

10

WAYS TO START SERVING THE ORPHAN TODAY

For young people, caring for orphans seems out of reach. If I can't adopt or foster, then I can't do orphan care...can I? The great news is that there are many meaningful ways to reflect God's love for vulnerable children.

1 PRAY

Pray for God's people to rise up for children and families in distress. Pray for foster and adoptive families and children you know. Pray for CAFO member organizations and churches.. Pray for specific ways you can be used. Use this prayer guide to help you pray.

<https://cafo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Prayer-Guide.pdf>

2 LEARN

Passion is a good thing, but doesn't guarantee wise action. Spend time with adoptive and foster families and ask questions, bring them dinner, babysit their kids. Read books and articles, listen to podcasts, webinars, and sermons. Join CAFO's OVC Essentials Course. Attend CAFO's annual Summit. Intern at a local agency.

<https://cafo.org/give-serve/ovc-essentials/>

3 ADVOCATE

Use your voice for the voiceless. On Orphan Sunday, churches worldwide celebrate God's love for the fatherless and how ordinary people can make a difference. Show a short video, pray for orphans during a service, arrange a foster care "Heart Gallery," host a communitywide concert. Find event ideas, free resources and more at the Orphan Sunday website.

<http://www.orphansunday.org/>

4 BABYSIT

Parenting children from hard places can be exhausting and challenging. Find a foster/adoptive family in your church or community and offer regular, free babysitting, tutoring, or "mother's helper" services. Ask your local agency or ministry about providing childcare at events. Volunteer in children's ministry.

5 CONNECT

A consistent, caring adult makes a profound difference for a child. Become a CASA to be an advocate and ally for one child in the court system. Mentor a child. Tutor, coach, or serve in children's/youth ministry where you know there are youth who need support.

<http://www.casaforchildren.org/>

6

VISIT

Mission trips can be life changing. But, with this comes great potential for both good and harm. Seek out an organization serving OVC whose missions trips are consistent with CAFO's guidance on wise short-term missions. Prioritize opportunities to support and uplift those who will be serving children in a place long after you are gone.

<https://cafo.org/ovc/missions/>

7

INTERN

Put the skills, education, and resources God has given you to good use for an organization or non-profit that is doing work to care for vulnerable children and families. As you serve, you'll also gain valuable experience and sharpen skills in your prospective career field. Find a trustworthy CAFO member organization [HERE!](#)

<http://cafo.org/give-serve/student-opportunities>

8

GIVE

Even as young people, getting our pocketbooks involved often draws our hearts in deeper. Give a monthly donation - even a small amount - to a trusted organization supporting children and families. You could donate your daily coffee drink. Put your creative fundraising skills to use and consider donating your birthday or Christmas.

<https://cafo.org/members/>

9

GATHER

One of our greatest capacities, especially as young people, is the power to bring people along with us on a shared journey. How much could you get done at a foster family's house if you all went together? How much money could you raise if your family and friends banded together? How much could you spread the word about needs in foster care or orphans if your campus group took up the cause together? Harness the strength of numbers and rally your group of friends to advocate for the cause of the fatherless in your community.

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CREATE

God has given us each gifts. How might you harness your unique gifts to serve children and families? From oil changes to haircuts, cooking a meal to room design for a newly adopted child, athletic coaching to cleaning a home or car, giving rides to grocery shopping, hosting a bbq or just being a friend, the opportunities are as endless!

CAFO | *STUDENT initiative*

So, where is God inviting you to jump in today? Visit Cafo.org