



KNOX AREA FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION MINISTRIES

20 Ideas to start/ grow an adoption/ foster care/ orphan care ministry at your church:

1. PRAY
2. Ask 6-10 people to be on a leadership team.
 - a. Consider adoptive/ foster parents, a church staff member to be your liaison, non-foster/ adoptive parents/ individuals/ students who are passionate about support
3. Assign a point person(s) to your focus areas (ie: adoption, foster care, global orphan care, etc)
4. Name your ministry
 - a. Examples in town: (Cornerstone- “Compassion Team” ; Fellowship “Chosen Children”; Two Rivers “His Heart”; West Park “AFO”; Oak Ridge Baptist “The Compassion Closet”, Grace Baptist “Voice of the Voiceless”)
5. Be very specific in defining goals/ vision on your ministry. Who are you serving? What do you want to do? What is already being done around the city that you can partner with? See our attached list of local agencies and ministries you can partner with.
6. Point person, get to know the people below and write them handwritten thank you notes when appropriate.
 - a. Communications people at your church who do the bulletin, social media, website etc.
 - b. Person who does room reservations
 - c. Finance team for budget approval
 - d. Someone on the pastoral team/ church staff and their secretary to serve as a liaison
 - e. Childcare team
7. Commit to meet at least quarterly together. Consider meeting during a second church service when you already have childcare if possible. Point person is responsible for forming an agenda, leading the meeting, securing a location for meeting. Keep these meetings to 1-1.5 hours. Assign a secretary.
8. Submit a church membership application to KAFcAm to membership@kafcam.org. Application available under “get involved” on www.kafcam.org
9. Use www.kafcam.org as a tool for your families! Use our event calendar. Be very familiar with available resources. Let us know what we can add on there to help you.
10. Send at least one person from your team to the quarterly alliance KAFcAm meetings. 3rd Thursday of January, April, July, October. 11:30-1:30. Rotating locations. Consider hosting one of these by emailing membership@kafcam.org when you’re ready and invite your church staff to come to network and hear what is going on in the foster/ adoptive community in Knoxville.
11. When you’re ready, present your ministry/ initiative to the appropriate pastor/ staff at your church. Hang in there as this can be tough. Remember they hear multiple pitches every week from members wanting their ministry to be on top. Give grace!

12. If approved by leadership, present a **survey** to the church body, small groups, etc. and see who is interested/ invested in these areas. A sample of this survey is available by emailing membership@kafcam.org. After the survey is conducted, gather emails to add to a list serve. Consider sharing these emails with KAFCAM to membership@kafcam.org to add them to our monthly newsletter.
13. Consider setting up a church adoption fund to provide grants for private domestic and international adoptions through “Lifesong”- <http://www.lifesongfororphans.org/churches/church-adoption-funds/> or “The Adoption Foundation of TN”- <http://www.adoptionfoundationtn.org/>
14. Host 1-2 orientations for foster care/ adoption/ orphan care/ year. Let the city wide KAFCAM conference in November serve as 1 orientation to invite your families to and host the 2nd one in the late spring at your church. Assign point people to talk on the different areas. An **orientation manual** for foster care and adoption is available electronically by emailing membership@kafcam.org
15. Develop a step wise approach for your families to take on the adoption/ foster care journey. You may want to use this as a checklist for families applying for grants through your ministry. Example below:
 - a. Pray!
 - b. Take the Prepare/ Enrich Foster Care/ Adoption assessment- \$35. Email membership@kafcam.org for a list of qualified, local administrators.
 - c. Read “Ready or Not” 30 day devotional by Pam Parrish
 - d. Attend orientation
 - e. Connect with a post adoptive/ foster family mentor through the local church if available
 - f. Complete grant application through Lifesong, The Adoption Foundation of TN, etc
 - g. Attend an Empowered to Connect “Prepare” course in Knoxville.
 - h. Read “The Connected Child” by Karen Purvis
16. Invite your families to KAFCAM’s annual events. Send volunteers from your church
 - a. Empowered to Connect Simulcast- Spring
 - b. City Wide Adoption/ Foster care Family Picnic- Fall
 - c. Created for Care mini-retreat for foster/ adoptive mothers- Fall/ Winter
 - d. City wide Adoption/ Foster care Conference- Winter
17. Host an Orphan Sunday event at your church. Go to www.orphansunday.org for details.
18. Consider hosting trainings or nights of prayer and worship for your families. Focus on foster care, adoption, global orphan care, infertility, miscarriage, still birth, infant loss, etc. We have many wonderful training and trainer recommendations! Email membership@kafcam.org for more details.
19. If you want to open your events to the public, please share details with us at Kristin@kafcam.org and with Compassion Coalition to put on the weekly email newsletter that goes out every Monday- charmin@compassioncoalition.org.
20. Check out other established/ well done ministries and reach out to them if you have questions:
 - a. “Tapestry” – Irving Bible Church, TX. <http://tapestryministry.org/>
 - b. “Fostering Together” –North Point Community Church, GA. <http://my.northpointministries.org/fosteringtogether/>
 - c. Project 1.27- <http://project127.com/churches/partner-with-1-27/>