

Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care



YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFETIME!

"Just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it unto me." Matthew 25:40

WHAT IS THE FAITH COMMUNITIES COALITION ON FOSTER CARE?

The Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care is a growing grass roots community outreach initiative that grew out of the Save Our Children Summit held November 30, 2007. We seek to provide a catalyst to educate and motivate congregations to engage in at least one project or program that will support a foster child, family or aging out youth.

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 engaging speakers, learn of the common needs, and network together to provide needed help for foster children and aging out youth.

*Educate and motivate congregations of all faiths to help alleviate the suffering of the 4000+ children in metro Detroit involved with foster care and aging out.

*Challenge each congregation to partner with a social service agency to engage in one project or program to benefit a foster child, foster or kinship family, or aging out youth.

*Encourage congregations to issue calls for more foster/adoptive parents and mentors.

WHY GET INVOLVED? 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 a wide, caring social safety net for our most invisible and vulnerable children.

HOW CAN YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR FAITH COMMUNITIES HELP? SOME IDEAS TO GET STARTED:

- Partner with a local service agency or two to discover the immediate needs of the children they serve. Visit the agencies to better understand their work and outreach.
- Organize a donation drive to collect clothing, books, toys, baby items, musical instruments and school supplies, for distribution to children in foster care.
- Check out the inspiring stories, video clips, activities of local congregations, resources on WWW.SaveOurChildrenCoalition -- Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care.
- Pass along our emails, updates and other information to your own networks.

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

JOIN THE SOCC/FAITH COMMUNITIES COALITION ON FOSTER CARE EMAIL LIST

You can sign up at any of the meetings or call/email Rev. Kate Thoresen, coordinator, at 248-643-8373 or kthoresen7@gmail.com or the office of Save Our Children Coalition, University of Michigan-Dearborn School of Education Phone: 313-593-5052; email: SOCCProject@umd.umich.edu
Website: www.SaveOurChildrenCoalition.org

