

Who We Are

IDENTITY: The Royal Family KIDS® (RFK) logo is a picture of who we are! Can you see the hidden picture in the design? We are all about treating the children of abuse like the children of God, part of a Royal Family; thus, the logo crown is over the KIDS. Our tag line is short hand for our purpose, mission and vision: “confronting abuse • changing lives.”



confronting abuse • changing lives

UNIQUE MODEL —RFK developed the unique model of combining a one-week residential Camp with a Mentoring Club —an ideal plan for building sustained relationships with hurting children. None of our program elements ‘stand alone’—the Camps and Mentoring Clubs are built to be a continuum of service to children.

In addition, Royal Family KIDS Mentoring Clubs are the first national mentoring organization developed specifically for the children of abuse, ages 6-12 and the only national Mentoring Club for pre-teen foster children.

NEED: Royal Family KIDS Mentoring Clubs is designed to sustain relationship with children of abuse. This required designing a program that could overcome risks to the children’s safety through expanded security checks and ongoing supervision.

VISION — Every foster child, age 6-12, experiences a life changing Camp and Mentoring Club.

MISSION — Create life changing moments for children of abuse.

PURPOSE — Mobilize the faith community to confront child abuse.

STRATEGY — Launch and sustain Camps & Mentoring Clubs

TARGET AUDIENCE — Abused or neglected children, ages 6-12, who have attended Royal Family KIDS Camps the summer before attending Mentoring Club.

MISSION STATEMENT

Vision Every foster child, age 6-12, experiences a life changing Camp & Mentoring Club.

Mission Create life-changing moments for children of abuse.

Purpose Mobilize the faith community to confront child abuse.

Strategy Launch and sustain Camps & Mentoring Clubs.

Values



Treat People Royally

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

Matthew 25:40 (New Living Translation)



Keep Moving Forward

“The righteous keep moving forward, and those with clean hands become stronger and stronger.”

Job 17:9 (NLT)



Make Moments Matter

“Make the most of every opportunity.”

Ephesians 5:16 A (New Living Translation)

Matthew 10:42

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Royal Family KIDS FAITH STATEMENT:

We affirm faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the trustworthiness and authority of the Bible and the value and dignity of all people as well as our human alienation from God by sin and our need for salvation and grace through Christ.

Children of all faiths or no faith are welcome at Royal Family KIDS Camps & Mentoring Clubs.

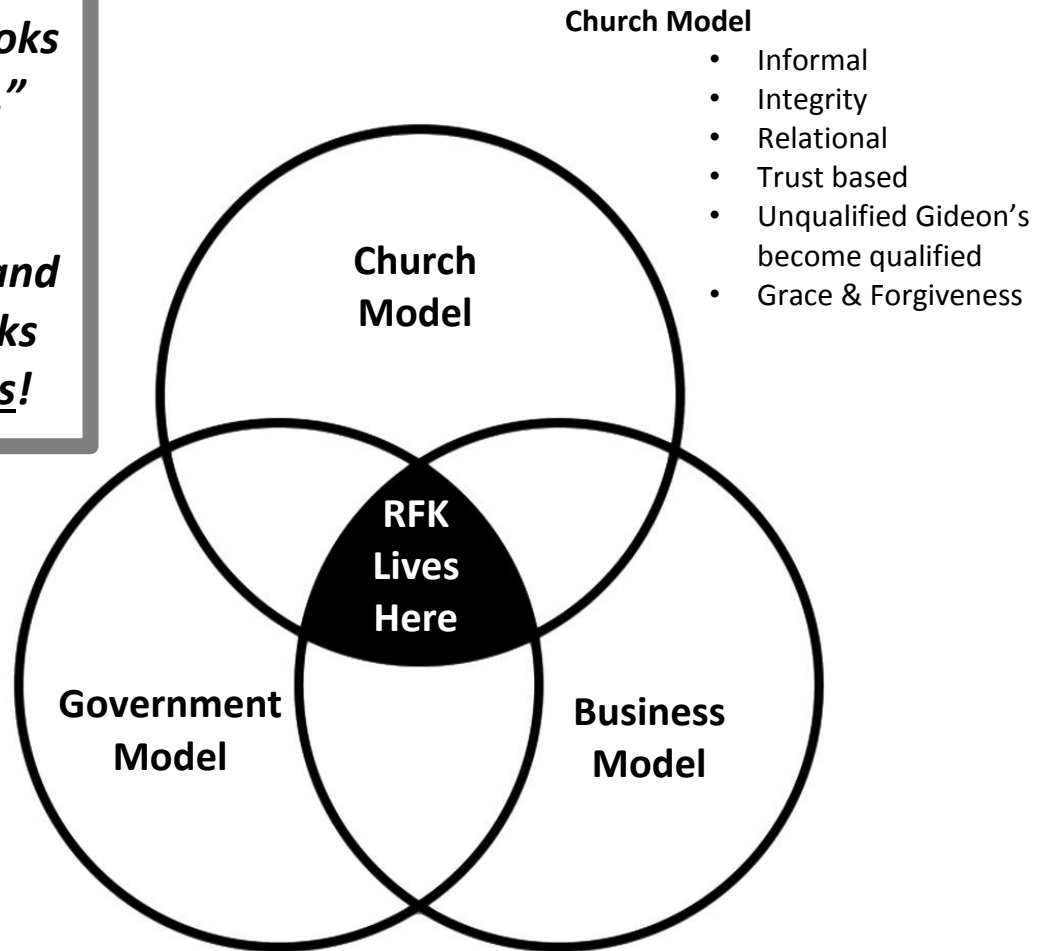
Volunteers are not required to be church members (of the sponsoring church) but for reasons of accountability, the lead volunteer Directors must be members of the sponsoring church and accountable to the sponsoring pastoral team and RFK Inc.

Royal Family KIDS actively works with an ecumenical and multi-denominational Camp and Mentoring Club sponsoring church network that varies widely in traditions or denomination but is unified in affirming standard Christian faith as outlined in the RFK Faith statement.

OPERATIONAL MODELS

Every organization has an approach to its operations. RFK has a mixture of three distinct operations that guide the focus to get things done. At times these models support each other, and at times they contradict each other leaving some volunteers confused or simply wondering, “Why does RFK do it this way?” This page should give some **explanations** and **expectations**.

*“the LORD looks at the heart,”
 government looks at the paperwork and
 business looks at the results!*



Government Model

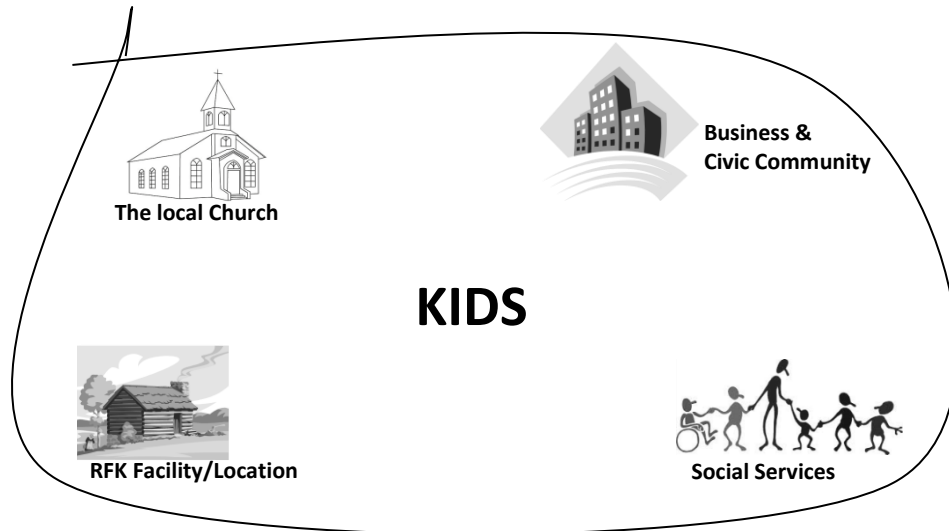
- Skeptical
- Structured
- Bureaucratic
- Proof in Paperwork
- Qualifications Matter
- Unappreciated

Business Model

- Branding
- Restrictions
- Recognitions
- Group benefits
- Proven success
- Supervision & Support
- Compliance & Checklists

THE PURPLE CORD

In order for an RFK Camps & Mentoring Clubs to be launched, four entities must come together and work in a collaborative effort for the sake of abused & neglected children of the local community. Each of these provides a vital link in a chain of support to accomplish the goal of establishing local camps to make life-changing moments.



Royal Family KIDS Inc.

The Four Entities are:

The Local Church
 Department of Social Services
 Business / Civic Community
 A Facility/Location

What they provide:

People Power (volunteers) and Finances
 The Children
 Funds, Resources, Gifts in kind
 The Location for the Camp

Royal Family Provides:

Training
 Resources
 Support
 Accountability

Royal Family is the Purple Cord that ties them all together.

We recruit local churches by educating them on the issues of child abuse and the great need that exists in our society to reach out to this people group – children in need of wholesome adult role models and positive childhood memories. We then encourage them to establish a camp and send 3 – 5 adults through Director’s Training to learn administratively how to set up and manage a week-long camp. After completing 2 successful camp years your church sends a team to Mentoring Club Director’s Training.

Social Services are enlisted by the local church to provide for the children. The local church may already be doing supportive activities to provide help for victims of abuse in the local community, or this may be the church’s first effort to extend a helping hand. Without children, there will be no RFK Camps & Mentoring Clubs. Therefore, the cooperation of Social Services is necessary for the Camps & Mentoring Clubs to be able to provide its compassionate services to the children of its community.

Business and Civic groups are contacted to provide camper/mentee sponsorships, resources, and gifts in kind that will allow for a memorable moments for the children we serve. This is also an opportunity for community minded businesses and groups to be a part of this noble cause assisting the Foster children of their community. Many of them have community funds and programs such as the United Way, employee matching funds and employee involvement programs that allow for easy partnering in this endeavor.

A camp facility is rented to accommodate the activities of a week of camp. A camp facility must be contracted with to provide an adequate place to hold the week of camp. The facility is, ideally, located within an hour’s radius of the church preferably in an out-of-city environment, giving the children a week of inspiration in an out-of-doors setting. Due to the shortage of adequate camp facilities in some areas, college campuses that are vacant in the summer months are being utilized to provide housing, food, and activity areas in lieu of an adequate camp nearby.

All four of these entities must work in harmony to finally yield a “week of a lifetime” for the children of abuse served by Royal Family KIDS Camps & Mentoring Clubs

HISTORY

“SOUNDING THE CALL” ON BEHALF OF ABUSED CHILDREN IN ORANGE COUNTY

By Wayne Tesch

It was Thursday, December 13; a luncheon appointment was set with Rev. Fred Cottriel, Assistant Superintendent, and Rev. Leonard Nipper, Secretary/Treasurer, of the Southern California District of the Assemblies of God. During the meeting, they shared with me the dream of Camp Pinecrest.

Camp Pinecrest is nestled in the San Bernardino Mountains at the 5,000-foot level. The camp is 160 acres, consisting of 16 newly built condominiums, with an additional 20 on the drawing board. There are 3 chateaux that will house 300 campers. There is a small lake that the Forest Service will stock with trout.

During our luncheon conversation, they posed this question, “Would you be interested in being a Camp Director for one week with a theme camp of your choice?” What an opportunity! I went back to my office to seek guidance and direction from the Lord for a camp. As I walked into the office, I shared with Jill Anderson the opportunity that was presented to me. She suggested a camp for abused children. It was as though God spoke directly. I knew in my heart at that moment God was opening a door for the abused and abandoned children of Orange County.

Details were formulated to set down a time line of accomplishments to form a ‘camp.’ First, a meeting was called with individuals who are trained in the specific needs of abandoned and foster children. The objective was to determine if we could: (1) secure 60 children and (2) secure 20 counselors.

Their excitement and prayer were encouraging and uplifting; their involvement a MUST. The date of July 7-11 was targeted to launch the first week of camp. Research was begun on abused children in Orange County.

Statistics of abused children in the county were shocking. In 1983, there were 7,811 mandated reports of child abuse. Mandated -- a doctor, teacher, or psychologist calls or reports to the authorities the finding of the abused child. In 1984, 10,592 mandated calls were projected. I was shocked and, at the same time, stirred as I realized that we, the people of God, could impact those statistics in our community.

In addition, in 50% of the 3,905 cases, the victim was under five years of age. Thirty-four percent of that group, or 1,328, were under two years of age. To compound the problem, there were only 650 foster homes in the county to harbor these children if, and when they are discovered, and this number was decreasing at 9% per year. I cried out, 'Dear Lord, these are kids who are wounded and need Your love.'

Sunday morning, January 6th, Rev. Bob Rogers, Director of Teen Challenge for Southern California, ministered in the morning services. He spoke on the topic of "Anointed to Minister to the Poor." As I listened, my mind drifted to Camp Pinecrest with 60 children running, playing, and singing through the mountain terrain. I saw kids in rooms with a trained counselor sharing Biblical principles of life. I envisioned counselors hugging children, allowing them to realize hands not only abuse, but also can love. I prayed silently that morning that the people of NMCC would provide "healing hands" to ease the hurt of these children. In addition to providing healing, loving hands to these children, I saw people on their knees praying for the ministry of the camp. Prayer support is critical and vital in this type of ministry. I also saw homes of love being opened to ease the pain of children. So it is, that the early beginnings of Royal Family KIDS Camps, Inc. were birthed out of ministry of one church congregation; and today, is an independent, non-profit organization reaching nationwide.

I find that the benefits of being involved in helping the abused and neglected are at the very core of Christ's ministry. Luke 4:18,19 states clearly why Royal Family KIDS Camps was established. Christ says, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Emphasizing: proclaiming freedom for the prisoners - captives to be released - releasing of the oppressed).

Our desire is to heal the brokenhearted, release the oppressed, and liberate the downtrodden.

The camping environment is an excellent model to allow the Spirit of Christ and His Word to make a lasting impression on the children. The children are blessed; but as a former pastor, I am aware of how many of the adults who give up a week of their vacation are blessed, also. Henrietta Mears stated, "That one week of camp is equivalent to a year of time spent in Sunday School." What a great opportunity for the church to provide a ministry model to reach its own community with the Good News.

Camping also gives you an opportunity to challenge, motivate and reach adults to make a difference in their world.

The Path from Camp to Mentoring Club

When the children got off the bus from camp, three or four foster families brought extra suitcases and informed the children that they were moving on to another placement that day! My camp counselors were badly shaken. We had all grown to care for these kids so much over the five days together, and we knew how much they still needed attention and support. How can we do more for our kids the rest of the year?

Royal Family KIDS Camp Director

Mingled with the wonderful stories about the impact of five days with abused children in the “Great cathedral of the outdoors,” Royal Family Kids’ Camps volunteers have also shared the pain of saying goodbye to campers they had come to care for deeply. The camps’ firm policy not to contact campers during the year was tough on committed camp staff—but critical for legal and safety reasons. First, because RFKC had not established a safe follow-up program and second because the risk that pedophiles could use the five day camping experience to ‘groom’ victims they could later contact was a real and present danger. In addition, the policy helped address initial concerns from Social Services that the confidentiality of foster children’s identity might be violated by churches and volunteers who ran Royal Family Kids’ Camps.

But after almost two decades of building an ‘army’ of over 7,000 multi-denominational volunteers trained to work with abused children, the sense that “5 days is not enough!” grew stronger.

Social Services departments were expressing their interest in an expanding partnership as well. RFKC had established an outstanding reputation and trusting relationships with local social service professionals nationally and internationally. The interest in ‘faith based partnerships’ like RFKC was increasing—especially since RFKC churches raise their own funds to provide free camps to foster children, something that strapped local governments could not match. Growing numbers of RFKC leaders were convinced that this was the time to challenge their churches to invest even more deeply in the lives of America’s abused and neglected children with a year-round program.

In 2006, Royal Family Kids’ Camps received a major gift to establish For the Children Foundation and expand ministry to abused children. In addition to investing in the pressing need for more camps, RFKC Founder Wayne Tesch and the Board decided to set aside part of the Foundation funds to develop the first post-camp ministry to RFKC campers, and began to discuss program options and to pray for the right leadership.

During the summer of 2007, Wayne discovered that a longtime colleague in ministry, Joanne Feldmeth, felt that God was calling her to address the needs of abused children on a national scale through churches. She had recently given her board notice that she would soon step down as executive director of the Christian foster and adoption support organization (Child SHARE, Inc.) which she had led for fourteen years. As Joanne met with RFKC leaders, it was clear that they were all passionate about finding a safe way to keep serving their campers year round.

3-YEAR PILOT PROJECT: In January 2008, with the support of the RFKC Team, Joanne officially launched **ROYAL FRIENDS' CLUBS**, Mentoring Foster Kids, as a 3 Year Pilot Project. Established as a separate but 'sister' non-profit organization, the Club would be the logical 'next step' for RFKC churches who wanted to build on their Camp ministry to abused children. RFKC leaders from several states gathered to help plan the pilot mentoring program.

The first Royal Friends' Clubs Training Institute was offered to 30 leaders from 12 camps on October 12-13, 2008, and by January 2009, over 100 pre-teen foster children were meeting with their mentors from Royal Friends! The first seven of the founding group of Clubs launched included churches in seven states! By the end of our third year (Fall 2010 – Spring 2011), there were 14 USA Clubs in 10 states plus an International Club in Australia! By the third year, the project had matched over 500 campers with trained Mentors!

NAME CHANGE AND MERGER: As the pilot program entered its third year, the RFKC Board of Directors came to an important decision: It was time to drop "Camps" from Royal Family Kids' Camps and to acknowledge that we now had a year-round program with Camps & Mentoring Clubs!

In January 2011, the Camps & Mentoring Clubs were unified under a single name, logo and mission: Royal Family KIDS®.

Our Year-Round Program Model

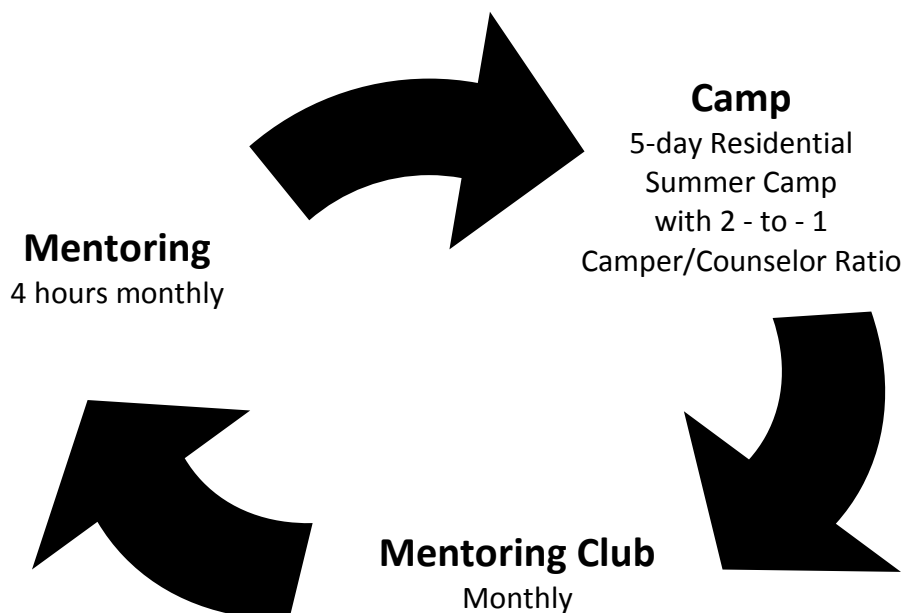
A. Stage 1: 5 DAY Residential Camp (Summer)

Starting with Camp: Every child's experience with Royal Family KIDS starts with a Camp designed for abused and neglected children, ages 6-12 and run by a host church in their area.. Since 1985, Royal Family KIDS has been the Nation's largest network of Camps, serving tens of thousands of children in the foster care system. The five day immersion experience of Camp builds a foundation of healthy trust with Campers.

B. Stage 2: Mentoring Clubs! (9 Months/School Year) – a 2-tier program for group and individual mentoring

Mentors (4 hour a month): RFK campers are not matched with a stranger—they are matched with trained Mentors who were part of the Camp Volunteer team. Most know their mentor, and the relationship is already off to a good start. This is especially important to children whose trust has been violated by abuse, abandonment and multiple moves in foster care.

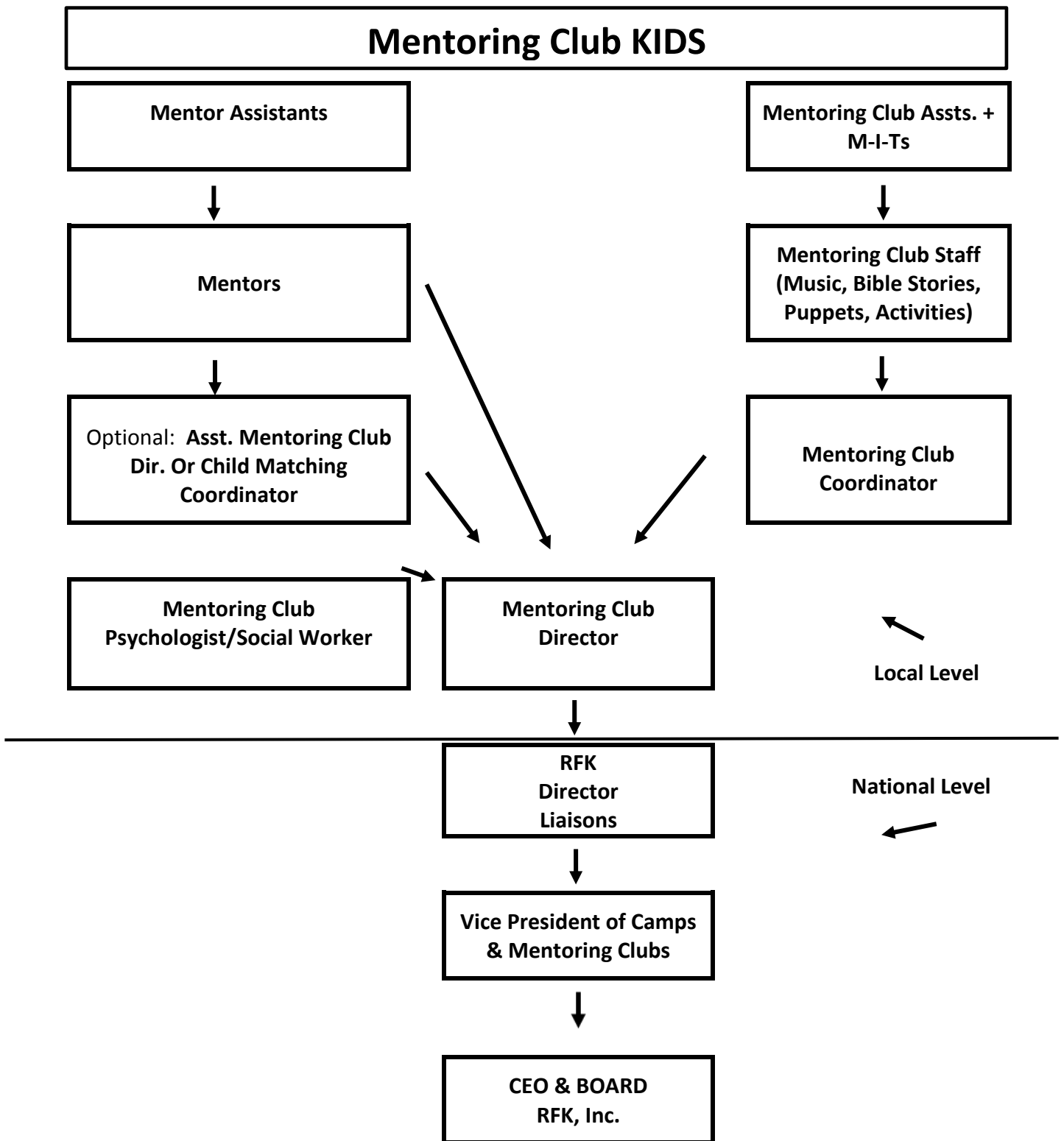
Mentoring Clubs (Monthly): All Mentoring Club Kids and mentors meet together for a once-a-month meeting, outing or event, organized by Mentoring Club Staff. This is a special time of reconnecting with camp memories and songs, games and fun — and to enjoy character-building teaching time. It is also critical for mentors to connect with each other and with the Mentoring Club Director to gain support and guidance. Please note: Mentoring Clubs run for 9 months and close at the end of the school year, allowing churches to focus on their Camp ministry in the summer. Children do not attend or have RFK Mentoring Clubs during summer.



5 UNIQUE ADVANTAGES of Royal Family KIDS MODEL

- 1. Immersion Experience:** Camp is a 120 hour immersion experience that breaks through trust barriers for children with attachment issues! In a completely new environment, surrounded by loving volunteers, they learn to trust their Royal Family.
- 2. Mentor Experience:** Our RFK Mentors have relational experience living with Campers for a week. They have a more accurate sense of challenges and whether they could maintain a relationship with the child they are asked to mentor.
- 3. Child Experience:** RFK Campers have relational experience with the RFK team. They almost always know their Mentor and are not being asked to form a relationship with yet another stranger. The RFK Mentor is someone who is already part of their best memories!
- 4. Social Capital:** Royal Family KIDS Volunteers provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in 'social capital' (donated services). Over 90% of our first year volunteers return for the next year! When a church starts a Mentoring Clubs, there is already a core of people who are very dedicated and have shown through experience that they can help very wounded children.
- 5. Social Service Partners:** Our established relationships with Social Service partners through years of running Camps helps us stay connected with children even if they are moved to a new foster home or reunited with relatives. This gives RFK a huge advantage over other projects trying to mentor foster children—and a key to our 90% success rate in retaining mentoring matches throughout the whole Mentoring Club year!

RFK Mentoring Club Organizational Chart





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