

## YOU CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A FOSTER CHILD



### WHY GET INVOLVED WITH FOSTER CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES?

Youth aging out of foster care are at greater risk for homelessness, unemployment, illness, incarceration, early parenthood, welfare dependency, and sexual and physical victimization than their peers. We need to put feet on our faith and help provide healthy, stable environments for our most invisible and vulnerable children. We can support foster families with donations of clothing, camperships, school supplies.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

Educate yourself by attending the regional meetings of the Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care.

Raise awareness through speakers and programs in your own place of worship. Share Detroit Public TV's "Congregations Caring for Michigan's Children"-- 8 minute DVD available through FCC, <http://www.youtube.com/user/saveourchildren1>.

Donate clothing, books, toys, baby items, care packages, household goods, school supplies, etc. Partner with a local service agency to discover current needs. Help coordinate a donation drive.

Befriend a foster child or aging out youth or consider becoming a foster/adoptive parent, respite care giver, mentor, volunteer, or CASA advocate. There are many ways to become personally involved in large and small ways.

See [www.faithcommunitiescoalition.org](http://www.faithcommunitiescoalition.org). Find resources, inspiring stories, video clips, contacts for help, lists of local service agencies, and FCC meeting dates and places.

Pray for the foster kids, families and workers.

### HOW CAN THE FAITH COMMUNITIES COALITION ON FOSTER CARE HELP YOU HELP FOSTER KIDS IN NEED?

We are a growing grass roots collaboration that provides a catalyst to educate and motivate congregations to engage in at least one project or program that will support the 14, 000 foster children or aging out youth in Michigan.

The goals of the Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care are to:

- Provide gatherings in which representatives from congregations, organizations and service agencies can hear inspiring speakers and collaborate together.
- Help alleviate the suffering of the foster children in Michigan by asking congregations to partner with a social service agency in a particular project.
- Encourage congregations to issue calls for potential foster/ adoptive parents, mentors and respite care givers to become licensed and available when needed.

*Imagine the tremendous impact it will have when every faith community in Michigan takes on just one or two of these projects. Our foster care crisis could be alleviated in just a few years.*

### JOIN OUR FCC EMAIL LIST

You can sign up at any of the regional meetings or call/email Rev. Kate Thoresen, coordinator, at [katethoresen@faithcommunitiescoalition.org](mailto:katethoresen@faithcommunitiescoalition.org); [www.faithcommunitiescoalition.org](http://www.faithcommunitiescoalition.org) 248.835.8151