

MAY IS

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH


ACTION KIT

May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Take time to learn more about this topic, why children in and aging out of foster care are vulnerable to human trafficking, and how the business community can engage to **be part of the solution** - in your local community.



HIGHLIGHTED EVENT: This month, we encourage to register and attend a national discussion about the current state of foster care and the unique vulnerabilities faced by children and youth in care that put them at high risk of commercial sexual exploitation. This event will be hosted by Shared Hope Int'l on **Wednesday, May 26th at 2PM EDT**.





LEARN

Read these [blogs from Engage Together](#) to learn more about foster care, **the needs of youth** aging out of care, and how you can come alongside children and youth in your community today.

Read this [blog](#) to learn why foster youth are so **vulnerable to human trafficking**.

Watch this [video](#) by DHS Blue Campaign to learn the **tactics** traffickers use to exploit youth in foster care.

Hear **stories** from [youth](#) who have been in foster care.





SHARE

Create posts to share with your colleagues and company highlighting **graphics**, **facts**, **stats**, and success stories of foster youth. **Stats** include, as of Sept. 30, 2020:

- 423,997 children were in foster care.
- Over 21,000 children had been in foster care for over 5 years.
- The average age of a child in foster care was 7 years old.

Follow and use #fostercare, #Fostercaremonth and #NFCM2021 to see what people across the U.S. are sharing to help bring awareness.

Raise awareness with this [Outreach Toolkit](#), created by the Children's Bureau, filled with social media posts, key facts and statistics, and email content and more.





TAKE ACTION

Be proactive and meet with your local department of social services and **ask** - what are the needs of children and youth in care in your community, and how can your business help meet those needs.

Rally your office to **donate** new and gently used items to foster care families or clothing closets for foster youth in your community.

Consider how your business could **replicate** this impactful birthday crates program to make a difference in the lives of foster youth near you.

Consider becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate's (CASA) to **walk alongside** and advocate for children and youth in foster care in your community.



YOUR IDEA



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore and share foster care-specific resources for parents, youth, foster parents, kindship and caregivers, and more. Resources include guides, programs, and handouts.

Check out the podcast from Tidewater Friends of Foster Care to hear about specific topics related to serving foster youth.

Hear how Baltimore is matching community mentors to support youth in care.

Read legislative recommendations that youth who have been in foster care have advocated for through internships with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

See how Tennessee is equipping businesses to come alongside foster youth and families, and how your community may do the same.

Challenge your business network to earn the Justice U Human Trafficking Awareness Badge, which will equip them to better understand the nexus between human trafficking and foster care, how to identify it, and how to report it.



TAKE THE
PLEDGE

LEARN MORE AT
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AFRJ | FREEDOM COUNCIL

The AFRJ Freedom Council is an **assembly of business leaders** and global companies working to end and prevent human trafficking - together.

Our mission is to catalyze business engagement - alongside government, nonprofit, and community efforts - in ways that will impact millions of lives.



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