



Creating Foster Care Awareness In Your Church

Approaches To Creating Awareness:

Once you've decided which Awareness Event you'll host and have the necessary follow-up events scheduled, it's time to spread the word to your congregation! Cast the net as wide as possible in order for everyone to have an opportunity to hear about your Awareness Event.

Here are some ideas about how and what to promote!

Inviting your church to the Awareness Event:

- Place an announcement in the church bulletin or online newsletter
- Make a short verbal announcement within a church service
- Seek your pastor's endorsement (if possible)
- Show our 2-minute **Fostering Family** animation video clip in church OR **The Good Samaritan** video
- Conduct a brief interview with the Advocate or a foster family in your church
- Hand out invitations/flyers to promote your Awareness Event
- Utilize social media (Facebook, Twitter) to announce events
- Host an information table before and/or after services
- Show a video testimony of a foster family or volunteer from your church.

Sample Text for Bulletin, Online or Social Media Announcements:

- Do you have a heart for vulnerable children? Come learn more about the foster care crisis in our area and how you can serve local foster families. Join us at our Foster Care Awareness Dessert, Sunday evening at 7PM.
- Please join us next Sunday at our Foster Care Awareness Luncheon where you will learn more about serving and supporting foster families as well as what it's like to become a foster family. Sign up here.
- Did you know there's a foster care crisis in Ohio? Siblings are often split up and moved to various counties throughout the state because of a deficit in the quantity and quality of foster homes. Do you have room in your heart and home to take in these vulnerable children? Come learn more about fostering at our Foster Care Awareness Brunch next Sunday morning at 9AM.
- Are you the ONE family who today will seriously consider fostering a child? Becoming a foster family presents many challenges and we need a community of volunteers to surround, support and serve foster families with Christ's love. Consider the reward of investing in a child and/or a family's life. If this message speaks to you, we'd love to see you at our Foster Care Awareness Potluck Dinner on Tuesday evening at 7PM. Childcare will be provided.
- **"Ready or Not"** Small Group - Is God moving in your heart for His vulnerable children? Have you ever considered fostering or adopting? Join us for a 6-week study that explores if it might be the right time for you to foster or adopt.

Scripture Supporting Foster Care:

Psalms 10:17-18 O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

Psalms 68:6a God sets the lonely in families.

Psalms 82:3-4 Give justice to the weak and fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 31:8-9 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Matthew 18:5 And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.

Matthew 18:12-14 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.

Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.