



HOW TO H.E.L.P.
CHILD WELFARE
PROFESSIONALS
IN YOUR COMMUNITY
Idea Guide

Honor. Encourage. Love. Pray.

A tool created by [CAFO](#) members working together

Why **H.E.L.P.** Child Welfare Professionals?

Child welfare professionals bear one of the most important responsibilities in our communities: the safety and well-being of our children.

These social workers have a hard job. In fact, front line social worker turnover rates are as high as 25%.¹

While we can't fix all of the complex issues involved, there is something very tangible you and your church can do.

One impact study done in a local child welfare office in Milwaukee County found that children who had only one case worker achieved permanency 74.5% of the time. **If they had two caseworkers that number dropped to 17.5%. In cases where children had six or seven case managers, their permanency rate was 0.1%.²**

This guide has been created to give you practical ideas to equip you H.E.L.P. the child welfare professionals in your community.

And when we H.E.L.P. these professionals, they are better able to help kids.

Honor. Encourage. Love. Pray.

¹ Sage, Melanie Dawn, "Child Welfare Workforce Turnover: Frontline Workers' Experiences with Organizational Culture and Climate and Implications for Organizational Practice" (2010). Dissertations and Theses. Paper 365.

² http://www.uh.edu/socialwork/_docs/cwep/national-iv-e/turnoverstudy.pdf

What does it mean to **H.E.L.P.**?

Here are a few ideas to get you started!

H

Honor.

Honor child welfare workers in public and in private. Speak up for them and recognize them for the great things they do for kids and families.

- Gift a popcorn machine (and popcorn!) to your local child welfare office
- Host an appreciation lunch at your church or cater it at the local child welfare office

E

Encourage.

Take the time to tell workers how much you appreciate who they are and what they do.

- Set up a H.E.L.P. Tree in your church or organization's office (See pgs. 4-5)
- Encourage foster and adoptive families to send a note and current photo to their current or former case worker

L

Love.

Love is action. Find tangible ways to share the burden with local child welfare professionals and bless them unexpectedly.

- Take a worker out to lunch and find out how they're really doing
- Put together car kids for workers who frequently transport kids

P

Pray.

Through prayer we have an opportunity to bring the needs and burdens of workers before the God of the Universe.

- Hold an evening prayer vigil for child welfare professionals in your community
- Get a list of workers in your county and assign them a prayer partner from your church

For more great ideas go to CAFO.org/HELP

Special thanks to CAFO Member Organizations *The Forgotten Initiative* and *A Home for Me* for the ideas described in this guide.



How to create a **H.E.L.P. Tree**

A H.E.L.P. Tree is a simple way to get others in your church or organization to encourage local workers through written notes.

1



Place a potted tree or tree branch in a place at your church or organization where others will see it

2



Hang blank H.E.L.P. note cards (see pg. 6) from the branches and invite others to write a note of encouragement

3



Just add coffee (coffee shop gift cards that is) and deliver to a local child welfare office!

TIPS and IDEAS



- Visit a local garden center or home store with a letter (on church letterhead) explaining what you're doing and they may donate a small tree to your project
- Clothes pins work well to hang note cards from your tree
- To pay for the gift cards, you can ask those writing notes to consider a small financial gift (\$5-\$10)
- Before starting, be sure to check with a supervisor at your local child welfare office to make sure they will be able to receive your gift. It works best if it is given as a gift from your church or organization rather than from an individual.



How to build social worker Car Kits

A lot of workers spend much of their week transporting children to visits, appointments, and to placements after removal. Car kits are a great way to meet a real need and love well.

1



Collect donations of NEW items from your congregation & local businesses or purchase needed items. See below for a list of possible items to include.

2



Gather a small group bible study, youth group or other volunteers and have a packing party to assemble the kits.

3



Have the team add a note of appreciation (see pg. 6) in each kit for the worker receiving it and deliver them to your local office.

TIPS and IDEAS

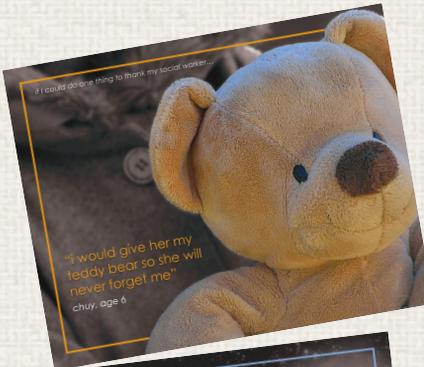


- A Plastic Shoe Storage Box or Fabric Box
- Drawing paper
- Coloring Books
- Colored Pencils
- Large Box of Kleenex
- Hand Sanitizer
- Small toys and “fidgets” (squishy balls, etc)
- Children’s Books
- Small Car Games
- Wet Wipes
- “Tidy” Snacks
- Children’s Music CDs
- Portable DVD player
- Kid’s Movies

H.E.L.P. notecards

These notecards were designed specifically to give to child welfare professionals and were created with the help of some very special kids. We asked them...

If you could do anything to thank your social worker what would you do?



Kit includes:

40 cards/envelopes
(10 of each design)
Idea Guide

Order yours at

CAFO.org/HELP



The CAFO National Foster Care Initiative

CAFO.org/FosterMovement

The CAFO National Foster Care Initiative is made up of many organizations combining their collective strengths to help you build foster care movement in your zip code, county or state. Here are some NFCI tools you should know about that are designed to help you help kids where you live:

Foster Movement U

Foster Movement U is an ever-growing online collection of training tools all designed to help you and other key leaders in your community know how to build foster care movement where you live. This booklet is just one example of many tools available at CAFO.org/FosterMovementU.



thefosterroster

Helping leaders connect, pray, and tell the country about kids in foster care.
a publication of the CAFO national foster care initiative

Our weekly Foster Roster e-newsletter is short and sweet and filled with practical articles, videos, blog posts and other tools for leaders like you. Sign up at CAFO.org/FosterMovement.

the foster care 15

a daily leadership prayer network

We are looking for leaders in every state who will pray together 15 minutes each week by phone for kids and families in foster care. Check our website to see if your state's prayer call has already launched. If not, **be one of the leaders that make that happen!**



Foster Movement U is a growing collection of powerful short training videos and PDF tools to help you build foster care movement where you live. These tools are created and compiled by the members and partners of the Christian Alliance for Orphans National Foster Care Initiative. To learn more visit:

CAFO.org/FosterMovementU

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