# CLERGY, CASA AND COMMUNITY

# 50 WAYS A FAITH ORGANIZATION CAN PARTNER WITH CASA TO SUPPORT KIDS & FAMILIES

## THROUGH PRAYER

1. Pray for children & families involved in the child welfare system and the volunteers and staff who support them. View the 30 days of Prayer Calendar for inspiration.

### THROUGH AWARENESS

- 2. Recognize Blue Sunday. Blue Sunday is the last Sunday in April during National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Host a community day of prayer.
- 3. Recognize National Foster Care Month in May. Bring awareness to the need for foster families; Have current or former foster families share their journey.
- 4. Recognize National Reunification Month in June. Have families that have been reunified share their stories.
- 5. Recognize National Kinship Care Month in September Hold a prayer focused on kinship families; Have current or former kinship families share their stories. Kinship care is when relatives foster or adopt children in their own families.
- 6. Recognize National Adoption Month in November. Bring awareness to the need for adoptive families for children of all ages; Have families who have adopted a child from foster care share their stories.
- 7. Participate in Stand Sunday. Stand Sunday is a nationally recognized day of prayer, typically on the second Sunday in November, for children & families and those who support them.

#### THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

- 8. Sign-up to become a CASA volunteer.
- 9. Join your local CASA program's Board of Directors.
- 10. If you are not ready to become an advocate, ask your local CASA program about other volunteer opportunities.
- 11. Ask your local CASA program for group volunteer opportunities your congregation can do together.
- 12. Make birthday or holiday cards for foster children and/or CASA volunteers.
- 13. Ask your local CASA program how you can support their annual Volunteer Appreciation Week. Ideas include donating/making a meal or sweet treats, sponsoring a game night, creating goodie bags, etc.
- 14. Drive families to doctor's appointments, job interviews, school, grocery or other stores, etc.

#### THROUGH PARTNERING WITH CASA

- 15. Make CASA your mission/community offering for a month or special event.
- 16. Consider an ongoing monthly donation to your local CASA program.
- 17. Participate as an exhibitor/vendor at a local event hosted by your local CASA program.
- 18. Ask your local CASA program to host an information table at your organization.

- 19. Ask your local CASA program to speak and share more about CASA with your congregation.
- 20. Ask your local CASA program to display a banner and information in your organization for a month.
- 21. Like & follow your local CASA program on social media.
- 22. Invite CASA to be volunteer at or help with your events.
- 23. Share ministry events with your local CASA program, especially for families, so we can share them with our advocates who can share with our families and foster families.

#### THROUGH SUPPORTING FAMILIES

- 24. Host a community food pantry or help an organization in your area that already has one.
- 25. Host a "Dress for Success" clothing drive for families needing business attire for a job or job interview.
- 26. Host a winter clothing or blanket drive.
- 27. Host a school supplies, clothing or shoe drive.
- 28. Host a toy/needs drive for children in foster care. Asks could include gift cards, games and books, sports equipment, craft supplies, baby supplies, items teens enjoy, etc.
- 29. Host a keep cool drive in the summer for fans, window air conditioners, etc.

#### THROUGH EDUCATION

- 30. Host parenting & relationship classes.
- 31. Host group or individual therapy sessions for families in crisis, going through change or those supporting them.
- 32. Host celebrations for families milestones such as sobriety, reunification, finding housing, etc.
- 33. Host employment skill and job finding classes.
- 34. Host financial literacy and budgeting classes for all age ranges including kids, teens and adults.
- 35. Host nutrition and cooking classes.
- 36. Host home or car repair classes.
- 37. Host English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for all age ranges.

#### THROUGH CHILD CARE

- 38. Provide free or reduced cost after-school care.
- 39. Provide free or reduced cost childcare for days schools are closed.
- 40. Provide free tutoring for kids and teens.
- 41. Provide meals for kids when school is closed such as dinner time, holidays, weekends and summer break.

#### THROUGH MINISTRY

- 42. Provide summer camps or scholarships for summer groups for foster youth.
- 43. Host family ministry & events nights such as movie nights, game nights, scripture reading nights, etc.
- 44. Host a parents' night out for foster families and provide free child care.
- 45. Provide house cleaning through a youth group or small ministry group.
- 46. Provide free house or car repairs to families of origin, kinship families and foster families.
- 47. Host ministry study classes for different groups.
- 48. Have a family resource table that includes information from other agencies that can support their needs, such as a local food pantry, counseling services, etc.
- 49. Invite speakers from different organization to share about their services.
- 50. Make families your focus pray for, support and meet the needs of families in crisis, kinship families, foster families, and all other types of families.