

## 8 Start a Foster/Adopt Ministry

Within your own faith community, put forward a call to recruit families to foster and adopt and to provide support to families that already do.

## 9 Become a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Volunteer

These dedicated volunteers provide a voice for abused and neglected children who are going through the difficult legal process. CASA volunteers receive training on trauma, child welfare, the court system, and cultural competency. (TexasCasa.org)



# 10 Ways to Help a Child

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For more information, email  
DFPS Faith-based staff at:

[FaithPartners@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:FaithPartners@dfps.state.tx.us)

You can also find them online at

[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us) or

call 1-800-233-3405.



Texas Department of  
**Family and Protective Services**

*Child Protective Services*

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# Are you ready to help a child in your community?

## 1 Join CarePortal and Adopt-A-Family

These programs help connect the faith community with children and families who have vital needs. The caseworker sends a request based on the family's needs. The goal is for congregations to help meet needs of the families in their community.

## 2 Donate to a Local Rainbow Room

This is where caseworkers go to get supplies for children who are victims of abuse or neglect. Congregations can contribute clothing and personal items, volunteer to collect or sort donations, or donate space for a Rainbow Room.

## 3 Participate in Blue Sunday and Stand Sunday

Blue Sunday is the National Day of Prayer for Child Abuse and Neglect held in April. We ask congregations to pray for abused and neglected children and learn ways they can help them. ([BlueSunday.org](http://BlueSunday.org)) Stand Sunday, which is in November, asks faith communities to stand and raise awareness about children in foster care and learn ways to support them. ([cafo.org](http://cafo.org))



## 4 Help the Heart Gallery

Volunteers help take and display portraits that show foster children's amazing spirits and individuality. Congregations can display the Heart Gallery photos periodically throughout the year. These wonderful pictures have helped many children find loving homes.

## 5 Provide Respite Care

Become a "respite provider" to temporarily care for children in foster care. Respite care gives families and caregivers a much-needed break while offering a safe environment for their children.

## 6 Offer Babysitting or Parents Night Out

Start a ministry that provides baby-sitting for current foster or adoptive parents within the community. Bring volunteers together to watch and care for children for a certain amount of time to give parents a break.

## 7 Be a Mentor

Create a mentorship program that connects people who have specific skills and knowledge (mentors) with youth in CPS care. This helps break down barriers, creates opportunities for success, and increases self-esteem.