

## Resources for Faith Organizations

### **The Open Table**

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The Open Table trains congregations and their members how to walk alongside a young adult transitioning out of foster care. Each Table is composed of a group of volunteers that make a year commitment to act as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates for the young adult. The Table members, together with the youth being helped establish goals, accountability, develop an overall plan and implement it. Table members network in their congregations and the community for resources to support the plan. There are many opportunities to participate with The Open Table. There are Tables in over 120 cities and communities across more than 20 states.

Please contact Tim Dale if a faith community is interested in starting an Open Table ministry.

### **Blue Sunday**

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The Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative, Blue Sunday, is a nonprofit organization trying to raise awareness among the faith community through the annual National Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children. The annual National Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children is always the last Sunday of April which is child abuse prevention month. This year, the day of prayer will be on April 30, 2017. In addition, Blue Sunday also participates in awareness programs, relief services and prevention programs. For example, they provide Happy Families materials for public schools, Blue Sunday Monthly Brown Bag Lunch for children's workers, emergency groceries for families, programs for at-risk teens and more.

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### **CarePortal**

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CarePortal is a platform that allows a network of churches, community members, and local child welfare stakeholders to collaborate for the benefit of children and families in their community. When a child serving agency identifies the needs of local children and families, they go online to submit a request for help. This request goes to local churches that have the opportunity to meet the needs of these vulnerable children and families, accessing additional community support when necessary.

Churches can help in the entire spectrum of child welfare services. Churches help keep families together, support foster and adoptive children and families and ease the transition of youth from foster care to independence.

Care Portal is active in 33 counties as of 5/29/18:  
Bell, Brown, Burnet, Cameron, Denton, Ector, El Paso, Ellis, Gregg, Hale, Howard, Johnson, Kaufman, Lubbock, Midland, Nolan, Nueces, Potter, Randall, Rockwall, San Patricio, Scurry, Smith, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Webb, Wichita, Willacy, Williamson, and Young County.

For more information or to see how you can enroll your church, become an implementing partner or requesting agency or support current efforts, please contact Alex Blake.

### **Orphan Care Solutions**

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Orphan Care Solutions of Texas is a non-profit collaboration of churches and ministries based in Montgomery County that offers adoption festivals, photo shoots, service opportunities, and support groups. Orphan Care Solutions, along with volunteers, partners and congregations, provide needs for foster children, such as school supplies, meals, clothing, strollers, and more.