12 Things Your Church Can Do To Help Abused Children

1. Connect with your county's Child Welfare Board or your county's Child Protective Services (CPS) office.

2. Ask your County what the most pressing needs are for children receiving services . Ask for the their top 3 problems. Then ask what is the best way help.

3. Offer your church building for family meetings or staff training.

4. Offer parenting classes. Open your nursery so parents will have a place for their children while attending your class.

5. Offer volunteers at specific events your local agency may be hosting.

6. Start a Grandparent Support group for grandparents raising grandchildren while the parents are receiving services from CPS.

7. Family members who agree to care for children under the watchful eye of CPS are referred to Family Based Service. They are not paid as foster parents. They can use help of any kind, from car seats, cribs, bedding, clothing, etc.

8. Toy or Diaper Drives are always welcomed. Toys can be used for foster children's birthdays and/or used in the family visitation rooms. Diapers can be donated to the emergency closet (located at CPS) for foster families who receive babies in the middle of the night.

9. Host a Christmas party for foster families with plenty of food and activities. Don't fret about buying 100's of children's presents. Send them home with a goodie bag and hugs.

10. Toys for Tots help foster children receive a toy at Christmas. Why not collect $20 gift cards for foster teens. They are too old for Toys for Tots but still deserve to be remembered at Christmas.

11. Teach your staff the signs of child abuse and call 1-800-4 A CHILD to report suspected abuse. It's the law.

12. **Pray on Blue Sunday Day of Prayer, April 29th. On this day churches pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them. It's free. No membership. Just prayer. Please register your church at www.bluesunday.org.**

We pray because they shouldn't have to pray alone.