

A person wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt is sitting and holding a large, shaggy, brown stuffed animal. The background is a textured, light-colored wall. The overall image has a teal/cyan color cast.

BLUE SUNDAY

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR
ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND
TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR FOSTER
PARENTS IN LORAIN COUNTY**

BLUE SUNDAY TOOLKIT FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

BLUE SUNDAY IS APRIL 26, 2020

440-328-2467

JulieSchoenlein@ChildrenServices.org

www.childrenservices.org/faithcommunity

"A WELCOME SUPPORT TO ENGAGE ON A DIFFICULT TOPIC."

Blue Sunday at the House of Praise was a success. I gave out 2 planters that I had, all the pinwheels, and all the flyers and Julie S business cards.

There were about 10 flyers & Business cards left; I left that in our Welcome Center counter. Many people came up to talk and ask questions; some are already enrolled and waiting placement (first time foster parents whom are very excited) and I had someone sign up for contact.

Blue Sunday at Cathedral of Praise was a success. We had several people showing interest and a few signed up to be phoned with more info. We displayed two pin-wheel planters, which will remain on display until next Sunday. Between morning worship service and night service, managed to give out all 50 of our flyers. We also handed out a few seed pod book marks and several "Learn More" business cards. I'm pretty confident that there will be a positive outcome. Thanks, Stephanie Bragg, for helping me out, I really appreciated your being there, as you were able to answer questions that I wouldn't have been able to. Blessings to you.

I took 200 flyers and some bookmarks to St. Patrick Church in Wellington. All of the bookmarks were gone before I even got there and many of the flyers were taken as well.

They were displayed next to the bulletins at all church entrances. I left the remaining flyers.

Blue Sunday at Sacred Heart Chapel was a blast! I spoke after each service about the need for foster parents in our community and the different levels of commitment. The information was well received and I had a lot of people come to my table after each service. Some people waited for me to finish to ask questions. I had a total of 13 good prospects! Bam! :) Of course, I took a planter with pinwheels and the planter will be displayed until next Saturday. I am very encouraged and hope these names convert into certified foster homes for our children!

BLUE SUNDAY TOOLKIT

- **WELCOME LETTER**
- **NINE THINGS CHURCHES SHOULD KNOW**
- **STEPS TO FOSTER PARENTING**
- **BLUE SUNDAY PRAYER**
- **BLUE SUNDAY FLYER**
- **FOSTER PARENTING BUSINESS CARDS**
- **UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL MEETING DATES**

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Dear Church Leader,

Protecting children from abuse and neglect is as important for our community as it is for us at Lorain County Children Services. One very personal way to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children is by choosing to become a foster parent. I'm sure you can think of families and adults in your church who would make wonderful foster parents - people who can wholeheartedly and lovingly take care of another family's child.

Can you help our children who need more available foster families? Perhaps its your youth program staff or people from the nursery. Perhaps its the family that just became an empty nest or the family that just recently joined your church. We think that knowing they have the support and encouragement of their church community is important and might be the reason they feel ready to take the next step and begin the licensing process.

Will you be one of our local churches that celebrates Blue Sunday and offers prayer for abused and neglected children and support for those seeking to become foster parents?

This toolkit is intended to help make Blue Sunday engaging and informative, with flyers to either post or include in your bulletin. Additional links to a great video "Lost and Found" and copies of materials included here can be found at www.ChildrenServices.org/FaithCommunity.

Please call me, Julie Schoenlein, Family Recruitment Coordinator at 440-328-2467 if you would like to discuss how we can help you bring a message of safety and foster care into your church. Thank you.

BLUE SUNDAY - APRIL 26, 2020



IF YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT FOSTERING A CHILD, WE CAN HELP YOU TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

**Free, no obligation, Information Sessions
about fostering with Lorain County
Children Services.**

- Monday, May 4, 6PM - 9PM or
- Tuesday June 9, 6PM - 9PM or
- Thursday, July 9, 6PM - 9PM

All sessions are held at Lorain County
Children Services, 226 Middle Ave., in
Elyria

**TO REGISTER FOR ONE OF THESE
UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS,
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL JULIE
SCHOENLEIN AT 440-328-2467**

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BLUE SUNDAY DAY OF PRAYER FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

How to pray for abused children on Blue Sunday

1. Pray they will be rescued.
2. Pray they will be placed with caring people
3. Pray that their minds and bodies can heal.
4. Pray they find hope.
5. Pray for those who rescue the children.

Praying for abused children is like taking pebbles from their shoes.

- J Magee, founder

Blue Sunday Prayer

Lord, thank you for our children,
For them we kneel and pray.

Help us teach them of
your kindness,
of your mercy and your way.

Help us show them of your love,
your strength and safety, too.

Help us show them who you are.
Help us treat them like you
do.



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