Bishop Aaron Blake says the organization could become a national model on how to curb the foster care crisis.

A Texas-based church leader encouraged local residents to look at systemic issues that have resulted in a foster care crisis in this county.

Bishop Aaron Blake told the Rome Rotary Club he applauds Restoration Rome’s efforts to build a national model to change the plight of half a million children in foster care.

Prior to speaking at that event, Blake told Rotary members of the Stand Sunday movement to provide homes and hope to children in the foster care system.

Stand Sunday started with his Dallas suburban church 17 years ago when he and his wife, Mary, took six boys into their home.

I stood up on the second Sunday in November and asked our church if they would stand with me on behalf of the children that have been abused, abandoned and neglected in the foster care system,” Blake said.

The program grew so that within a few short years he had more families waiting for children than children waiting for families.

Restoration Rome co-founder Jeff Mauer says the organization based at the old Southeast Elementary School is bringing a gold standard of collaborative efforts to Rome in terms of dealing with the crisis in foster care.

“But with intervention, when a community steps up, that is a break in the cycle perpetuated in our communities for those who suffer from abuse and neglect,” said Blake. He said he expects great things to come out of the Homes of Hope conference.

“We are serious about what we’re doing. This comprehensive model is new. We are bringing a gold standard to Rome,” Restoration Rome’s Jeff Mauer told Rotary. “We haven’t even built it yet. But we cannot do it without your support.”

INDEX

Bridge C5

Classified C1

Dealers C3

Editorial A4

Lottery B3

Obituaries A5

Puzzles C5

Puzzle solutions C5

Religion A6

Sports B1

Television, Weather C6

CARE A2

CARE from A1

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Please see CARE A2

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