

CONNECT

foster care • adoption • orphan ministries
Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries

In the United States, over **500,000** children are in foster care. Approximately **120,000** of these children need an adoptive family. Over **4,000** children are in Louisiana's foster care system. More than **300** of these children are lingering in foster care because they have no adoptive family. **ALL of these** children are **our** Modern-Day Orphans. Every child needs and deserves unconditional love, care and permanent connections. God has commanded His church to meet the needs of orphans and wherever there is an orphan, he or she is important to God!

There are many ways Christians can show God's love and respond to the needs of children in foster care. Here are just a few:

- Become foster/adoptive parent.
- Invite a foster/adoption specialist to share with your church.
- Host a foster parent orientation at your church to recruit more foster parents.
- Be steadfast in prayer for the 4,000 plus children in Louisiana foster care.
- Pray for the more than 300 Louisiana children lingering in foster care that need an adoptive family.
- Open your church as a training facility for potential foster families.
- Provide special events for area foster/adoptive families such as "parents' night out."
- Serve foster families in practical ways (cook a meal, write encouraging notes, clean their house, cut their lawn, provide a service for free – haircuts, music/art lessons, tutoring, or pay for children to attend camp or other extra-curricular activities).
- Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.
- Host a luncheon or special appreciation event for the child welfare workers that serve foster children in your area.
- Plan special emphases in your church for Orphan Sunday and National Adoption Month every November and National Foster Care Month in May.
- Host a "Heart Gallery" which is a photo gallery of waiting children in Louisiana in need of adoptive homes.

To learn more about how you and your church can support foster care and adoption, contact Beth Green at Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries at 318.343.2244 or beth@lbch.org.

"Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world." James 1:27