

Hosting a Foster Care Awareness Event

Logistics

1. Set a time and date with your parish. Weekday evenings work well for people with full-time jobs. Another option is after Sunday Mass. Keep the event to 1 hour or under.
2. Book the location on your parish campus.
3. Technology – Projector, Screen, Microphone, Sound system for videos.

Event Plan

1. Presenters:
	1. Parish Foster Ministry Coordinator as the MC
	2. Pastor or Deacon to give the opening prayer
	3. Personal Witness from a foster family or an adult who experienced foster care as a child (Ideally ask someone from your parish community or contact dniesen@archkck.org for suggestions)
	4. A Representative from a Foster Care Agency:
		1. KVC – Brandy Bartlett, Community Resource Specialist, 913.499.800/913.335.4103; bbartlett@kvc.org
		2. Cornerstones of Care – Nancy Killingsworth, nancy.killingsworth@cornerstonesofcare.org
		3. Saint Francis Ministries (saintfrancisministries.org)
		4. TFI Family Services (tfifamily.org)
		5. DCCCA – (dccca.org)
2. Content
	1. Archbishop Naumann’s video message – [www.archkcks.org/foster](http://www.archkcks.org/foster)
	2. Foster care awareness video. We like the one from “Live the Promise” found at: <https://archkcks.com/foster/how-can-my-parish-help>
	3. Key statistics and information of the current state of the foster care system in Kansas found at www.archkcks.com/foster/how-can-my-parish-help.



* 1. Personal witness story by a foster family or an adult who was in foster care as a child.
	2. Presentation by a Foster Agency Representative explaining what it means to be a foster parent, why there is a need for more foster families, and the process of becoming a licensed foster family.
	3. The next TIPS-MAPP (**T**rauma **I**nformed **P**artnering for **S**afety and Permanence and **M**odel **A**pproach to **P**artnerships in **P**arenting) training.

**Have a sign-up or registration table to register families the night of the event.**

* 1. OPTIONAL: Share other opportunities for people to get involved in your parish ministry using the “Levels of Engagement” suggested actions found at [www.archkcks.com/foster/how-can-my-parish-help](http://www.archkcks.com/foster/how-can-my-parish-help). Consider inviting representatives or have information from our community partners such as Care Portal (careportal.org) or Joy Meadows (joymeadows.org).



* 1. The Archdiocesan Foster Ministry website: [www.archkcks.com/foster](http://www.archkcks.com/foster)
	2. Sign-up (or QR code) for those interested in joining your Parish Foster Ministry Team.
	3. The ASK – remember to specifically ask families to take the next step to become licensed foster families. Invoke the Holy Spirit to move hearts.

Promotion

1. Design a graphic for your event. It is recommended to design it in a social media post size, a flyer size and a poster size. Contact mjoerger@archkck.org in the Pro-life Office for design templates.
2. Start promoting 2-3 weeks before the event.
3. Promote the event in your parish bulletin, through parish social media channels, e-communications, personal invitation, or with flyers/posters.
4. Be intentional about sharing the invitation with leaders of your large parish groups – Knights of Columbus, School Families, Parents of Young Children, Christ Renews His Parish teams, etc.
5. Ask your pastor if you can play a foster care awareness video after Mass a week or two prior the event to increase interest. We like the one from “Live the Promise” found at: <https://archkcks.com/foster/how-can-my-parish-help>. There are other good video options available. If your church does not have video/audio capabilities, ask your pastor if someone could do a personal invitation during announcements at all Masses a week or two prior to increase interest.