

Overview

Thornwell is a diverse, non-profit ministry serving children and families across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina with a family-centered continuum of care.

For more than 145 years, Thornwell has met the call to care for and support children and families in need. Today, the same spirit that guided our Founder to create a home for children orphaned by war guides us to provide hope and healing for some of society's most vulnerable. We believe in a world where everyone belongs to a thriving family, and this belief guides everything we do to heal and build up children and families.

Thornwell's mission to prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and strengthen healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ is carried out daily by its Board of Trustees and staff. This mission comes to life on Thornwell's residential foster care and educational campus in Clinton, South Carolina, throughout the Upstate of South Carolina with foster care services, and across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina where evidence-based programs are offered by Master's level, licensed therapists who partner with children and families to give them the tools they need to build healthy relationships and strong bonds for the future. Thornwell's offerings align with State and Federal guidelines and are designed to empower children and families to live their best lives.

We desire professional and deeply committed, ministry-minded people who believe in accepting the challenge of working with children and families from hard places. If you are interested in serving God by serving children and families, we invite you to apply.

We are seeking Foster Care Family Support Specialists to assist with licensing foster homes according to the Child Placing Agency regulations and provide family support and case management services to foster families and children placed in their homes.

Core Responsibilities

- Process foster family applications within required time frames (references, SLED, CPS check, medicals, fingerprinting, inspections by Fire Marshall).
- Conduct Home Study for foster care applicants at the time of licensure and re-licensure.
- Schedule and visit each foster home in your caseload every 4 to 6 weeks.
- Provide unannounced/limited notice visit 2 times per year.
- Maintain foster parent files with required documentation and case notes using electronic system and hard copy files as appropriate.
- Ensure each licensed home is regularly in compliance with licensing procedures.
- Assist with recruitment events and activities.
- Communicate regularly with the Community Based Programs Coordinator and the Foster Care Director to ensure that any concerns regarding foster families and children are addressed in a timely manner.
- Provide support for foster parents and be an advocate for children.

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's degree in social services, psychology, or related field (required)
- Direct experience working within community-based case management field and direct foster care experience (strongly preferred)
- Valid driver's license in the state of SC (required)
- Adoption certification is a plus

Skills

- Experience working with youth with emotional and behavioral challenges and their families.
- Strong communication skills.
- Ability to organize, prioritize, and implement work activities independently.
- Strong team building skills; and desire to grow professionally.
- Effective problem solving and creative resolution skills.
- Strong capacity to build positive relationships with community stakeholders and market the Foster Care program to appropriate sources within the state.

Working Conditions

The Foster Care Family Support Specialist will work remotely or from a community office and travel daily using their own car. They will be reimbursed at Thornwell's defined standard rate. The FC Family Specialist will utilize their personal cell phone device and will be reimbursed at Thornwell's defined standard rate. Limited overnight travel for staff meetings, special events and training is required. The FC Family Support Specialist will work a flexible schedule including early evening hours and possible weekend hours to meet the needs of the families and community organizations we serve. This position will require the following physical activity level: sitting, standing, walking, driving and some light lifting.

Benefits and Perks

Thornwell offers competitive salaries and benefits for qualifying full-time employees including health insurance, free dental/eye coverage, a 403b retirement plan with current employer contribution of 4% with up to an additional 3% match, remote positions, continuous training and development opportunities, and a culture of appreciation that fosters the positive strengths and potential of our team members.

Thornwell is an independent non-profit religious organization affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that prefers to employ individuals who share Christian values and who possess a Christian commitment for children and families in need.