FOSTER CARE IS A MISSION FIELD IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Your church is likely already doing important local mission work.

But there are vulnerable children and families in your community who are part of this mission field and are often overlooked.

When many people hear "foster care," they think there's nothing they can do. But that's not true.

You don't have to become a foster parent or take children into your home to make a difference.

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING.

THE NEED IS REAL IN WEST VIRGINIA

6,000
children are in foster care — four times the national average (per capita).

43,000
children have grandparents or other relatives as primary caregivers.

13 PER 1,000
The state leads in child removals, over four times the national average.

"Religion that is pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress ..."

JAMES 1:27 (NIV)

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOUR CHURCH CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

PRAY
Pray for vulnerable children, families, and those who care for them.

PARTNER
Invest in The Village and help churches care for children and families.

RAISE UP
Increase awareness and identify, equip, and encourage people who may be called to lead.

REACH
Use the gifts and resources in your church to serve vulnerable children and families in your community.

A SIMPLE PLACE TO BEGIN

Sometimes the first step is simply helping people see the mission. Churches already know how to keep missions visible. Your bulletin board can help your congregation see vulnerable children and families as part of the mission field right here at home.

Start by making the mission visible.

A MINISTRY OF CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RANCH
chestnut mountain village

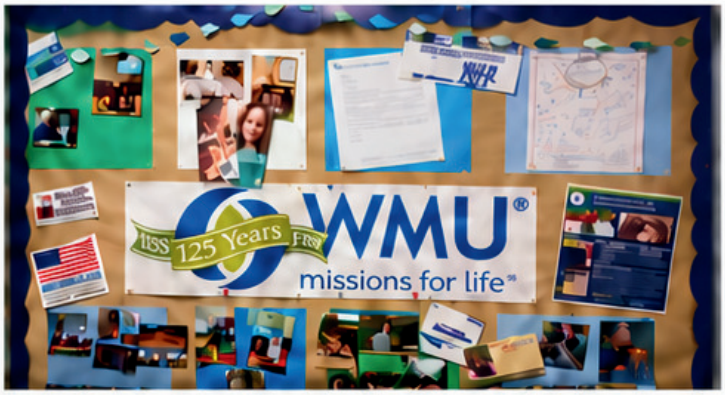
MISSIONS ABROAD.
MISSION AT HOME.

Many churches already use bulletin boards to highlight international missionaries, ministry partners, and what God is doing around the world. That same approach can also help your church support vulnerable children and families in your own community.



MISSIONS BOARD EXAMPLE

Churches often use bulletin boards to share about international missionaries, show where they serve, and keep prayer needs visible.



MINISTRY BOARD EXAMPLE

Churches also use bulletin boards to highlight specific ministries, their purpose, and ways people can engage, pray, and get involved.

SAME IDEA. A LOCAL FAMILY.

Your church can use a similar bulletin board to support a foster, adoptive, or kinship family in your community by helping them feel the love of your church through prayer and practical support.



THIS KIND OF BOARD:

MAKES SUPPORT NEEDS VISIBLE
Helps the church see specific ways to help.

INVITES PRAYER AND ENCOURAGEMENT
Keeps ongoing prayer needs in front of the congregation.

PROVIDES PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS
Lists simple, tangible ways to get involved (meals, childcare, notes, etc.).

HELPS THE CHURCH SURROUND A FAMILY WELL
Builds a culture of care and reminds the family they are not alone.

PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY

Public bulletin-board information should focus on prayer, encouragement, and practical support. Do not share identifying information or case-specific details about children in foster care or kinship care.

REAL PEOPLE. REAL SUPPORT. RIGHT HERE.

The same creativity your church uses to highlight missions around the world can help you care for vulnerable children and families right here at home.

KEEP THE MISSION VISIBLE.

READY-TO-USE RESOURCES HELP YOUR CHURCH KEEP LOCAL MISSION VISIBLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Whether your bulletin board highlights the broader foster-care mission or introduces practical ways your church can respond, you don't have to create everything from scratch. The Village has developed professionally designed, easy-to-use resources you can rotate to help people understand the mission and see ways to pray, partner, raise up leaders, and reach families.

A READY-TO-USE KIT FOR YOUR CHURCH

- Professionally designed and easy to use.
- Works for awareness, prayer, and next steps.
- Helps people see ways to pray, partner, raise up leaders, and reach families.

HOW IT WORKS

1 KEEP THE BASICS

Keep one or two foundational resources visible to build awareness and encourage prayer.

2 ROTATE WHAT'S TIMELY

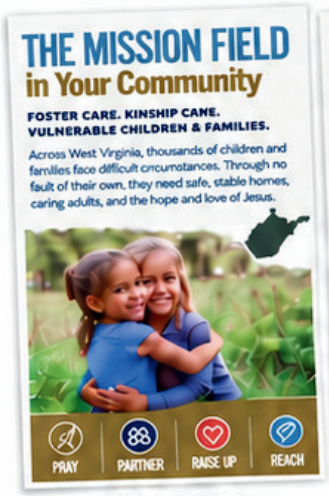
Every month or two, highlight a different activity, story, need, or opportunity.

3 KEEP IT FRESH

Change materials regularly so the board stays useful, engaging, and inviting.

SAMPLE RESOURCES IN THE KIT

Here are a few examples of the ready-to-use materials available to your church.



Mission Field
Introduce the need and the Gospel response.



Prayer Resource
Provide specific ways to pray.



FAM Overview
Explain the broader ministry and your church's role.



Care Communities
Show one practical way churches can respond.



CarePortal
Highlight a specific response opportunity.

If your church highlights support for a specific family, protect confidentiality and use only appropriate, non-identifying information.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CREATE THE CONTENT.

The Village provides ready-to-use materials that help your church explain the mission, encourage prayer, and introduce practical ways to respond. Simply choose what fits your church and rotate resources periodically to keep local mission visible and understood.

READY TO MAKE THE MISSION VISIBLE?

Scan to download the complete, free bulletin board kit, including flyers, prayer resources, and practical ways your church can respond.

VISIBLE MISSION.
MEANINGFUL ACTION.

AS PEOPLE SEE THE MISSION, HELP THEM DISCOVER HOW THEY CAN RESPOND.

Making the mission visible is a starting point, not the finish line. As people become more aware of vulnerable children and families, they can begin to pray, support families, discover their own role, and take practical action. Here are four ways your church can respond.



PRAY

Begin with prayer.

Use the prayer resources to help your congregation pray for vulnerable children, families, foster and kinship families, child welfare professionals, and churches responding to the need.

PARTNER

Help make the work possible.

Invest in The Village and help churches across West Virginia care for vulnerable children and families.

RAISE UP

Discover the people God may already be calling.

Awareness can uncover people in your congregation with a heart for vulnerable children and families. Identify, encourage, equip, and train those who may be called to lead.

REACH

Put compassion into action.

Start with what fits your church, including Care Communities, CarePortal, caseworker appreciation, family events, or other FAM activities.



WHEN YOUR CHURCH IS READY TO BUILD ON THAT RESPONSE

A Family Advocacy Ministry can help you organize it.

A Family Advocacy Ministry (FAM) gives your church a practical, volunteer-driven way to organize people and activities to meet real needs and provide meaningful, ongoing support to children and families in your community.

You don't have to do everything.
You need to find the right place to start.

THE VILLAGE WILL HELP YOU TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

We guide, equip, and connect churches with the tools, training, and support you need to make a lasting impact.

Guidance & Training
Proven direction, training, and resources to help your church get started and grow.

Tools & Resources
Practical tools, templates, and technology to organize and manage your ministry.

Coaching & Connections
Ongoing coaching and connections to child welfare professionals, other churches, community partners, and national resources.

LET'S TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOGETHER.

Contact The Village to explore resources, Family Advocacy Ministries, and practical ways your church can care for vulnerable children and families.

LEARN MORE
cmwwv.org

EMAIL
thevillage@chestnutmountainranch.org

CALL
(304) 943-7412