



BELONG SERVICE

PLANNING GUIDE



**8,200
KIDS**

There are more than **8,000 kids in foster care** in TN, including teens, siblings & those with medical needs.



**4,500
HOMES**

There are approximately **4,500 foster homes** ready and able to serve the most vulnerable kids in our state.



**50%
BURNOUT**

Half of all foster parents **close their homes after just one year** citing "isolation" and a "lack of social support."

SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT FOSTER CARE

Studies show people of faith are **3x more likely to adopt** and **2x more likely to consider fostering** than others - but your congregation must first **understand the need**. A Belong Service educates your faith community about foster care and the many ways to wrap around vulnerable children and families. While not everyone is called to foster or adopt, we believe everyone can do something!

We invite you to customize the resources and information we provide to share about the urgent needs connected to foster care in your area. While a Belong Service works well when addressing the entire congregation, they are also highly effective through Adult Sunday School classes, Small Groups, MOPS/Mother groups and more. We can't wait to see the impact this will have in your community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make your faith community aware of the need in a service or as part of a small group - then plan and promote a **Next Steps Event** to gain more information and drive people to act.
- Gauge interest with a **Response Card** to identify foster, adoptive and kinship families and potential volunteers in your congregation.
- View all the resources listed below (and more) under the **Resource Tab** in the software. If you are not in the software, reach out to your community engagement manager to start today!



BELONG SERVICE RESOURCES



GET STARTED SCAN TO ACCESS the Resources

Download the videos below for best user experience.
Reach out to your Community Engagement Manager with the name of a specific child's video as needed to download.

RESOURCES

GETTING STARTED

- 3 week Foster Care Moment Guide | [LINK](#)
- Next Steps Event Guide | [LINK](#)

VIDEOS TO SHARE

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS

- Worthy of Belonging | [LINK](#)
- Foster Friendly Communities | [LINK](#)
- In Just One Day | [LINK](#)
- Stand for FAM | [LINK](#)

ADOPTION AWARENESS

- I Belong Project™ Montage | [LINK](#)
- I Belong Project Video Profiles | [LINK](#)
- Sound of Hope: The Story of Possom Trot | [LINK](#)
- Adopt US Kids PSAs (various lengths) | [LINK](#)

WRAP MINISTRY

- Say Yes | [LINK](#)
- The Impact of WRAP | [LINK](#)

CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

- Community Engagement Managers | [LINK](#)
- General Questions: faith@tnkidsbelong.org



BELONG SERVICE

TALKING POINTS

OVERVIEW

1. OUTLINE THE NEED

Communicate facts and stories that are local to your area. Consider a family testimony or interview. Stats to share:

- There are ~8,000 children in care in TN
- Some children will remain in care for a few days while others will spend many years in limbo.
- 1/3 of children in foster care live in at least 3 different places; 20% live in 4 or more | [SOURCE](#)
- Reach out to your [Community Engagement Manager](#) for up-to-date numbers of:
 - Children in foster care in your community
 - Licensed, open foster homes in your area

2. EXPLAIN HOW YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY SUPPORTS FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Share an overview of how your Faith Community meets local needs:

- Do you work to prevent children from entering care?
- How are you coming alongside children and families when children are not safe in their homes?
- Will you launch WRAP Teams or support vulnerable families through service projects?
- Are you working to help children connect with families and achieve permanency?

3. DELIVER A CALL TO ACTION FOR NEXT STEPS

Map out a clear plan to get your faith community engaged!

- Have the next event planned. Share about a *WRAP Volunteer Orientation* or *Next Steps Event*.
- Gauge interest with a *Response Card* to identify foster, adoptive and kinship families and potential volunteers in your congregation
- Include a QR Code on slides to inquire about becoming a foster parent. Your regional CEM can provide this!