

# *Serenity, Inc.*

Foster Care & Adoption



*Healing Children, Restoring Families*



# Mission Statement

The mission of Serenity, Inc. Foster Care and Adoptions is to heal children and restore families, through the use of early intervention programs that can end the cycle of trauma and abuse. Children are resilient, and when provided with therapeutic interventions and a nurturing environment, they are able to thrive despite life experiences of trauma, neglect, and abuse. Serenity is the bridge between the trauma of a child's placement in the child welfare system, the uncertainty of foster care placement, and the security of a stable permanent home.

*"A heart at peace gives life to the body" Proverbs 14:30*



## Value Statements

Serenity believes children have a right to be safe, loved and nurtured, and to live with their families, biological and/or extended. When that is not possible, Serenity works diligently to find permanent, loving, and nurturing homes where caring and committed adults will provide their children with a lifetime of unconditional, positive commitment and support.

Serenity holds that the child comes first and can best be served in a home-based family environment. Serenity treats every child and his/her family members with genuine respect, kindness, and empathy; each life is worth our investment of time and care.

Serenity recognizes that services are most impactful when determined, delivered, and evaluated with a team approach involving the child, family, and a professional disciplinary team working from a strengths-based model. These services are most effective when provided with a culturally respectful and sensitive approach.

Serenity embraces and invests in the value of accountability to assess and manage overall performance, to self-correct when needed, and to innovate in order to achieve positive outcomes.

# Our History

Serenity was born out of the heart of three amazing women who were determined to develop a foster family agency that was truly dedicated to serving the best interest of children. Their faith inspired them to overcome challenges and see their dream realized. They created a warm therapeutic home-like environment to ensure safety, respect and hope to children and their families. They laid a foundation of warmth, love, excellence and quality care. This foundation continues in the Serenity staff today.

Children come into foster care every hour of every day, and we want to be the agency that is there to give them a safe place to begin their journey toward healing. We recognize that children do best with consistent love and care. We are thankful for all our foster families that provide a home and all that a child needs while they are waiting for their family to be restored.

As we cared for children, we became acutely aware of the need for prevention and early intervention services in order to reduce the damaging effects of neglect, abuse, prenatal drug exposure, and various other trauma. In response, we opened our Therapeutic Learning Center serving young children age 6 months to 5 years in 1996.

Out of a commitment to reduce further trauma to children, Serenity became a licensed adoption agency in 2006 in order to facilitate children remaining with their foster family when reunification is not possible.

In 2016, we decided that it was important to update our agency name and logo to better reflect our commitment to children of all ages and their families. Our name transitioned from Serenity Infant Care Homes, Inc to Serenity, Inc. Foster Care and Adoption.

To assure the continuation of quality services and adherence to best practice guidelines, Serenity became nationally accredited with the Council on Accreditation in 2019.







# Foster Care Program and Services

Serenity recruits, trains and approves resource families to care for children who, through no fault of their own, are unable to live with their biological family. These children have often endured neglect, abuse, and trauma. They need a family that can provide a safe and loving home, and model what it is like to live in a nurturing environment. Serenity provides professional, compassionate targeted case management services and resources with the primary goal of family reunification. When reunification is not achievable, Serenity supports adoption through foster care. Foster care is needed for all ages of children from birth to adulthood.

## Traditional foster Care

Traditional foster care provides services to children detained from their biological families by the Department of Children and Family Services. Serenity works in collaboration with Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to provide caring families for children in need of a home. The length of stay varies from just a few days to a few years.

## The Serenity “Sleepover Program”

The “Sleepover Program” is a short-term program that provides a safe home for children to begin their journey toward healing. Children are placed with a resource family for 7 days to allow time for the Department of Children and Family Services to find a positive match for longer-term foster care or placement with a relative.

## Emergency Shelter Care

Much like the Sleepover Program, the Emergency Shelter Care program is a short-term program. This program provides care to children that may be detained after normal business hours and who may be experiencing foster care for the first time. Care is provided for 21 days, and may extend care for 30 days.

## Benefits of Fostering

- Bring hope and healing to a child in need
- Help children reunite with their family
- Positively contribute to your community
- Opportunity to network with other resource families

## Resources Provided to Our Families

- Monthly stipend and medical/dental benefits to cover the foster child’s care and expenses
- Initial and ongoing training with a focus on attachment, cultural sensitivity, and trauma
- Training for biological children of foster parents
- Guidance and support by a Serenity social worker, including 3 to 4 visits a month
- Twenty-four hour/seven days a week emergency assistance by a master’s level social worker
- Monthly on-site resource family support group meetings
- Social/recreational resource family events (agency picnics, holiday celebrations)

# Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC) Program and Services

The Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC) program reduces the damaging effects of neglect, abuse, exposure to intra-family violence, parental substance abuse, etc. on children who have been exposed to these traumatic events. Serving foster and adopted children ranging from age 6 months to 5 years of age, professionally trained staff encourage children to express their hurt and anger, while teaching them appropriate social skills, and coping mechanisms. The children are also taught problem solving skills that will enable them to heal, and to stabilize in the environments that they will ultimately live. Collaboration with parents, social workers and community partners furthers the benefits of this program. The program provides:

- A staffing ratio of 1 staff member for every three children (1:3) which promotes timely responsiveness to children's emotional and behavioral needs
- Individualized treatment plans for each child with quarterly updates
- Mental health services through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a local major mental health provider
- Therapeutic group and individual activities
- Skill building services
- Collaboration with caregiver and parents
- Collaboration with other treatment providers





# Adoption Program and Services

In order to approve resource families for both foster care and adoption, Serenity became a licensed adoption agency in 2006. In this way, when reunification with biological family is not possible, children can be adopted by their resource family that has already been providing love and care to the child through foster care. Serenity partners with our resource families through the unique experience of transitioning from foster care to adoption. The adoption team provides the following services:

- Education, guidance, and emotional support to assist you in your decision to adopt through foster care
- Completion of the Written Report required for approval
- Ongoing consultation and crisis intervention
- Partners with your family through the unique experiences of transitioning from foster care to adoption
- Ongoing consultation, crisis intervention, and monthly support groups
- Multiple on-site monthly support groups
- Training, oversight, and assistance throughout the adoption process

Our adoption team is also available to conduct private adoption home studies



# Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a wonderful way to help care for children in foster care and to contribute to your community. It allows you to positively impact young lives and help them have a brighter tomorrow. Whether you help for a one-time event or on an ongoing basis, you can make a difference. We are so thankful for our volunteers' donations of time, talent and resources.

These are some of the areas where you can partner with Serenity:

- Childcare during trainings and support groups
- Office assistance
- Corporate sponsorship for special events
- Facility renovations
- Holiday volunteers
- Special events



## Giving

Your gift, no matter the size, is a meaningful contribution toward partnering with Serenity to end the cycle of abuse and give children a brighter future. Together we can make a difference. If you would like your donation directed to a specific need or program, please let us know.

You can also support Serenity by shopping at AmazonSmile! Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Serenity when you select us as your charity. Start shopping now at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/):

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Contributions to Serenity, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, are deductible for computing income and estate taxes.



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**[www.serenitykids.com](http://www.serenitykids.com) • 626-859-6200**  
**600 S. Grand Avenue, Covina, CA 91724**

License #191593485 • 501(c)(3) Tax ID #95-4288256

Serving Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

