

Metro Family

MAY 2010

Change the World of One Child

by Robin Jones

You may not be able to change the world, but you can change the world of one child. Change happens one act of service at a time. Cornerstone Assistance Network and the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives are hosting **Season of Service**, a public awareness campaign from May through August, to provide opportunities for making a difference in a child's life.

Each month will focus on a different area of need for children—including foster care, homelessness, hunger and education. serveokc.org will present specific ways to engage in these areas.

Foster care awareness is the focus for May. You may think the only way you can engage with foster children is by being a foster bridge parent and that is not the case. Yes, foster and adoptive bridge families are needed, but there are many other ways you can help.

People with hearts of compassion can pray, collect diapers, provide luggage, become a volunteer, buy gift cards for birthday celebrations, honor a foster family in your community or church, provide storage space for resources for foster families, and/or you can attend the May 24th Change A Child's Forever Community Gathering to learn about other opportunities.

If you are involved in a church, check out the action options and choose one to promote for Change A Child's Forever Sunday, May 23. Visit serveokc.org for more information on these opportunities and to learn how you and your family can get involved.

JUNE 2010

Change the World of One Child

By Robin Jones

The fastest growing group in the homeless community is families with children. There isn't an exact count but it is estimated there are approximately 3,000 homeless children in the Oklahoma City metro area.

The four-month Season of Service, a public awareness campaign giving practical ideas about how individuals in our community can make a difference in a child's life, started with a focus on foster care and emphasizes homelessness in June. Cornerstone Assistance Network and the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives are the coordinators of the campaign.

Homelessness may seem like an issue that is far too complicated and overwhelming for an individual or family to make any difference. However, change can happen and it starts with one act of service at a time. For example, one service possibility is collecting some of the many items that ministries and organizations serving the homeless need, such as twin extra long sheets, pillows, school uniforms, diapers and children's underwear. Another possibility is volunteering for summer camp, helping serve meals, or mentoring an at risk youth.

June 26-27 is Hope for the Homeless weekend. Church congregations are encouraged to select a project to promote and find ways to help. A list of action items and their associated contact organizations may be found online at serveokc.org.

family shorts

Change the World of a Hungry Child

By Robin Jones

One in five children in Oklahoma is at risk for hunger every day. You may not be able to change the world, but you can change the world of one child.

In July, the Season of Service focus is children at risk for hunger. Unfortunately, for many children, hunger isn't just an occasional missed meal; it's a way of life. Chronically hungry children develop at a slower pace physically and socially than their peers and experience more mental health challenges.

There are many ways you, your family, and your church can help. One of the things your church can do this month is to participate in You CAN Make a Difference on **Sunday, July 25**. Other ways you can help: volunteer at a local food pantry, host a bake sale or get involved in a community garden.

Cornerstone Assistance Network and the Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives are hosting a Season of Service, a four month public awareness campaign that provides opportunities for you to make a difference in a child's life.

For more information visit serveokc.org and find out how you can change a child's life.



