



# Church to Child




**Harvest**

Family Life Ministries

## **27 Ways to Get Involved**

*Foster Care Prevention, Intervention,  
and Transition*



*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

*James 1:27*

The question for any believer is not whether to be involved in the ministry of orphan care, but how. Included are twenty seven suggestions to get you thinking about how you might participate in a ministry that can change the lives of children and families affected by abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

## JOIN CAREPORTAL

Churches, small groups, individuals, and even businesses can support families involved in or at risk for involvement in the child welfare system through CarePortal. Visit [www.careportal.org](http://www.careportal.org) to learn more.

## LEAD A TEAM

Volunteer to be your church's CarePortal and Orphan Care ministry leader. Work with Harvest Family Life to develop infrastructure and relationships with strategic community partners.

## PRAY

Pray Regularly for a specific foster/adopt family. Send a note of encouragement each month from the prayer team to the families you are praying for.

## MAKE A MEAL

Provide meals for foster and adopt families with new placements or when foster and adoptive families are under particular stressors. Create a team by using a platform such as [takethemameal.com](http://takethemameal.com).

## FOSTER/ADOPT MENTORING

Have you fostered or adopted in the past? Offer your time to walk alongside prospective foster/adoptive families as they enter their new world.

## HOST A PLAY DATE

Offer to host a playdate for foster families at your home or a community space to provide relational and emotional support to both the children and caregivers.

\*Most child placement agencies do not have special requirements for play dates.

## FOSTER AND/OR ADOPT

Accept one or more of the 140 million orphans worldwide by providing them with the love of God and a place to call home.

## HOME MAINTENANCE

Serve single parents, widows, foster/adopt families and bio families, who are in need of yard work, repairs around their home, and small construction projects.

## **HOST A FOSTER/ADOPT PARENT FELLOWSHIP**

Host or volunteer to help at a fellowship (banquet, picnic, dessert bar, etc.) for foster/adopt parents to give them an emotional boost through relational connections.

## **BABYSIT FOR FOSTER FAMILIES**

Offer to babysit for foster families. Most child placement agencies require an approved federal background check for babysitting over a certain number of hours.

## **HOST A GRADUATION SHOWER**

Contact a local Child Placement Agency or DFPS and offer to host a graduation shower for youth transitioning out of care.

## **PARTY IN A BAG**

Provide all the supplies for a birthday or "just cause" party to celebrate foster children birthdays, adoption finalizations, or any other reason to celebrate.

## **ATTEND CAFO SUMMIT**

Participate in an international conference that draws thousands of orphan care advocates from over 30 countries.  
(CAFO.org/summit)

## **PARTICIPATE IN STAND SUNDAY**

Check out [www.standsunday.com](http://www.standsunday.com) to learn more about this special emphasis every November. Encourage your small group or church to participate with you.

## **BACKPACKS**

Supply a child in foster care with all the back-to-school essentials beginning with a fresh back pack. Check in for additional needs like uniforms, shoes, and fun items.

## **IDENTIFY HIDDEN FOSTERS**

Many children are cared for by family members but are not supported by CPS or a child placement agency. Reach out to these families for ways you can support them.

## **BE A HOSTING CHURCH**

Open the church to be used by child welfare or the child placing agency for trainings, meetings, or family visits.

## **TAKE KIDS TO CAMP**

Create a scholarship fund for foster youth to attend camp with your church. If your church does not participate in camp, consider sponsoring for Royal Family Kids Camp. (RFK.org)

## **ADOPT A CHILD PLACING AGENCY**

Offer prayer by providing request cards to be picked up weekly for employees and the families they serve. Provide a quarterly or yearly meal celebrating their work.

## **ADOPT A CHILD WELFARE OFFICE**

Offer prayer by providing request cards to be picked up weekly for employees and the families they serve. Provide snacks for the office and appreciate their work.

## **OBSERVE BLUE SUNDAY**

Blue Sunday is observed in April to build awareness regarding child abuse prevention. Encourage your church to wear blue and spend time in guided prayer.

## **GO ON MISSION**

Talk to Harvest Family Life or a church in a community where children are at high risk for child welfare involvement. Serve selflessly in that community for a week or weekend.

## **BECOME A CASA**

Be a voice for children by walking alongside them, from the beginning through permanency, as they navigate the foster care system. (CASAForChildren.org)

## **GO TO COURT**

Join Clergy in Court with Harvest Family Life to hear the stories of children and families involved in the child welfare system. Ask questions and learn how you can help vulnerable children and families.



## HOST THE HEART GALLERY

Display a portrait exhibit of children from the area who dream of finding a "forever family through adoption. Contact Harvest Family Life to make the connection.

## GIVE

Many organizations, like Harvest Family Life, minister directly to vulnerable children and families. Your donation of a little or a lot could change a child's entire life trajectory.

## ADOPT AN ADULT

When children age out of foster care, they are often left without any lasting support. Adopt a foster youth who has aged out through an organization like [foreverfamily.org](http://foreverfamily.org)

## ENGAGE WITH HARVEST

Want help finding your right next step? Contact the team at Harvest Family Life. We'd love to stand with you for vulnerable children and support you in this ongoing, beautiful journey.



*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

*1 John 3:16-18*

