

Suggested Orphan Care Ministry Activities

Following is a sampling of activities that your orphan care ministry may want to consider getting involved with. This is certainly not an exhaustive list. Don't worry about trying to do everything. Start with a few activities and then grow from there!

There are many other things that you may want to focus on. Be creative, and seek guidance from others in your church and community. Most of all, seek guidance from God through prayer and He will lead you to where you need to be.

Serving orphaned and disadvantaged children is a way for believers to shine the light of Jesus in their community. In addition, it will often spark a spiritual awakening among church members and attract more people to your church. May God bless you in your efforts, and may God receive an abundance of glory through your service to orphaned and disadvantaged children!

- **Promote adoption, foster care, and the Safe Family program in your church.**
 - Consider inviting a speaker from a Christian agency, like the Florida Baptist Children's Homes, which provides adoption, foster care, and Safe Families program services in your community.
 - Consider having adoptive parents and foster parents provide a testimonial about their calling. If possible, try to have an adult who was adopted as well as someone who was once a foster child to speak to your church.
 - More information can be found about these ministries at the Florida Baptist Children's Homes' website at www.FBCHomes.org.

- **Promote international childcare missions in your church.**
 - Consider having someone in your church organize a week-long mission trip to serve orphaned and disadvantaged children in the developing world.
 - Consider inviting someone from an international childcare program to speak to your church about their ministry.
 - Information about week-long mission trips to serve children in the developing world can be found at the Orphan's Heart website at www.OrphansHeart.org.

- **Promote the Sanctity of Human Life ministry in your church.**
 - A focus of this ministry is to strengthen the work of pregnancy resource centers. Pregnancy resource centers help young women facing a crisis pregnancy to make a life-affirming decision to place their unborn child up for adoption or to parent their child.
 - Consider inviting someone from a local pregnancy resource center to speak to your church about their ministry. In addition, consider having someone who may have once considered abortion but decided instead to make a life-affirming decision. Many pregnancy resource centers are in need of volunteers and financial support.

- **Promote the annual Mother's Day Offering in your church to benefit the Florida Baptist Children's Homes.**
 - Promotional activities include putting up posters, distributing brochures and giving envelopes, showing videos, and providing announcements from the pulpit.
 - The Florida Baptist Children's Homes is an agency of the Florida Baptist Convention and has been serving abused, neglected, and orphaned children since 1904. They have six campus locations across Florida where they provide group home services in family style residences called cottages. For more information see www.fbchomes.org.

- **Conduct other special events in your church to help bring awareness to the plight of orphaned and disadvantaged children.**
 - Start a 40 Days for the Fatherless campaign in your church. See www.40DaysfortheFatherless.org for more information.
 - Promote Orphan Sunday in your church. See www.orphansunday.org.

- **Provide assistance to families of disadvantaged children to help them get ready to go back to school.**
 - Getting kids ready to go back to school can be a financial burden for many families, especially single parents or grandparents that are raising their grandchildren. In many cases, disadvantaged children simply go without as they start a new school year. Kids need school supplies, backpacks, as well as new shoes and clothes. Starting the school year with new clothes and supplies can create a spark of enthusiasm and renewed desire for school and learning.

- **Provide assistance to families of disadvantaged children during Christmas.**
 - Christmas can be a stressful time for families that are struggling financially, especially single parents or grandparents that are raising their grandchildren. Your orphan care ministry team can bring the hope of Christmas to disadvantaged children this year. Identify children and families in your church and community that could benefit from assistance for Christmas presents.

- **Organize and promote special work days.**
 - Project teams can help provide assistance to single parents with needed repairs to their home or automobile.
 - Project teams can help provide maintenance and repairs to a Christian group home or campus that cares for orphaned and disadvantaged children.

- **Organize special enrichment activities for disadvantaged children.**
 - Disadvantaged children often do not have the same opportunities as other children when it comes to experiencing special activities such as trips to theme parks, going boating or fishing, or to a college or professional sports game.

Sample Calendar of Orphan Care Activities

January

- January is Sanctity of Human Life month. Promote Sanctity of Human Life ministry in your church.

March/April

- Promote the Mother's Day Offering in your church to benefit the Florida Baptist Children's Homes.
- Project teams can help provide maintenance and repairs to a Christian group home or campus that cares for orphaned and disadvantaged children.

May

- Conduct the Mother's Day Offering in your church on or around Mother's Day.
- May is foster care awareness month. Consider conducting foster care awareness related activities in your church.

June

- Conduct special enrichment activities for disadvantaged children such as trips to a theme park, sporting event, boating, or other outdoor activities.
- Provide assistance to single parents with needed repairs to their home or automobile.

July/August

- Provide assistance to families of disadvantaged children to help them get ready to go back to school.

September/October

- Promote international childcare missions in your church. Promote an upcoming week-long mission trip to the developing world during spring break, summertime, or other time of the year.
- Organize a work day at a local Christian group home or campus that cares for orphaned and disadvantaged children.

November

- November is adoption awareness month. Consider conducting adoption awareness related activities in your church.
- Have your church participate in activities to bring awareness to the plight of orphaned and disadvantaged children such as Orphan Sunday and 40 Days for the Fatherless.
- Promote the collection and distribution of Christmas presents for needy children around the world.

December

- Provide assistance to families with disadvantaged children during Christmas.