

CHURCH *workbook*

BACKYARD ORPHANS
EST 2012

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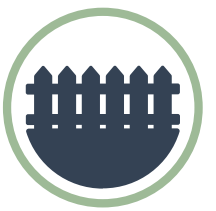
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BACKYARD ORPHANS

BECAUSE CHILDREN NEED FAMILIES

– EST 2012 –

Dear Church Leader,

What do you think of when you hear the word orphan? Do you imagine yourself boarding a plane, landing on warm and desert-like terrain, and hitching a ride in a Jeep to the nearest village? Do you picture shirtless children with bloated bellies? Do their sweet and beautiful faces compel you? Of course! There are 140 million orphans in the world, many of whom greatly resemble that description. God knows each by name and we are mandated to do something.

However, if that was the only picture that came to your mind, we're here to expand it. Did you know that there are 400,000 orphans in the U.S.? We no longer have to fly over kids to reach kids. The "orphans" in our backyard are unintentionally disguised. They go to school with our kids, they attend our church, they live in our neighborhood, and often we're unaware. They don't all fit in Webster's definition of orphan, but they absolutely fit in the Biblical definition of orphan we read about through Scripture! Fatherless. Lonely. Destitute.

James 1:27 (NIV) says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." This word orphan used here means fatherless or parentless, whether temporary or permanent. Isaiah 1:17 (NIV) urges us to "take up the cause of the fatherless." And Psalm 68:6 (NIV) tells us exactly how to do that—by placing the lonely in orphanages? No. "God sets the lonely in families."

Right now, in your backyard, there are children in need of families. It's time for us to flip the script in your community! We dream of a day when there are more families waiting for children than children waiting for families! There may be 400,000 children in foster care, but there are 350,000 churches. It's problem solvable if we understand that it's not about one church doing it all, it's about all churches doing something.

Thank you for stepping up and saying YES to the need. It's not going to be easy. But then again, God never calls us to comfort, He calls us to combat!

Sincerely,



Eric Porter
Backyard Orphans
Founder and President

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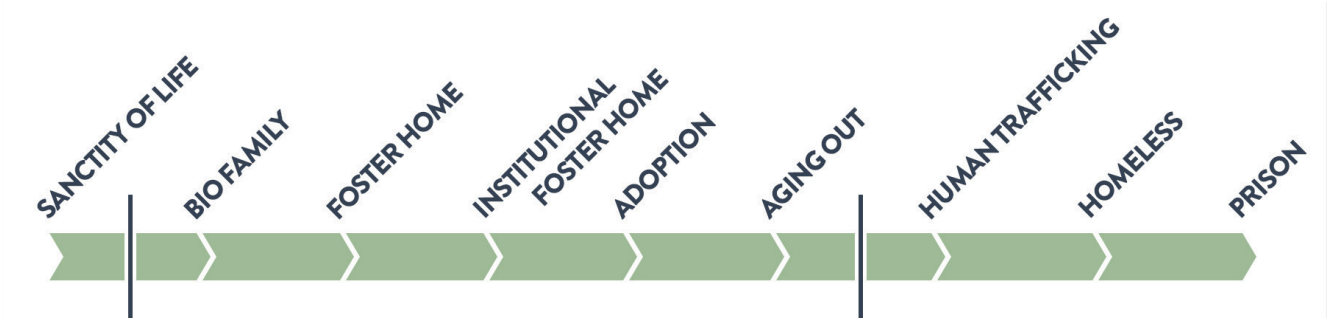




ORPHAN *care* 101

UPSTREAM OPPORTUNITY

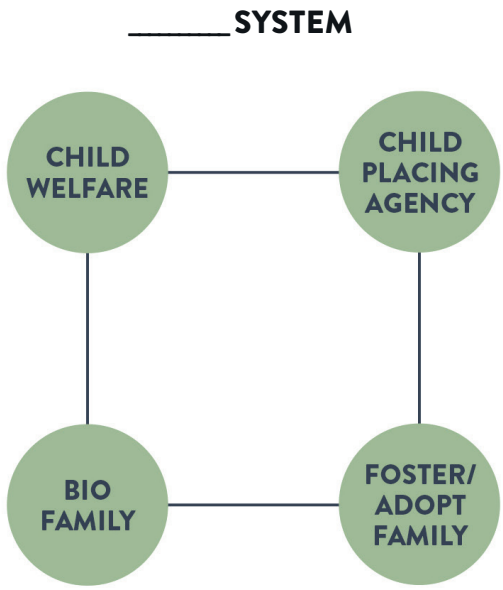
Backyard Orphans equips the Church to understand and engage in orphan care locally and globally. From ministering to biological families who are working to keep their kids, to walking alongside youth who have aged out of the system, the Church is called to lead the way! If we do not go upstream to support the sanctity of life and biological families, the orphan crisis will continue to feed human trafficking, homelessness, and the prison system.

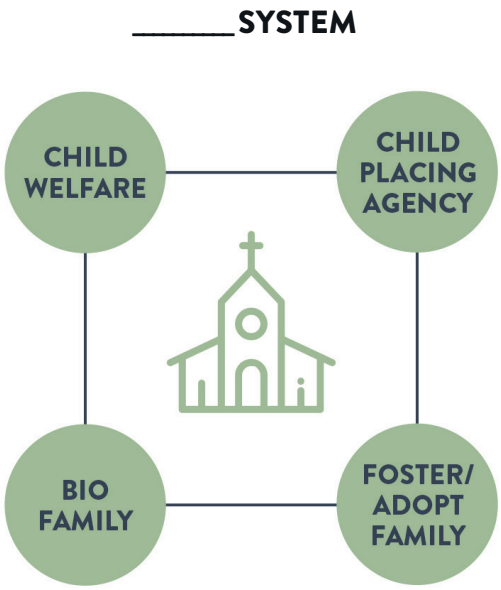


PROBLEM-SOLUTION

Right now, in your backyard, there are children in need of families.

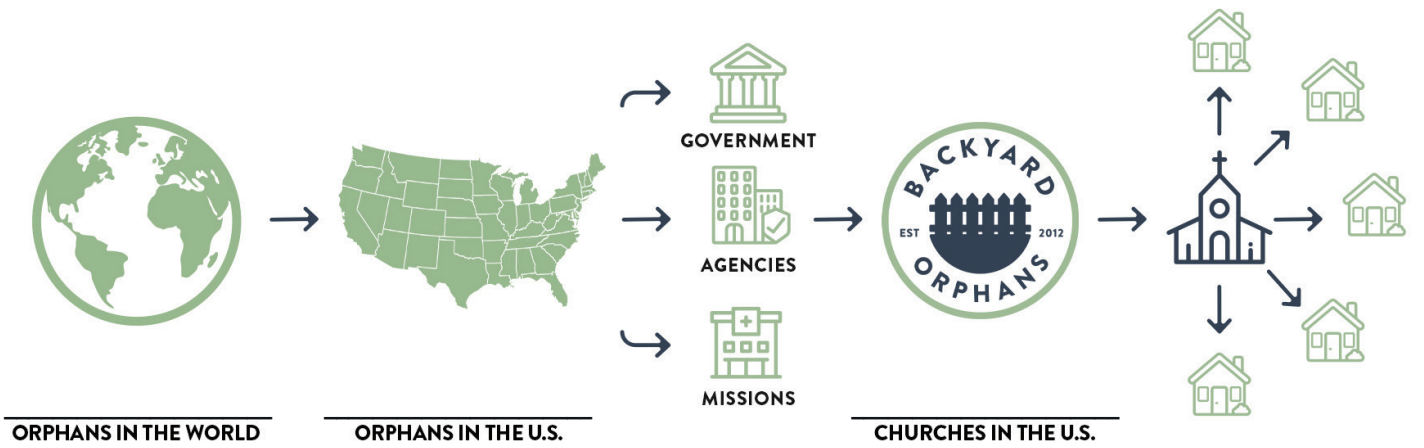
We train church leaders to develop a foster care, adoption, and support ministry so that one day there will be more families waiting for children than children waiting for families!





The local church was, is, and will always be the solution to the world's greatest problems. One of the world's greatest problems is the orphan crisis.

In the last 100 years, the Church has been the missing link in orphan care. Now, as the Church engages in the solution, it must be the center.



Scripture tells us that the best place for the orphan is in a family. Backyard Orphans is an intermediary that builds partnerships with organizations involved in foster care, adoption, and orphan missions and connects them with the local church to care for orphans.

BEST PRACTICES

- Partnering with one child placing agency per church streamlines communication, resources, and processes.
- Partnering with a child placing agency that is partnered with Backyard Orphans provides relationship, trust, simplification, and support.
- Orphan care ministry is most successful when all levels of leadership are involved. Implementation comes from the pews, vision must come from the pulpit.

STANDARDS

CHURCH STANDARDS

- As God's Church, we operate under a set of guidelines, the Bible.
- We do not compromise the Word of God as we do the work of God through orphan care. Yet, we maintain the understanding that in foster care, there are state standards..

STATE STANDARDS

- As the government, child welfare operates under a set of guidelines—hundreds of pages in length—known as minimum standards.
- They do not compromise these standards as they do the work of foster care.Yet, child welfare maintains the understanding that in the Church, the Bible is our life manual.

BIBLICAL MANDATE

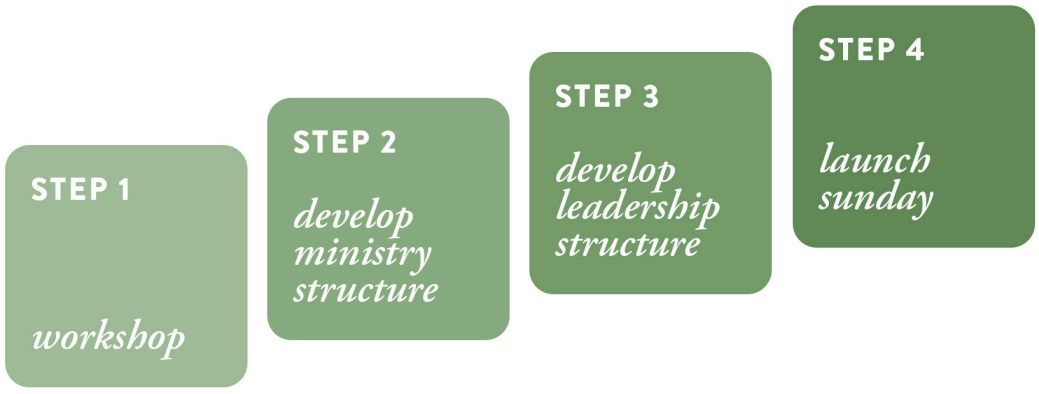
JAMES 1:27 (NIV)

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

Religion	This religion isn't stale, but an action of our faith. Religion is defined as a ministry, and any good ministry creates a culture.
that God our **Father**	The most _____ term for God was used here: Abba...daddy. Our heavenly daddy adopted us.
accepts as **pure**	What is our motive? It is simply that we were _____.
and **faultless** is this	Above reproach.
to **look after**	Be where they are; roll up your sleeves.
orphans	Webster defines an orphan as one whose parents are deceased; the Biblical understanding of an orphan is _____ or _____.
and **widows**	The 21st century "single-parent" is not referenced in the Bible, but we need to include them in this ministry.
in their distress	What is the need? What are your assets? Their need becomes our mission. This helps the church to become even more _____.
and to keep oneself from being **polluted by the world**	While we work to build God's Kingdom, we can't neglect our relationship with the King. The _____ doesn't want this to happen, so we must guard our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:8).

4 STEP PROCESS

The 4-step process below represents a period of about 6-9 months. The goal of the Backyard Orphans model is that orphan care becomes an unquestionable ministry in the church. Orphan care is more than a cause; it is a culture that becomes part of the DNA of a church family.



WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY DOING OR HAVE IN YOUR HEART TO DO PERSONALLY IN ORPHAN CARE?





4 STEP *process*

STEP 1: WORKSHOP

YOU ARE HERE

It is critical for the pastors, point person, and team leaders to attend this workshop. You will need to brief those not in attendance.

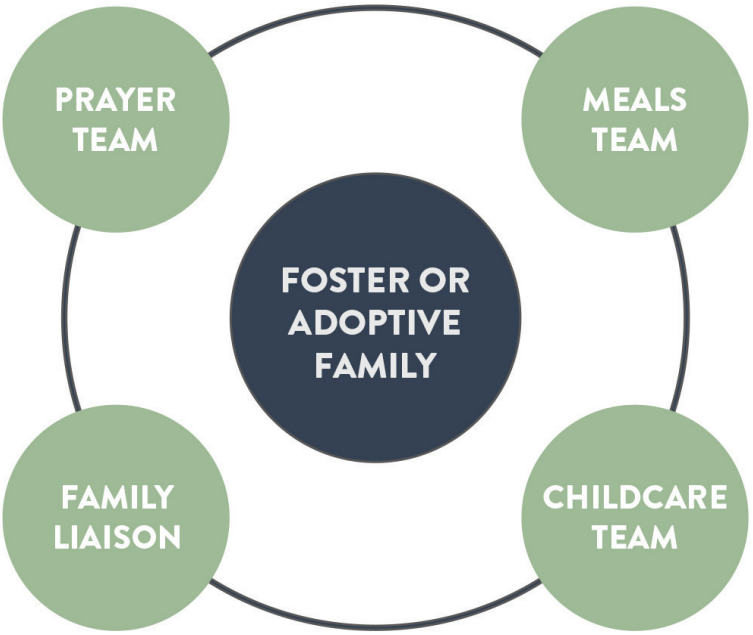
CONTINUUM OF ORPHAN CARE GRID

	PRESERVATION	FOSTER CARE	ADOPTION	AGING OUT
LEVEL 1		*Speak up*		
LEVEL 2	*Meet phyisical needs*			
LEVEL 3	*Provide relational support*			
LEVEL 4		*Recruit families*		

WHAT GOALS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR ORPHAN CARE MINISTRY?

Not everyone is called to foster or adopt, but everyone is called to do something.

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT



The Circle of Support is the model that we will establish in your church to wrap around foster and adoptive families. These families fight spiritual, emotional, and physical battles every day. They are often worn down, and many of them quit because of a lack of support. They need the church, and with this model, we can help them!

WHAT SUPPORT MINISTRIES DO YOU ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE?

STEP 2: DEVELOP MINISTRY STRUCTURE

HOLISTIC ORPHAN CARE

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Community Orphan Care

- Family preservation
- Foster care
- Adoption
- Aging Out

WHERE IS THE NEED?

Local to Global

- Our own backyard
- The other side of the world

WHO CAN MEET THE NEED?

Children to Senior Adults

- Kids ministry
- Youth ministry
- Adult ministry
- Senior ministry

HOW DO WE MEET THE NEED?

Spirit, Mind, and Body

> ***Then the Lord answered me and said, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."***
>
> ***Habakuk 2:2 (NKJV)***

DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES I NEED TO CONSIDER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

VISION, MISSION, STRATEGY

To establish a clear vision, mission, and strategy, ask the key questions below:

VISION

- "What is God's plan for the orphan?" This is the unattainable "what."
- Backyard Orphans' vision is to see a day where there are more families waiting for children than children waiting for families.
- The church's vision could be the same as Backyard Orphans'.

MISSION

- "What is the Church's role in the plan?"
- Backyard Orphans' mission is to equip church leaders to empower believers to help hurting children find healing homes.
- The church's mission could be, "We raise up families to foster, adopt, and support."

STRATEGY

- "How is our church going to fill the role?"
- Backyard Orphans' strategy is to educate the church on the orphan crisis and train them to be a part of the solution.
- The church's strategy could be, "We educate our people on the orphan crisis and train them to be a part of the solution."

YOUR VISION STATEMENT:

_____

_____

_____

YOUR MISSION STATEMENT:

_____

_____

_____

YOUR STRATEGY:

_____

_____

_____

NAME AND LOGO

Choose a name and logo that fit the culture of the church family.

THE HOPE EFFECT

BRIDGE CHURCH FOSTER & ADOPTION CARE

Simply Love ORPHAN CARE

Cherish Kids™

CHOSEN

WEBSITE

Check for your ministry name at namecheck.com

- Oaks Orphan Care: oaks.church/fosteradopt
- Cherish Kids: cherishkids.org
- ActiveGrace: gtaustin.com/activegraceministry
- Tapestry: tapestryministry.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Pinterest
- Google+

BROCHURE

- Communicate the vision, mission, and strategy
- Offer opportunities for involvement

DESIGN YOUR OWN LOGO HERE

BUDGET

You may be asking "What does orphan care cost?" Your team should prioritize creating a budget line for this new ministry. Below are a few examples of what you could include in that budget.

DEVELOPING

- Marketing materials
- Website

EVENTS

- Parents' night out
- Foster family appreciation dinners
- Annual Orphan Sunday celebration

GIVING

- Gift cards for new placements
- Volunteer appreciation gifts
- Blessing your local and global partners

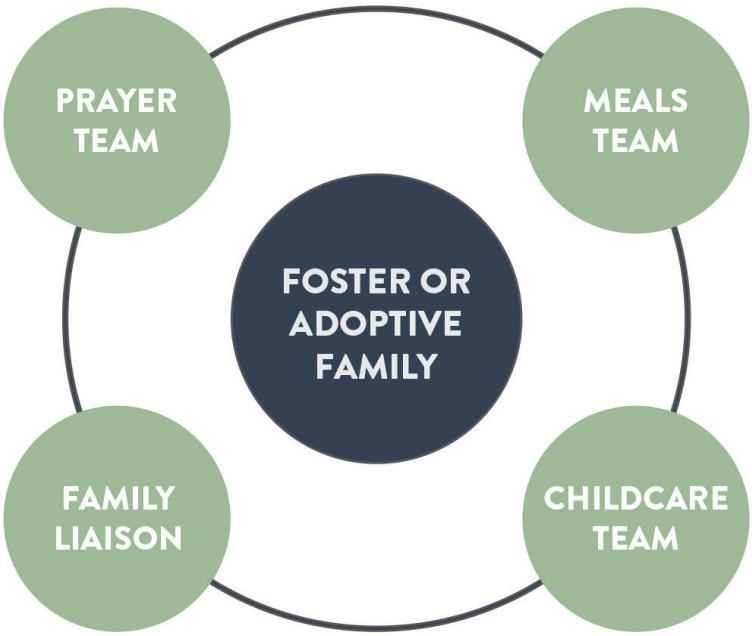
MULTIPLYING

- Ongoing support for Backyard Orphans to reach the next church
- Ongoing support for global orphan care ministries
- Engage other pastors

> ***"We find what is important to us when we examine our calendar and budget."***

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

The primary model churches use to develop their ministry is in the diagram below. For every family that fosters/adopts there is a wrap around support team for them.



37 WAYS TO ENGAGE IN ORPHAN CARE

God has called all believers to do something on behalf of the orphan, and there are innumerable ways to engage in that calling.

INTERNAL

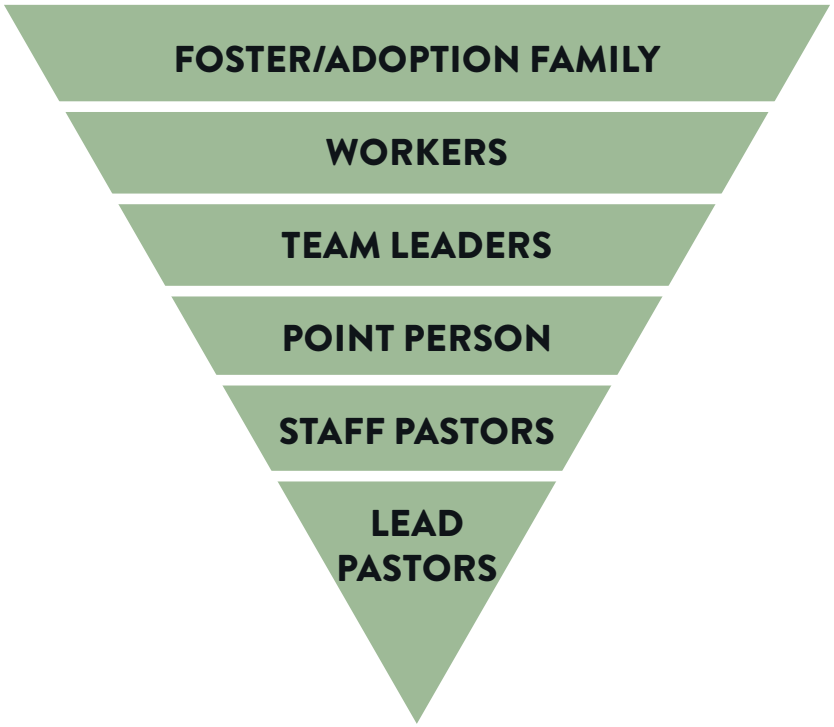
1. **PRAYER TEAM**: Pray regularly for the specific foster/adopt family assigned to you, sending one note of encouragement each month.
2. **MEALS TEAM**: Provide meals for families with new foster/adoptive placements. (TakeThemAMeal.com)
3. **CHILD CARE TEAM**: Provide temporary care (babysitting, respite care, etc.) for foster children to give relief to their family.
4. **FAMILY ADVOCATE**: Walk alongside foster/adopt families as they navigate the foster/adopt training and paperwork. A family advocate is well served by a veteran foster/adopt parent.
5. **FOSTER/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.
6. **FACEBOOK GROUP**: Create a Facebook group for foster/adopt families in your church to request prayer and post needs. (When creating, select the "Secret Group" privacy setting so only members can find the group and see the posts. This protects the families and children involved.)
7. **HANDYMAN TEAM**: Serve single parents, widows, and foster/adopt families who are in need of yard work, repairs around their home, and small construction projects.
8. **FOSTER/ADOPT PARENT FELLOWSHIP**: Host a fellowship (banquet, picnic, dessert bar, etc.) for foster/adopt parents to give them an emotional boost through relational connection.
9. **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**: Give foster parents a night off while their kids have a blast at an event they'll never forget. (pno.backyardorphans.org)
10. **ERRANDS TEAM**: Provide grocery and pharmacy pick up for families after a new placement.
11. **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**: Invite an older youth from a local shelter or a youth who has recently aged out to participate in your family's holiday traditions.
12. **ENCOURAGEMENT TEAM**: Each month write cards of encouragement for foster and adoptive families in your church.
13. **RESOURCE TEAM/ROOM**: Provide items that families may need for new placements (toys, clothes, toiletries, etc.).
14. **HAIR CARE TEAM**: Create teams that teach multi-racial families how to care for kids of different cultural backgrounds. (hair and skin care, food, clothes, music, etc.).
15. **TRANSPORTATION TEAM**: Provide transportation for children in care to and from parent visits, doctors appointments, etc.
16. **SUPPORT GROUPS**: Offer pre-placement support groups for families in process to foster/adopt, and post-placement support groups for families who have foster/adopt placements.
17. **GRADUATION SHOWER**: Host a shower for a graduate to equip him/her with needs related to college and/or independent life outside of foster care.
18. **SUMMER CAMP**: Sponsor a child to attend a Christian camp during the summer.
19. **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND BLUE SUNDAY**: This April, join scores of others who will pray and raise awareness for victims of child abuse. (BlueSunday.org)
20. **NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH and CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS SUMMIT**: This May, participate in an international conference that draws thousands of orphan care advocates from over 30 countries. (CAFO.org/summit)
21. **NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH and ORPHAN SUNDAY**: This November, engage in the nationwide campaign to highlight the orphan. (OrphanSunday.org)
22. **ORPHAN'S TABLE**: Share a meal eaten by orphans around the world and walk through the prayer and discussion guide. Email info@achildshopeintl.org to order your Orphan's Table meal (cafo.org/orphans-table).

EXTERNAL

23. **CARE PORTAL**: Meet the needs of families in the community by connecting to the state through the Care Portal. (careportal.backyardorphans.org)
24. **GO EXCHANGE**: Support local and global orphan care and prevention by ordering apparel for your next event through the GO Exchange. (GoEx.org)
25. **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**: Be a part of changing lives around the globe through the power of a simple shoebox gift. (SamaritansPurse.org)
26. **BACKPACKS**: Supply a child in foster care with all the back-to-school essentials.
27. **CHILD SPONSORSHIP**: Provide a child in need with access to life-saving basics like food, shelter, clean water, and education! (jamesproject.org, feedone.com, GOproject.org, CompactFamilyServices.org, childhopeonline.org, OneChildMatters.org)
28. **MEETING SPACE**: Open the church to be used by child welfare or the child placing agency for trainings, meetings, or family visits.
29. **FOSTER CARE CAMPS**: Create life-changing moments for children of abuse through camp, clubs and mentors. (forthechildren.org; teenreach.org)
30. **ADOPT A CHILD WELFARE OFFICE OR CHILD PLACING AGENCY**: Help meet the needs of the local child welfare office or child placing agency through tangible donations, service projects, or emotional support.
31. **MISSIONS TRIP**: Support local and global missions by serving your local children's home or an international orphan care organization.
32. **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)**: Be a voice for children by walking alongside them, from the beginning through permanency, as they navigate the foster care system. (CASAForChildren.org)
33. **SAFE FAMILIES**: Become a network of support for at-risk families by developing mentoring relationships with parents and providing a safe home for their children. (Safe-Families.org)
34. **AGING OUT**: Caring 4 Foster Youth is a program you can participate in. This initiative is focused on the 20,000 youth who age out of the foster care system each year. (c4group.org)
35. **INTERNATIONAL HOSTING**: Invite an orphaned child to become part of your family for a period of time, and give them a glimpse of the unconditional love of their Father. (NHFC.org)
36. **HEART GALLERY**: Display a portrait exhibit of children from the area who dream of finding a "forever family." (HeartGalleryofAmerica.org)
37. **HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY CONFERENCE**: This annual conference sheds light on those needs and equips parents, caregivers, churches, and professionals with practical tools to care more holistically for the children entrusted to them. (showhope.org)

WHAT 5 - 7 ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES COULD YOU START?

STEP 3: DEVELOP LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE



JOB DESCRIPTIONS

LEAD PASTOR

- Highlight orphan care throughout the year
  - **March**
    - National Child Welfare Workforce Appreciation Month
  - **April**
    - National Child Abuse Prevention Month
    - Blue Sunday
  - **May**
    - National Foster Care Month
  - **June-July**
    - Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC)
    - Missions Trips
  - **August**
    - Back-to-School Drives
  - **September**
    - Christian Alliance For Orphans (CAFO) Summit
  - **October**
    - AG Foster Care Network Conference
  - **November**
    - National Adoption Month
    - Orphan Sunday
  - **December**
    - Operation Christmas Child
    - Angel Tree
- Approve the vision, mission, strategy, name, and logo

> ***You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.***
>
> ***Exodus 18:18 (NIV)***

- Work with the point person to determine the orphan care calendar and budget
- Equip the pastoral staff with practical and biblical training
  - **Book Study**
    - The Connected Child by Dr. Karyn Purvis
    - When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- Equip the congregation with practical and biblical training
  - **Sermon Series**
    - Exodus 2 Moses' story, Esther's story, 2 Samual 9 Mephibosheth story, Romans 8, or James 1:27
  - **Scriptures**
    - Exodus 2:10, Psalms 68:5-6, Isaiah 1:17, Micah 6:8, Romans 8:15-17, James 1:27
  - **Small Groups**
    - ALL IN Orphan Care by Jason Johnson
    - Adopted for Life by Russell Moore
- Engage other pastors in the community

For more content visit blog.backyardorphans.org or resources.backyardorphans.org Password: ChildrenNeedFamilies

STAFF PASTORS

- Equip individual ministry departments with practical and biblical training
  - **Book Study**
    - The Connected Child by Dr. Karyn Purvis
    - When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
  - **Trauma-Informed Care**
  - **Reporting suspected abuse/neglect**
    - TheHotline.org; 800.799.7233
    - Reporter is protected
    - Reporting suspicion of neglect/abuse starts an investigation
    - See Resource Section for more information
- Evaluate departmental systems and policies to better prepare your teams
  - **Examples**
    - Check-in systems for kids
    - Security/parking lot team training and policies
    - Language updates for kids who come from non-traditional family units
  - **Ask yourself and your team to consider, "What changes need to be made to better accommodate families in foster care?"**

POINT PERSON

- Align with the vision of the pastor for the orphan care ministry
- Develop a ministry team
- Provide ongoing support for foster/adopt families
- Develop a database of families interested in fostering, adopting, or supporting

FAMILY LIAISON

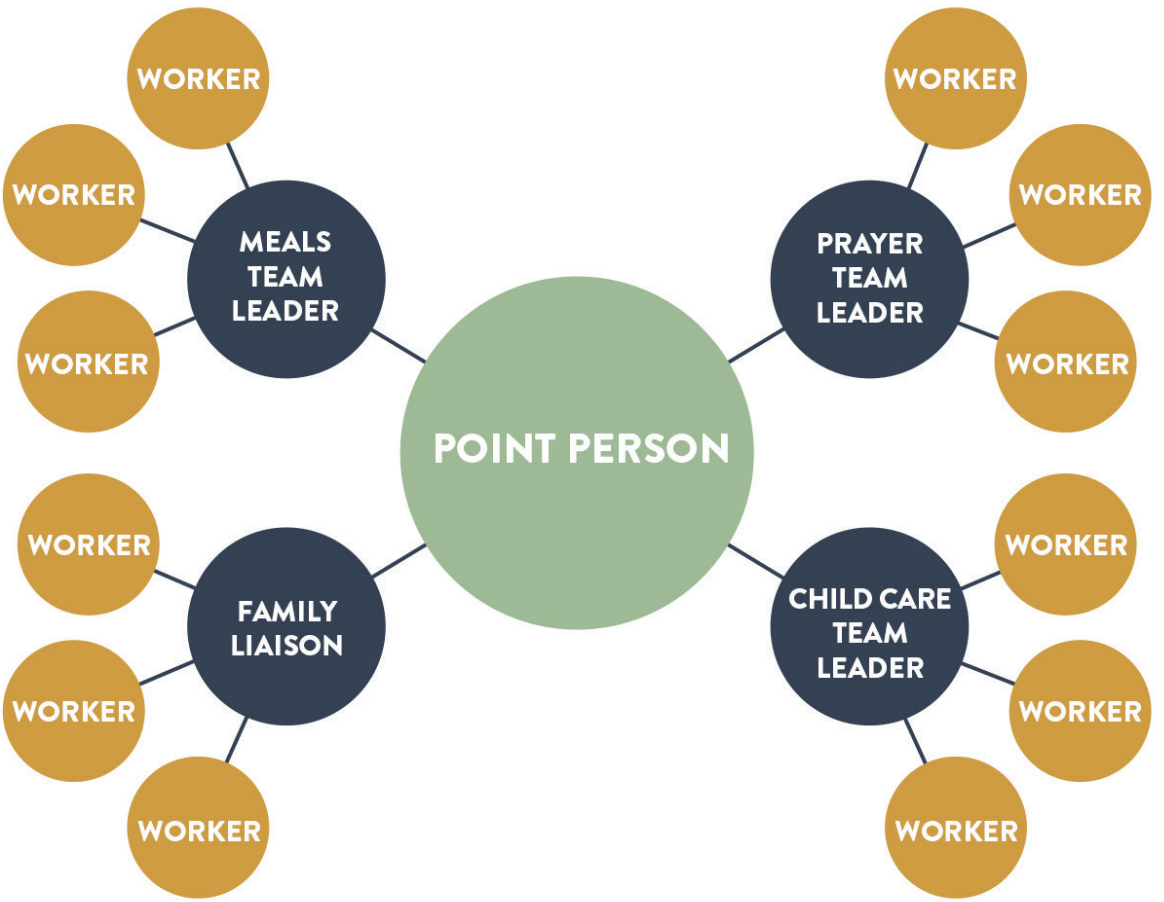
- Walk alongside foster/adopt families as they navigate the foster/adopt training and paperwork
- Maintain a system to track each family's progress through the licensing process
- Well served by a veteran foster/adopt parent

TEAM LEADERS

- Serve the church point person in leading a specific orphan care ministry
- Communicate regularly with the workers on their team

WORKERS

- Serve the team leader in a specific orphan care ministry
- Work directly with the foster/adopt families


POINT PERSON
MEALS TEAM LEADER
WORKER
WORKER
WORKER
PRAYER TEAM LEADER
WORKER
WORKER
WORKER
FAMILY LIAISON
WORKER
WORKER
WORKER
CHILD CARE TEAM LEADER
WORKER
WORKER
WORKER

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT SUNDAY

Volunteers should be established before your Launch Sunday. Just as you will have the ministry infrastructure built prior to launching, you also want your leadership and volunteer structure built as well! In doing so, you'll ensure that your follow-up process will be quick and efficient. As soon as families say "yes" you need a team to help get them going while the momentum is strong. In addition, families are more confident to say yes to foster care or adoption when they see a team already in place to support them.

SUNDAY RESPONSE CARD

BACKYARD ORPHANS EST 2012

The mission of the Orphan Care Movement is to create awareness for orphans, and provide resources for all people to be involved in orphan care and support for foster care and adoption families.

How can you serve?

Join one of the Orphan Care Initiative Teams. Check the box for the team(s) you are interested in serving:

- ☐ Handyman Team
- ☐ Prayer Team
- ☐ Child Care Team
- ☐ Meals Team
- ☐ Missions Team
- ☐ Advocate Team
- ☐ CarePortal Team

Name

Email

Cell Phone

PURPOSE

- Engage the church family
- Announce the vision and mission of the ministry
- Present involvement opportunities
- Find out who is interested in volunteering and identify potential team leaders

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

- Email Survey (SurveyMonkey.com)
- Sunday response card

FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS

POINT PERSON WITH TEAM LEADERS

- From those who respond through the survey or response cards, identify the individuals who may be qualified and interested in becoming a team leader
- Contact potential leaders within a week of the recruitment
- Meet with them one-on-one or as a group
  - Present the vision, mission, strategy, and goals
  - Explain the leadership job descriptions and flowchart
  - Announce next meetings
  - Announce the date of Launch Sunday (Step 4)

POINT PERSON AND TEAM LEADERS WITH WORKERS

- Organize all recruitment information into a volunteer database
- Contact potential workers within a week of the recruitment
- Invite them to an informational meeting after meeting with team leaders
  - Present the vision, mission, strategy, and goals
  - Explain the leadership job descriptions and flowchart
  - Breakout workers with their team leaders
  - Announce next meetings
  - Announce the date of launch Sunday (Step 4)

SPECIAL NOTE FOR THE CHILD CARE TEAM

- As a rule, respite care providers and babysitters cannot be shared among agencies, making this area a great need for foster/adopt families
  - Contact the child placing agency to find out their minimum requirements for the varying lengths of care
  - Create a database of the approved respite care providers and babysitters to offer foster/adopt families
- Host a "paper party" to help them complete all necessary application paperwork required by the child placing agency

ONGOING MEETINGS

QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH THE POINT PERSON AND PASTOR

- Set budget
- Plan calendar (Refer to "37 Ways to Engage in Orphan Care,")
- Communicate praise reports and prayer requests

QUARTERLY OR MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH THE POINT PERSON AND TEAM LEADERS

- Build chemistry
- Assess and set goals
- Plan events

ANNUAL OR SEMIANNUAL MEETINGS WITH THE TEAM LEADERS AND WORKERS

- Build chemistry
- Assess and set goals
- Plan events

MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH THE FOSTER/ADOPT FAMILIES

- Find out needs
- Encourage and uplift

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

- Texts/Phone calls (i.e. WhatsApp or GroupMe)
- Emails
- Monthly orphan care newsletter
- Social media

If you need more help, we encourage you to set up an appointment to consult with a Backyard Orphans' team member

"Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results"

- Andrew Carnegie

WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

STEP 4: LAUNCH SUNDAY

SUNDAY SERVICE

PURPOSE

- Equip the church family
- Recruit foster and adoptive families
- Announce the launch of the ministry

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

- Preach a full sermon on the biblical mandate using James 1:27.
- Announce the launch of your new orphan care ministry.
- Altar call challenges:
  - Spiritual adoption
  - Interested in fostering, adoption, or support

BACKYARD ORPHANS IS HERE TO HELP!

Which role would you like us to fulfill?

- Preach the sermon
- Pray a commissioning prayer over your ministry
- Offer a support role during the luncheon
- Serve behind the scenes where needed
- Celebrate and promote via social media

LUNCHEON

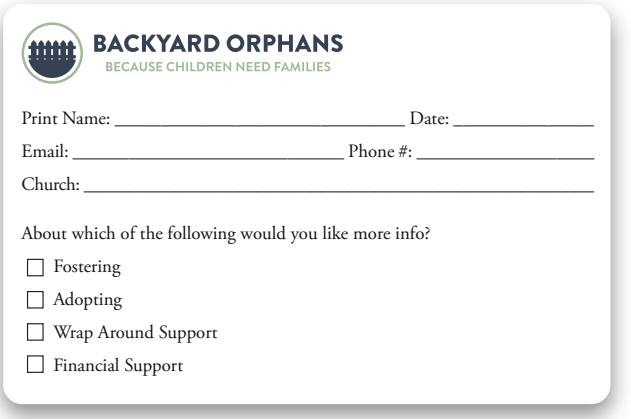
PURPOSE

- Provide families with a deeper understanding of holistic orphan care
- Connect the church with child welfare and the child placing agency

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

- Attendees
  - Anyone interested in fostering, adopting, or supporting those who do
  - Pastor, point person, and team leaders
  - Backyard Orphans team
  - A representative from child welfare and our partnered child placing agency
- Content
  - A picture of what holistic orphan care looks like in the church
  - Q&A
  - Backyard Orphans response cards collected and emailed to the point person for follow-up
- Timeframe
  - Begins after the last service
  - Length: approximately 1.5 hours
- Preparation
  - Present the opportunity in advance with a request to RSVP to gain an idea of the expected attendance
  - Secure an available room with audio/video
  - Provide a meal for those in attendance
  - Provide childcare for families with young children
  - Coordinate follow-up to begin the training process immediately (see next section)

This is a perfect opportunity for your support team to be active. For example, providing the meal and childcare.



BACKYARD ORPHANS
BECAUSE CHILDREN NEED FAMILIES

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Church: _____

About which of the following would you like more info?

- ☐ Fostering
- ☐ Adopting
- ☐ Wrap Around Support
- ☐ Financial Support

KNOW WHERE YOUR FAMILIES ARE

Maintain a system to track each family's progress through the licensing process. The arduous journey that is the licensing process is the number one step where families get stuck. Without this step, however, children will continue to wait for families. Just as new converts need discipleship, so new foster/adopt families need the same follow-up after the initial commitment. Tracking information can also help your church in the future. It is vital to keep up with what is happening so you can most effectively tell your church's story.

***Backyard Orphans will also request numbers at the end of each year.*

INTERESTED

- These families should attend the luncheon.
- Collect information cards (names, contact info, foster care or adoption).
- Input this data into your database (See exclusive resource page).
  - Data is gold! This will help tell your story.
- Give families the Prepare and Enrich assessment.
  - This assessment gives great insight to their preparedness to foster or adopt, and will assist pastoral leadership in ministering to families who are not ready.
  - A family who is not ready may simply need counseling or they may need to be redirected to a ministry that is a better fit.

APPLICATION

- Track families as they turn their applications into the child placing agency.
- If families are stuck, host a "paper party" at the churches to encourage finishing their applications together.

TRAINING

- Track families as they complete their needed training classes.
- Providing food and childcare can make the difference in a family being able to attend these trainings.
- It is a best practice to host these trainings at your church.

LICENSED

- Each year, track how many new families get licensed.
- Officially invite them to the foster/adopt support group.
- Officially invite them to your closed FB group.
- Introduce them to team leaders.

PLACEMENT

- How do you get updates from families?
  - Collecting data through relationship is the easiest model if it works for you. In the licensing process, point people chase the families. Once licensed, families reach out to point person to communicate about new placements. Do your families trust you enough to tell you?
  - Utilizing family advocates
  - At their support group
  - Through your closed Facebook group
  - What systems are you putting in place so your families know how to communicate with you? Do they text their prayer partner, advocate, or point person?
- What systems can help?
  - There is no perfect system, so use what works for you as a leader.
    - Current church database (Fellowship One, Planning Center, Church Community Builder, etc.)
    - Binder system
    - Spreadsheets (Google Drive, Excel, Numbers, etc.)
    - *See Exclusive Resource page for a simple example.*
- What numbers are important?
  - You keep people involved in the mission when they know they're making an impact.
    - Total families licensed
    - New families licensed
    - Children placed
    - Children adopted this year
    - Number of support teams
    - Total serving on support teams

- Who needs to know?
  - Report updates and wins to your lead pastor. When he shares these wins from the pulpit, more people will be inspired to get involved!
  - Celebrate with your team leaders!
  - Backyard Orphans will check in each year through email or our Facebook group, to celebrate with you and hear your latest stories.

EQUIP

Church leadership often asks us, "How much training should we go through?" Our answer to that is, "How many weapons would you want to carry into war?" Our calling to orphan care is not a calling to comfort, but to combat. We, the Church, have to be committed to equipping our families for spiritual battle.

SCHEDULE TECHNICAL TRAINING

- The initial contact between the church and the child placing agency is made in preparation for Step 4
- Together, the point person and the child placing agency will coordinate the logistics of the foster/adopt training: dates and location
- With enough interested families, it is often possible for the church to host the training

SCHEDULE BIBLICAL TRAINING

- Determine weekly schedule (8 weeks suggested) in preparation for Step 4
- Find a meeting time that fits your church culture (i.e. Wednesday night, small group, or Sunday school)
- Small Group Curriculum
  - ALL IN Orphan Care by Jason Johnson
  - Adopted for Life by Russell Moore

ANNUAL RECRUIT AND EQUIP

New volunteers and foster/adopt families will continually join the team, but we strongly suggest to do a formal recruitment annually. Most of our churches do this in November on Orphan Sunday (OrphanSunday.org). Some elements to consider are below.

VIDEO

Share a story to celebrate what God has already done

GUESTS

There are several parties who would be honored to be invited to a launch service:

- Backyard Orphans: request a service with one of our speakers at BackyardOrphans.org
- Child welfare
- Child placing agency
- Heart Gallery
- Local media

CELEBRATION

This day is a wonderful opportunity to give God the glory for what he has done, is doing, and will do in the future through orphan care.

- Celebrate partners
- Celebrate families
- Celebrate children

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

Be patient with the process that God is using. Only in Heaven will we truly know all that God will do through this journey.

If you need more help, we encourage you to set up an appointment to consult with a Backyard Orphans' team member.





ACTION *plan*

CHURCH STAFF ASSESSMENT

PLEASE CIRCLE THE NUMBER THAT BEST REFLECTS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Does not exist	Minimal existence	Needs work	Needs some work	Does not need work

1. We have a safe and secure check in/out process in our kids and youth ministries.

   1 2 3 4 5

2. Our kids and youth volunteers are properly vetted with an application, background check, and references.

   1 2 3 4 5

3. Our kids and youth volunteers are required to attend regular trainings or team meetings.

   1 2 3 4 5

4. Our kids and youth volunteers have ongoing trauma-informed care training.

   1 2 3 4 5

5. We have a process for identifying children in foster care. (i.e. data entry, stickers, etc.)

   1 2 3 4 5

6. We have a quiet space (or ear muffs) for kids who are overwhelmed or need one-on-one attention.

   1 2 3 4 5

7. We are equipped to serve kids with special needs.

   1 2 3 4 5

8. Our kids and youth staff communicate well with parents regarding incidents and celebrations.

   1 2 3 4 5

9. Our kids and youth staff provide details about upcoming events with ample lead time for families.

   1 2 3 4 5

10. We have a healthy child to volunteer ratio.

    1 2 3 4 5

11. We have created a budget line item for orphan care.

    1 2 3 4 5

12. Orphan care is a core ministry emphasis of our entire church. (i.e. governance, pulpit, etc.)

    1 2 3 4 5

13. Throughout the year, we emphasize the mandate of caring for orphans in every department.

    1 2 3 4 5

14. I have a good relationship with my local child welfare.

    1 2 3 4 5

15. We provide concrete services for our church's foster families.

    1 2 3 4 5

16. We provide support services for our church's foster families. (i.e. child care, support group, etc.)

    1 2 3 4 5

17. We have a yearly service dedicated to recruiting foster/adopt families.

    1 2 3 4 5

18. Our church does a great job at making foster and adoptive families feel at home.

    1 2 3 4 5

4 STEP PROCESS TIMELINE

YOUR TIMELINE	TIMELINE	DETAILS
	Prior to today	Choose Orphan Care Point Person
	Today	Attend Step 1 Workshop
	Next Week: ____	Finalize Launch Sunday date Invite CPA and Child Welfare to your Launch
	4 months out	Finalize Step 2 - Decide ministry teams
	4 months out	Select and meet with team leaders Create recruitment material
	3 months out	Complete Step 3 Recruitment
	3 months out	Team leaders meet with new volunteers Send Launch details to CPA and Child Welfare Setup CPA orientation and Super Weekend dates
	1 month out	Finalize Launch date details with Backyard Orphans Turn in Service Prep Questionnaire to Backyard Orphans Schedule meals team/order food for Launch Sunday lunch
	3 weeks out	Invite congregation to register for Launch Sunday lunch
	1 week out	Phone call with Backyard Orphan team member Gather projected numbers for Launch Sunday lunch Verify attendance with CPA and Child Welfare
	Launch Sunday	**See workbook Step 4**
	1-2 days after	Follow up with interested foster/adopt/support families Send reminders for CPA Orientation Communicate to the congregation the highlights of the Launch
	1-2 weeks after	CPA orientation
	2-3 weeks after	Bible Study begins Send reminders for foster/adoptive parent training
	1 month after	Family Advocate follows up from orientation Paper party if needed
	6-9 months after	Congregation celebration of first child placement!

NOTES

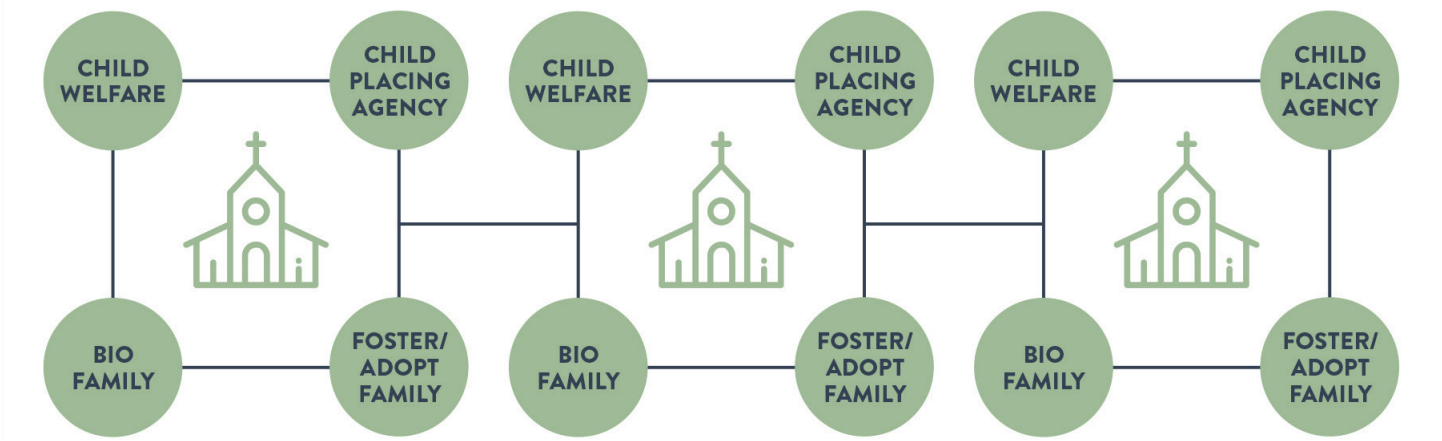




COMMUNITY *engagement*

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The final aspect of Backyard Orphans' strategy is to empower healthy, strong, and sustainable church-based orphan care ministries to engage other churches in their community.



WAYS TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

CHURCH TO CHURCH

The orphan crisis is bigger than one church or denomination, therefore the solution requires the collaboration of the whole Church. Proven over time, the engagement process is best accomplished pastor to pastor.

- Community Clergy Advisory Board (CCAB) or County-based Orphan Care Alliance
  - Connects the body of Christ within the community
  - Builds sustainability
  - Comprised of:
    - 6 clergy from various churches and denominations to form the core
    - 6 community leaders (e.g. judge, business leader, child welfare, school official, police officer) to form the advisory team
- Clergy in Court for Kids
  - Contact local judge
  - Visit court
  - Invite a pastor
- Clergy Coffee
  - Share success stories
  - Invite to Backyard Orphans' Church Leadership Workshop

CHURCH TO CHILD WELFARE

- The job of child welfare workers is grueling, and they do it with minimal to no appreciation. Churches can bless child welfare agencies by honoring and serving them.
- Backyard Orphans believes child welfare workers are heroes on the front lines of the battle for society's future, the hurting children of our communities.

CHURCH TO CHILD PLACING AGENCY

- As the partnered child placing agency serves families in the church, churches have the opportunity to serve them in return.

CHURCH TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- Public officials interact daily with families and children the Church wants to serve.
- Churches can reach out to local officials as a way of building a bridge to the community.
  - Build a relationship with the juvenile judge
  - Build a relationship with the local police
  - Build a relationship with the local mayor

> ***"The orphan crisis is bigger than one church or denomination, therefore the solution requires the collaboration of the whole Church."***

RESEARCH YOUR COMMUNITY STATISTICS

SEARCH SITES

- epodunk.com :: for small communities
- census.gov :: for larger communities and state information
- city-data.com :: online source for housing and demographic data
- thearda.com :: American Religious Data Archive
- education.com :: information about public schools
- bit.ly/FANumbers :: foster and adoption numbers (AFCARS)

RESEARCH YOUR COMMUNITY LEADERS

COUNTY POSITION	NAME
Senator	
Sheriff	
Deputy	
Juvenile Judge(s) for Child Welfare Cases	
CASA Director	
Care Portal Director	

CHILD WELFARE (CW) POSITIONS: Note: positions vary from state to state	NAME
Director	

CITY POSITIONS	NAME
Mayor	
City Manager	
Ministerial Alliance President	
School Superintendent	
Principals	
School Board Members	
Chamber of Commerce Board Members	

CHILD PLACING AGENCY (CPA)	NAME
Program Director	
Case Manager(s)	
Other	

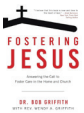
COMMUNITY RESOURCES	NAME
Pregnancy Center	
Homeless Ministry	
Food Pantry	
Clothing Center	
Addiction Recovery	
Other	

FOSTER FRIENDLY RESOURCES i.e. accepts medicaid and/or CW funds	NAME
Daycare	
Dental	
Physician	
Vision	
Licensed Counselor/Therapist	
Emergency Room/Urgent Care	



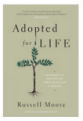
RESOURCES

BOOKS



Fostering Jesus by Dr. Bob Griffith

foster care, theology, church leaders, adoption



Adopted For Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches by Russell D. Moore

adoption, theology, pre-placement, volunteers, international, church staff, small group



The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family by Karyn B. Purvis, David R. Cross, and Wendy Lysons Sunshine

parenting, volunteers, church staff, trauma care, academic, foster care, adoption



Orphanology: Awakening to Gospel-Centered Adoption and Orphan Care by Tony Merida and Rick Morton

theology, adoption, foster care, pre-placement, domestic, small group



You Can Adopt Without Dept: Creative Ways to Cover the Cost of Adoption byJulie Gumm

finances, adoption, pre-placement



Orphan Justice: How to Care for Orphans Beyond Adopting by Johnny Carr and Laura Captari

theology, pre-placement, human trafficking, poverty, domestic, small group



When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

theology, international, poverty, missions, finances



Small Town, Big Miracle: How Love Came to the Least of These by Bishop W.C. Martin

theology, foster care, poverty, adoption, domestic



Becoming Home: Leading the Way in Solving the Orphan Crisis by Jedd Medefind

theology, foster care, adoption, domestic



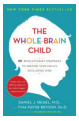
Confessions of an Adoptive Parent: Hope and Help from the Trenches of Foster Care and Adoption by Mike Berry

foster care, adoption, parenting, post-placement



The Connected Parent by Dr. Purvis and Lisa Qualls

parenting, adoption, foster care, trauma care



Whole Brained Child by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson

parenting, adoption, foster care, trauma care

ONLINE

Empowered To Connect: EmpoweredToConnect.org

foster care, adoption, theology, volunteers, parenting, trauma care



Jason Johnson Blog: JasonJohnsonBlog.com

foster care, adoption, theology, volunteers, parenting

Tapestry Adoption & Foster Care Ministry Podcast: TapestryMinistry.org/Podcast

foster care, adoption, theology, volunteers, parenting, trauma care

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



ALL IN Orphan Care: Equipping the Church to Help Kids and Strengthen Families
by Jason Johnson

foster care, adoption, theology, volunteers, parenting, small group, pre-placement



Reframing Foster Care: Filtering Your Foster Parenting Journey
by Jason Johnson

foster care, adoption, theology, parenting, small group, post-placement



If You Were Mine: A Workshop for Those Exploring Adoption
by Hope for Orphans

adoption, theology, parenting, small group, pre-placement



The Connection: Where Hearts Meet
by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Elizabeth Styffe

foster care, adoption, theology, parenting, small group, post-placement



Created to Connect: A Christian's Guide to The Connected Child
by Dr. Karyn Purvis with Michael and Amy Monroe

foster care, adoption, theology, volunteers, parenting, trauma care

CHILDREN



Who Loves Series
by Jami Kaeb

foster care, parenting, bio-families



Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights
by Julie Nelson

foster care, adoption, parenting, bio-families



Kids Need to Be Safe: A Book for Children in Foster Care
by Julie Nelson

foster care, parenting



Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care
by Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia Kahn Wright

foster care, parenting



Farmer Herman and the Flooding Barn
by Jason Weber

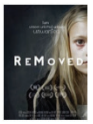
foster care, adoption, parenting



Who's Your Daddy?
By Lisa and Missy Harper

foster care, adoption, parenting, theology, bio-families

DIGITAL



ReMoved, Part One & Two: ReMovedFilm.com

foster care, pre-placement, poverty, volunteers, church staff



Camp: TheCampMovie.com

foster care, missions



Trust-Based Parenting: Creating Lasting Changes in Your Child's Behavior
produced by TCU Institute of Child Development

foster care, adoption, parenting, volunteers, church staff, trauma care, academic



Playful Interaction: Unlocking the Mysteries of Nurturing Human Relationships
produced by TCU Institute of Child Development

foster care, adoption, parenting, volunteers, church staff, trauma care, academic



Healthy Touch
produced by TCU Institute of Child Development

foster care, adoption, parenting, volunteers, church staff, trauma care, academic



Attachment: Why It Matters
produced by TCU Institute of Child Development

foster care, adoption, parenting, volunteers, church staff, trauma care, academic



A Sensory World: Making Sense of Sensory Disorders
produced by TCU Institute of Child Development

foster care, adoption, parenting, volunteers, church staff, trauma care, academic



Children from Hard Places and The Brain
produced by TCU Institute of Child Development

foster care, adoption, parenting, volunteers, church staff, trauma care, academic



Adoption and Foster Rx: Solutions for Wounded Families
produced by Orphan's Promise

foster care, adoption, parenting, trauma care, post-placement, small group

PREPARE ENRICH
building strong marriages

Prepare Enrich Assessment Website
"This is an online marriage assessment to determine assumptions couples might have in fostering or adopting." bit.ly/PrepareFA

foster care, adoption, academic, pre-placement



GLOSSARY

- **CASE MANAGER:** One who facilitates placement of foster children through a child placing agency. Children placed into foster homes and their foster families are assigned a case manager.

- **CASE WORKER:** A social worker employed by a state child welfare agency to take on the cases of children in state conservvatorship (guardianship) providing them with advocacy, information, and other services. Children taken into foster care and their biological families are assigned a case worker.

- **CHILD PLACING AGENCY (CPA):** A state or private agency that facilitates the placement of children in foster care. The child placing agency is required to abide by the minimum standards set by the state as they license foster families.

- **CHILD WELFARE:** State agencies providing social services to children and their families.

- **CONSERVATORSHIP/GUARDIANSHIP:** Custody of children in foster care.

- **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA):** Trained and supervised volunteers appointed by a judge to represent the best interest of abused or neglected children in court.

- **MINIMUM STANDARDS:** Standards set by state child welfare agencies to be upheld for the protection of children in foster care.

- **PREVENTION TO PERMANENCY:** Lanugage often used by child welfare to communicate a continuum of care for children from preserving biological families/preventing removal to finding permanent homes for them. (Permanency may be found through reunification with biological family or adoption.)

- **RESPITE CARE:** Temporary care of foster children providing relief for their foster family. Individuals providing respite care are approved and trained by the child placing agency.

- **TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE:** A framework for care that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of trauma in a manner that maintains safety for both child and caregiver.



Not everyone is called to foster or adopt

BUT *everyone* IS CALLED TO DO SOMETHING.

Would you consider being a financial partner? Your financial partnership will save the lives of children and youth!

GIVE.BACKYARDORPHANS.ORG

BECAUSE CHILDREN NEED FAMILIES

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LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

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