

Local Church Orphans Ministry

Strategy Library



Foster Care Prayer Vigil

Channel* Foster Care

Mode** Prayer

As Implemented @ N/A

Website N/A

Vision They number more than half a million. Some are babies. Some are nearly adults. Every city has them. They aren't obvious by the way they look, or even by the way they talk or act. You may very well have walked by one today without suspecting it. They are our nation's foster children. Children come into the United States foster care system for various reasons, including neglect, abuse, abandonment, and substance abuse by their primary caregivers. They are most often placed with complete strangers, and nearly every aspect of their lives is decided by adults who don't really know them. The bottom line is this. These children are hurting deeply and they need prayer. And so do the adults in their lives—their birth families, their foster families, and their social workers. Historically, the church has cared for children such as these out of obedience to God's repeated mandate to care for the marginalized. However, many Christians today are simply unsure of what they can do to make a difference. Perhaps the best place to start is on our knees, crying out to a Holy God on behalf of these precious little ones. If we humble ourselves and go before God, and make ourselves available to Him, we can and will see Him use us to reach foster children in ways we could never imagine. That is why we pray—to join God in His mission to redeem the lost and heal the broken.



Steps

1. Find a place: Determine a meeting location, perhaps at a church, that has plenty of space for people to form small groups to pray together.
2. Designate a date and time: Keep local events in mind when choosing a date and plan for at least two hours for the whole event.
3. Recruit a promoter: Find someone to promote the event. It could be you or someone else you know.
4. Get the word out: Work with Christian radio stations, Christian bookstores, schools, and churches; put inserts in church bulletins, etc.
5. Designate a facilitator: This person should have some experience with the foster care system, and also have some experience in leading group prayer.
6. Recruit volunteers: Find people to help in the setup, cleanup, and with refreshments (if applicable).
7. Get together and pray: You can order prayer guides by visiting fostercareprayervigil.org.
8. Watch expectantly: Eagerly anticipate what God will do in your city's foster care system and be available to join Him in what He does.

Key Roles

1. Organizer: secures location; recruits a promoter, facilitator, and other volunteers
2. Promoter: gets the word out and recruits people to join the vigil
3. Facilitator: leads the group in prayer

Expected Cost

The cost is minimal. Basic refreshments might be provided but are not required.

Potholes!

1. Be careful not to allow anyone to turn this event into a forum to promote an agenda. The agenda is simple. Gather God's people together to pray for the children, families, and workers of our nation's foster systems.
2. Set a positive tone when promoting the prayer vigil, focusing on the unity and prayer rather than on any perceived faults within the system.
3. Don't get hung up on numbers—remember that when two or three gather in His name, He is there.

Helpful Organizations

Local foster and adoption agencies and your local county department of human services.

The prayer vigil reminded me that God loves foster children more than I do and renewed my faith in the power of prayer.

—State Foster Care Worker

Helpful Resources

fostercareprayervigil.org

This site contains:

- A PDF version of this document
- A PDF download of the official prayer-vigil guide
- Information on how to order hard copies of the official prayer-vigil guide
- A PDF download of bulletin inserts
- A national prayer-vigil locator map

Results

A group of Christians in Little Rock, Arkansas, held a prayer vigil very similar to this in 2006. Since then, God has been faithful to answer those prayers and has done unprecedented things through the church for the foster children of Arkansas. The number of Christian families involved in the system has increased dramatically.

Action Steps

Who Will Do It?

By When?

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