





HOST A *Springs of Love* “EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING” FOSTER CARE AWARENESS EVENT

Host an awareness event at your parish with just a few steps! Children in your community are in need of strong, loving families to foster them. Let families in your parish know about their need, and get them involved!



LOGISTICS

1. Set a **time and date** with your parish. A good time is usually after Sunday Mass or on a weekday evening. You can host a Foster Care Awareness Dessert or Foster Care Awareness Luncheon/Dinner. The event should last no more than an hour.
2. **Book the location** on your parish campus.
3. **Technology:** Projector, Screen, Microphone, Sound system for videos.
4. **Provide food:** doughnuts and coffee, pizza, sandwiches, or dessert. This will help draw more people to your event.

<input type="checkbox"/> Date & Time 	<input type="checkbox"/> Location 	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology 	<input type="checkbox"/> Food 
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EVENT PLAN

Always have the next step planned! Plan a follow-up meeting within two or three weeks for those interested in joining your Springs of Love Parish Ministry. Also, find out when your local foster care agency has their next foster parent training and encourage people who might be interested in fostering to sign up that night. Strike while the iron is hot!

Presenters:

1. Springs of Love **Parish Ministry Leader** 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)
4. A Representative from a **Foster Care Agency**



Content:

1. Welcome

2. Play a Springs of Love **original video** at springsoflove.org/video-stories/. Recommended videos: *Tori's Story*, *The Baird Family Story*, or *Kristina & Josh's Story: One Big Family*

3. Give key **statistics and information** of the current state of the foster care system in your local county and state.

4. **Personal witness story** by a foster family or an adult who was in foster care as a child.

5. **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.

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

7. **Share opportunities for people to get involved** in your parish ministry. Announce the follow-up meeting and offer a sign-up sheet or QR code to get their information.

8. Share the Springs of Love website:

www.springsoflove.org

9. **The ASK** – remember to specifically ask families to take the next step to become licensed foster families. Invoke the Holy Spirit to move hearts.

Presenters:	Share:	Don't Forget the ASK:
<input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor or Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Witness <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome & Prayer <input type="checkbox"/> Springs of Love video & website <input type="checkbox"/> Local stats about foster care <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Witness story <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation by foster agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Ask people to sign up for your next event <input type="checkbox"/> Ask participants to join your parish ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Ask families to take the next step to become licensed foster families

PROMOTION

1. Create **social media posts, a flyer, and a poster**.

2. Start promoting the event **two or three weeks** prior to the event date.

3. **Promote the event** in your parish bulletin, through parish social media channels, e-communications, personal invitation, flyers in your bulletin, and posters.

4. Be intentional about **sharing the invitation** with leaders of your large parish groups – Knights of Columbus, school families, parents of young children, small groups, etc.

5. Ask your pastor if you can **play a foster care awareness video after Mass** a week or two prior to the event to increase interest. 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 the event. If the event is after Mass, make a special announcement at the end of Mass inviting parishioners to attend.

<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media 	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster/Flyer 	<input type="checkbox"/> Parish Outreach 	<input type="checkbox"/> Invites 	<input type="checkbox"/> Mass 
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