to be adopted. So I am not only a mentor to him, but I'm also advocating to find him an adoptive family – getting the word out so others are made aware of him and his desire for adoption.

Person #1

That sounds great – what's his name?

Host Parent

His name is Tony. He is such a character and so fun to be around!

Person #1

Well I'll definitely help get the word out!

Host Parent

Thanks! I will email you his advocacy flyer. Please share it with your network and post it to your Facebook page too! We can even get together so you can meet him. I am thinking of going hiking. Want to come along?

Role Play Example #2

"Nosey Neighbor"

Neighbor

"Who is that child staying in your home? Where did you meet her? She doesn't look like any of the other family members that I have met, plus she called you by your first name. I know that I wouldn't let my nieces or nephews talk to me that way."

Host Parent

"This is Rachel. She is sharing the weekend with me and my family. Rachel is a great kid. I spend time with her doing the things that families do. She fits right in. She'll meet some of my friends and family and hopefully someone will step forward who is interested in giving her a permanent home. "

Neighbor

"Why don't you adopt her?"

Host Parent

"My role is to help Rachel come into contact with as many people as possible in my circle of friends and family, and to advocate to help Rachel identify a permanent home. I became involved to help her find a loving, stable family. I'm not going to be her parent, but I can help her find one."

Role Play Example #3
"Are You Going To Adopt Me?"

Host Child

I really had fun with you today. I have actually had fun with you the last couple of times.

Host Parent

Me too.

Host Child

Have you ever thought about spending more time having fun together than 2 times a week?

Host Parent

Amanda, if there is a time that you wanted to meet more than 2 times a month, I would be happy to see if I am free.

Host Child

Actually Celia, I was wondering if you have ever thought about adopting a kid. Maybe adopting me. I promise that I wouldn't be much of a problem. I would be good all the time.

Host Parent

Amanda, I love our time together. You are a wonderful young lady and an adoptive parent would be lucky to adopt you. Unfortunately, right now my life is so busy between our visits that I know that I wouldn't be able to spend the time with you that every child deserves. I became a Host family because I wanted to spend special time with you, and hopefully help find the best adopted family that you deserve. Would it be OK with you if we still meet 2 times a month? I would love that.

**Host Family Advocacy Worksheet
Four Month Goal Outlook**

Goal Month 1: _____

Did I accomplish this goal? _____

Goal Month 2: _____

Did I accomplish this goal? _____

Goal Month 3: _____

Did I accomplish this goal? _____

Goal Month 4: _____

Did I accomplish this goal? _____

Advocacy Materials Needed:

- Advocacy Flyer
- Picture of my host child and my family

**Kidsave Weekend Miracles Program
Hosting Month 1**

Month Goal: _____

Plan Week 1: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 2: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 3: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 4: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Month's advocacy efforts:

Month's accomplishments:

Did I meet any potential families?

Observations of Month:

**Kidsave Weekend Miracles Program
Hosting Month 2**

Month Goal: _____

Plan Week 1: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 2: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 3: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 4: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Month's advocacy efforts:

Month's accomplishments:

Did I meet any potential families?

Observations of Month:

**Kidsave Weekend Miracles Program
Hosting Month 3**

Month Goal: _____

Plan Week 1: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 2: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 3: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 4: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Month's advocacy efforts:

Month's accomplishments:

Did I meet any potential families?

Observations of Month:

**Kidsave Weekend Miracles Program
Hosting Month 4**

Month Goal: _____

Plan Week 1: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 2: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 3: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Plan Week 4: _____

Accomplishment: _____

Month's advocacy efforts:

Month's accomplishments:

Did I meet any potential families?

Observations of Month:
