



Foster Care FAQ

Q: Who does Miracle Hill serve?

A: Everyone! For the entirety of Miracle Hill's 81-year existence, we have served every man, woman, and child who walked through our doors needing food, shelter, clothing, addiction counseling, and even a family. We're here to share the love and the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone—no exceptions. That's always been true of us, and it always will be. That's why we:

- Serve more than 3,000 individuals in our 9 shelters each year.
- Help hundreds of foster children each year by, among other things, encouraging individuals and families to be licensed by the state as foster parents and to provide a loving home for any child in which the state may place a foster child.
- Provide residential recovery centers for men and women seeking to overcome life-dominating addictions
- Operate eight thrift stores to provide funds for the ministry programs and work-training skills for the men and women enrolled in Miracle Hill's recovery programs.

Q: Who does Miracle Hill partner with?

A: Again, everyone! Everyone who wants to help us serve others can find many ways to join the effort at Miracle Hill. From feeding the hungry in our men's and women's shelters to beautifying the grounds at our children's shelters, there's a place for anyone who wants to help Miracle Hill spread the love and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Q: What about news reports that Miracle Hill is discriminatory?

A: Those reports are incorrect. We serve everyone and we partner with everyone. The only limitation is that we're a *Christian* ministry, and thus people who serve with Miracle Hill in positions of spiritual leadership or authority must embrace our Christian faith. We can't *share* the Good News if we don't *believe* the Good News! That's not just common sense, it's also protected by the First Amendment. And it's good for society, since it allows lots of different groups to serve their neighbors without disobeying their God.

Q: Would Miracle Hill turn away Jews or Catholics or other religious individuals who wanted to serve?

A: Never. Everyone is welcome to help us serve others. And while people who don't embrace our Christian faith obviously wouldn't be a good fit for Christian leadership roles at Miracle Hill, such as in our foster-care and mentoring programs, we will *always* be happy to help connect them to partner organizations where they can serve in those kinds of roles. We *want* folks like that to find a good place to serve. And, thankfully, there are lots of good organizations in the Upstate we can recommend—in part because we work with them regularly in a variety of ways to serve our Upstate community together!

Q: How does Miracle Hill serve foster children?

A: Miracle Hill encourages families and individuals to consider becoming foster parents. For those who believe that God is calling them to that service, we encourage them to apply to the state Department of Social Services to be licensed as a foster family. When the state chooses to place a foster child in a home that partners with Miracle Hill, we provide practical, logistical, emotional, and spiritual support to the foster family. Among other things, we help ensure the family treats their foster children with Christian love and respect, including by accommodating the religious needs and preferences of the foster children and their biological parents.

Q: Is Miracle Hill limiting access to foster care opportunities?

A: No! There are many ways that adults can help provide foster care in South Carolina. We're just one of many private, non-profit agencies that recruit and support foster families in the Upstate (and across the state). Additionally, anyone who wants to foster can do so directly through the South Carolina Department of Social Services, which has offices in every county of the state. Allowing organizations like Miracle Hill to participate in training and supporting foster families *increases* foster care opportunities by activating faith communities to get involved to meet the needs of Upstate children. The more, the better!