

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PRAY. Use this Guide to continue to pray for those facing struggles; go to unitethechurch.org/ap4c to find additional Prayer Guides about other on-going issues facing our city; and watch for future monthly Guides with relevant information specific to those issues.

Stand Sunday on November 10, 2019

Stand with Churches for Foster Kids. Download a Toolkit from: cafo.org/orphansunday/resources/foster-care-resources/

LEARN.

- Go to dfps.state.tx.us/default.asp for information on public assistance for children and the elderly.
- Go to cafo.org/nfci/texas/ for information on vulnerable children in Texas and faith-based ministries to these children.
- Watch for training programs such as trauma-informed care for children and disaster recovery at unitethechurch.org/events.
- Subscribe to the Chalmers Center's online training platform at unitethechurch.org/chalmersonline.
- Sign up to attend or host a Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) at unitethechurch.org/cope.

SERVE.

- Refer families in need to helpfinder.org to find resources.
- Find a place to serve/give so the Church has capacity to care for our most vulnerable families well by taking the By Design Assessment at unitethechurch.org/bydesign.
- Join a CarePortal Response Team at unitethechurch.org/careportal.
- Visit buckner.org for information on foster care and to discuss ways to get involved.
- Embracetexas.org provides services to at-risk foster and adopted children and families in our local community while equipping new and existing church orphan care ministries across the country.
- Volunteer to serve at a low-income public school, nonprofit serving at-risk children/youth, or a marriage or parenting ministry. Find or post opportunities at vomo.org. Find tornado-related options at <https://app.vomo.org/org/fwddfw>.



VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PRAYER GUIDE

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, 'Let us go at once to entreat the LORD and seek the LORD Almighty. I myself am going.' And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty and to entreat him.'" Zechariah 8:20-22

This prayer guide's topic is **Vulnerable Children and Families**.

There are around 30,000 children in foster care in the state of Texas. About 13,000 are waiting for adoption. There are another 26,000 kids at any given time in Texas who are receiving family preservation services from DFPS to help keep them from going into the foster care system. 60% of CPS cases are neglect, not abuse. Most cases of neglect are preventable and driven by poverty.

These numbers can often seem overwhelming and the magnitude of the problem can become paralyzing. And they don't even count the struggling families not on CPS' radar. But did you know there are over 2,000 churches in Dallas County alone? God has positioned the local church to be the solution to the orphan crisis, but we have to say yes.

Please prepare your heart before you begin to pray through the AP4PC categories, so that these Scriptures and your time with God can renew your heart for our Metroplex.



AP4C model was established in collaboration with **Movement Day Greater Dallas** and is facilitated by **Unite**



All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, NIV translation.

SALVATION

“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

Romans 8:15

- Pray that God will guide vulnerable children and their families to salvation despite their circumstances.
- Pray for the children in foster care in Dallas County who have not experienced God’s adoption through Christ.
- Pray for Child Protective Services (CPS) workers, government officials, judges, and police officers who have not yet accepted God’s free gift of salvation.

THE CHURCH

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” Acts 2:44-45

- Pray that the Church would lead the way in caring for vulnerable children and families in our city on an ongoing basis.
- Ask the Lord to redeem the destruction from the recent tornadoes by bringing attention and help to vulnerable families.
- Pray that the Church would see herself as Christ’s solution to the orphan crisis in her own backyard. That we would raise up families to foster, adopt, and support those who do.
- Pray that the Church would open her heart to families of vulnerable children by helping bring restoration through prayer, support of public schools, addiction recovery, marriage and parenting classes, etc.

OUR COMMUNITIES

“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.”

Psalms 68:5-6

- Pray for the foster/adoptive families in our community who have been called out of comfort and into engagement on behalf of children and families who are hurting and for the organizations and churches that support them.
- Pray that vulnerable families would find protection, reconciliation, and restoration.
- Pray for every person, but especially teachers, healthcare professionals, and all mandatory reporters to first use tools available to them like HelpFinder to support a vulnerable family before escalating the issue to CPS.
- Pray that God would make your role clear—how can you support vulnerable children and their families?

TRANSFORMATION

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

- Pray for public officials to be elected who will give vulnerable children and their families the support they need.
- Pray for a stronger partnership between Church and State to help the children in their care.
- Pray that Child Protective Services (CPS) workers would have peace, rest, and wisdom.
- Pray that our judges would seek God and rule justly in every foster care case.
- Pray for the launch of CarePortal within CPS. Visit vimeo.com/273918096 to learn more. Pray about inviting your church and businesses around you to join this active community.