1. **Caring For Kids In Foster Care Is A Strategic And Upstream Issue.**
   We know you are approached with a lot of good causes. Foster care is connected to at least 10 social wounds. These wounds are the symptoms. Broken families are the disease. Healing (foster) families is the "cure."

2. **Local Statistics.**
   This is the need in SD that your church can profoundly impact and possibly solve. As of June 30, 2020, there are 890 foster homes and 1730 children in care. According to the map, regions 1, 3, and 4 are in dire need of more foster parents. Out of those 855 foster homes, only about 5% receive WRAP support, leaving 100’s of foster parents in SD needing support from their local church.

   Foster Care (Out-of-home Care): Is a temporary service provided by states for children who cannot live with their families. Children in foster care may live with relatives or with unrelated foster parents. Foster care can also refer to placement settings like group homes, residential care facilities, emergency shelters and supervised independent living.

3. **The Players**
   - HELPERS
   - HEALERS
   - HEROES

4. **What About Cost And Staff Time?**
   There is little financial cost, and it can be run primarily through volunteers. A staff person may need to help coordinate the calendar and schedule rooms for some meetings/events.

5. **How Do We Start?**
   Engage your congregation with the foster care issue in your community:
   - **RESEARCH:** Identify families in your church who have been, or are currently, fostering. Listen to them. Organize and recognize them as a key ministry team in the church.
   - **RETAIN:** Support them with a “Wrap Around Ministry”
   - **RECRUIT:** Host a “Belong” Sunday and a “Next Steps Event” to recruit new families.

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**You Can Help Solve This Crisis In Your Community. We Will Guide You.**

Apply here to get involved: [https://americaskidsbelong.org/sd-faith-impact-partner](https://americaskidsbelong.org/sd-faith-impact-partner)
Or email: dwoolsey@sdkidsbelong.org