



orphan
sunday

ONE DAY. ONE VOICE. ONE PURPOSE.

Join Christians around the globe rising for orphans & foster youth.

Isaiah 1:17

nov
13
2016

Defending the cause of the fatherless is at the center of our mission at Generations Adoptions. We seek to provide permanent Christian adoptive families for children in need, counseling and support services to women throughout their pregnancy, and Christian families for orphans around the world. We fight for every child to find a family and want to help your church raise up families for those children in need.

The annual recognition of Orphan Sunday, a worldwide call to action for the church to defend the fatherless, will be on November 13, 2016. On the following pages you will find information and documents to help support your church's recognition of Orphan Sunday.

If you are a Pastor, we recommend you identify individuals in your church, perhaps any adoptive or foster families, to help with your Orphan Sunday event. You can take time during your Sunday service for prayer, videos, testimonies, or a full sermon dedicated to orphans.

We are also looking for members of a church congregation to step up to promote Orphan Sunday. While most Pastors would love to recognize the call to care for orphans, they are simply overwhelmed by their responsibilities and need members of their church to volunteer to lead an event.

We have resources available to support any Pastor or church member to help you create your Orphan Sunday event. Please contact me if you have any questions or are ready to start brainstorming ideas for November 13th. I am here to help you get it off the ground!

Thank you,

Heather McAnear, LBSW
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Resources and Event Ideas

www.orphansunday.org

There are a variety of ways to call attention to the needs of orphans in the U.S. and around the world or promote adoption and foster care in your church. You could show a video and take time to pray for orphans or plan the whole service around how God may be calling you to advocate for orphaned children. We can help brainstorm some ideas for events that will work best for your church community, but here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Bring a staff member from Generations Adoptions in for an **Information Session** on adoption and foster care for interested families
- Show a **short film or documentary** on orphan care and have time for discussion or a panel of families/professionals
- **Highlight local adoption and foster care agencies** in your area and ways they can volunteer their time serving the agencies or families
- Lessons or **Bible Studies** on God's heart for orphans in Sunday School or small groups

The Orphan Sunday website has many resources to help make your Orphan Sunday event easy to plan and execute that you can utilize:

Print

The Orphan Sunday website has attractive resources for printing that include promotional posters, Sunday bulletin inserts, or postcards. The print materials available are general for Orphan Sunday as well as specific to foster care focused events. Many of these are editable by contacting the Orphan Sunday team at Christian Alliance for Orphans.

Check out these resources at: <https://cafo.org/orphansunday/resources/print-materials/>

Videos

Orphan Sunday has created several short videos or documentaries that you can share during or after the Sunday morning service. You could also consider showing a short film or documentary to your congregation to raise awareness, such as The Drop Box (good to highlight international care for orphans) or ReMoved (good to highlight needs in U.S. foster care), available online.

See the Orphan Sunday videos here: <https://vimeo.com/channels/593323>

The Drop Box Film: <http://www.thedropboxfilm.com/>

ReMoved: <http://removedfilm.myshopify.com/>

Small Group Discussions

There are several organizations that offer Bible studies or discussion materials for a small group that you could host in your church.

Faith to Action: <http://faithtoaction.org/resources/journeys-of-faith-study-series/>

Created to Connect: <http://empoweredtoconnect.org/created-to-connect-study-guide/>

God's Heart for the Orphan:

<https://cafo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/GodsHeartOrphan.pdf>

Partnering with Orphan Care Organizations

An easy way to support orphans is to partner with a Christian Alliance for Orphans organization with programs that practically serve orphans. We've listed a few below, but there are many other opportunities for partnering with orphan care organizations on the Orphan Sunday website under the "Partner with a CAFO Ministry" section here:

<https://cafo.org/orphansunday/resources/#partnership-packages>

Ideas For Children's Ministry:

Nickels for Nets – This organization raises money to provide children around Africa and Haiti with life-saving mosquito nets. These nets, only \$8 (or 160 nickels) each, help protect children from malaria and other diseases carried by mosquitos.

<https://cafo.org/orphansunday/partnership-packages/beds-bibles/>

Ideas For Items to Sell:

Ornaments 4 Orphans – This organization provides you with handmade, fair-trade Christmas tree ornaments that you can sell in your church. They provide these to you at no cost and you send them all money raised and any unsold ornaments after you are finished. All money raised goes to support women in East Africa working at a fair wage and other orphan care projects.

<https://cafo.org/orphansunday/partnership-packages/christmas-orphans/>

Ideas For Foster Care and Adoption:

The Forgotten Initiative – This project will provide you with the organization to compile "Journey Bags" for children in foster care. When a child is removed from their home, they often leave with nothing except the clothes on their backs. Your church can get involved by filling backpacks that can be given to your local foster care agencies filled with personal and comfort items for children of all ages.

<https://cafo.org/orphansunday/partnership-packages/foster-care/>

Ideas For Financial Help for Adopting Families:

Both Hands – This project allows you to serve both orphans and widows. Adoptive families identify a team of volunteers to help them serve a widow in their community by doing projects at their home. They gather financial supporters to donate to their time of service and all funds raised go toward the adoption fees for the adoptive family.

<https://cafo.org/orphansunday/partnership-packages/adoption/>