

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PRAY. Use this Guide to continue to pray for those facing struggles; go to www.ap4c.org to find additional Prayer Guides about other on-going issues facing our city; and watch for future monthly Guides with relevant information specific to those issues. Pray about how you might be able to help.

Also pray about these **next steps**:

LEARN.

- Go to <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/default.asp> for information on public assistance for children and the elderly.
- Go to <https://cafo.org/nfci/texas/> for information on vulnerable children in Texas and faith-based ministries to these children.
- In every city, foster children and teens face incredible obstacles - everything from the trauma of moving between relatives and foster homes, changing schools, leaving their friends, and becoming the targets of human trafficking. What if these children were not only embraced by a loving family, but also by a community of believers to support them and their families?

"If only 7 percent of the 2 billion Christians in the world would care for a single orphan in distress, there would effectively be no more orphans. If everybody would be willing to simply do something to care for one of these precious treasures, I think we would be amazed by just how much we could change the world."—Steven Curtis Chapman

SERVE. What Do They Need? Visit buckner.org for information on foster care and to discuss ways to get involved.

TELL. Tell your friends, family, and co-workers about these needs and opportunities. Look at the resources above so you're ready to share helpful information with others as God puts it on your heart.

Program Spotlight

Embrace embracetexas.org has a two-fold purpose: providing services to at-risk, foster and adopted children and families in our local community and equipping new and existing church orphan care ministries across the country.

Source: <http://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/TX/Dallas-Demographics.html>



MAY 2016 PRAYER GUIDE

"At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" Deuteronomy 14:28-29

This month's topic is **Foster Care**

During the month of May, AP4C is praying for individuals who are orphaned or widowed. Did you know; 495 local children are waiting to be adopted; 3,063 are in foster care. Without intervention, 60% of the girls are likely to become prostitutes; 70% of the boys likely to become hardened criminals. 10-15% will likely commit suicide before they reach the age of 18 . Also, there are almost 20,000 individuals widowed in Greater Dallas. As we pray God's Word, may we remember to uplift those who've lost family members or feel alone and guide them to God's unfailing love.

Please prepare your heart before you begin to pray through the AP4C categories, so that these Scriptures and your time with God can renew your heart for our Metroplex.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, NIV translation.



AP4C model was established in collaboration with
Movement Day Greater Dallas and is facilitated by Unite



SALVATION

“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

- Pray that children in foster care and widows/widowers will know the love of the heavenly Father and accept God’s comfort in their circumstances.
- Pray for God’s protection, provision, direction and healing for children and teens who are abused, abandoned, or alone.
- Pray for God to inspire believers to share His love and the good news of the Gospel with these children and widows/widowers.
- Continue to pray for the salvation of people within your sphere of influence.

THE CHURCH

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27

- Pray that the Church will lead the way in caring for and meeting the needs of the orphans and widows/widowers in our city.
- Pray for the Church to comprehend and reflect God’s heart for abused or neglected children, and for believers to be filled with compassion, making themselves available for how God wants to use them.
- Pray that the Lord will give believers a personal sense of responsibility to pray for, serve, and support foster families and the children and teens in their care.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would open the hearts of people within our city regarding fostering or adopting children and/or ministering to a widow/widower.

OUR COMMUNITIES

“The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.” Psalm 146:9

- Pray for God to raise up people to fill the voids that exist in orphan and widow/widower care in our city.
- Pray that God would draw the workers in these fields to Himself and that He would encourage them so that they would not grow weary in their work.
- Pray for children growing up in foster care and children’s homes and ask God to provide them with permanent loving families.
- Pray for the foster parents taking care of the orphans.
- Pray that the children and the widowed will find a community of love and support as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

TRANSFORMATION

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” Psalm 82:3-4

- Pray that our government will execute policies and actions that will protect these vulnerable individuals and provide the assistance needed.
- Pray for those organizations that help provide resources to those who care for foster children.
- Pray that as people care for foster children and widows/widowers they will be transformed by the power of Christ.
- Pray that our city will become a place where all abused or neglected children and widows/widowers receive the love and care they need.
- Pray that obedience to James 1:27 would be evidence of God’s love to the world around us.