



## *What is an IMPACT weekend?*

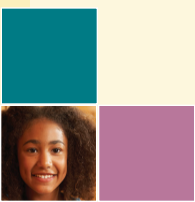
An IMPACT weekend creates awareness and draws attention to the many children in need right in your own community. They could be children in need of a role model or mentor in their lives or children in need of a foster family or permanent family due to the lack of safety in their home. The information shared during the homilies and sermons encourages and challenges people to get involved and positively influence the life of a child in need.

## *What agencies are involved in an IMPACT weekend?*

Iowa KidsNet (foster care and adoption), Big Brothers/Big Sisters, CASA (court appointed special advocate for children in foster care), local school mentoring program if applicable, other child-centered volunteer opportunities in your community.

## *What does hosting an IMPACT weekend look like?*

1. First, identify key people/committees in your church or faith community who can help to plan the weekend. Key people can be foster families and/or existing volunteers in the agencies listed above. A social justice committee or a children's faith committee would also be appropriate.
2. An Iowa KidsNet resource family recruiter and local agency directors will attend and help facilitate the planning meetings.
3. Two weekends before the scheduled IMPACT weekend, you can begin sharing information with your faith community through announcements during the service, bulletin blurbs, bulletins, posters, a short video or speaker.
4. The homily, message or sermon can be focused around this theme on your scheduled weekend.
5. The Heart Gallery of Iowa can be on display. The Heart Gallery of Iowa is a collection of 10 – 12 professionally framed portraits of the children available for adoption in Iowa.



6. The Forgotten Children's display can also be displayed on your lawn/grounds. This is a dramatic display of life-size, cardboard cut-outs of children holding signs about foster care.
7. All the agencies listed above will be present on the scheduled weekend with a table/booth about how to volunteer in their agency. Each agency will have a representative on-hand after each service to answer questions.
8. Each agency will have a sign-up sheet at their booth for interested people.
9. A follow-up information meeting will be scheduled at your church or faith community during the next two weeks for people to attend and find out more about the agency they are interested in. Each agency will have a representative present at the follow-up meeting.
10. Planning committee keeps notes about the IMPACT weekend process so it can become an annual mission.

*What kind of follow-up happens after an IMPACT weekend?*

Each agency is responsible for following up with the committee about the results: how many volunteers were recruited, etc.

*How can our congregation begin planning for an IMPACT weekend?*

Identify the people/committee who can help plan this weekend and schedule a time for your group to talk with an Iowa KidsNet resource family recruiter about planning a weekend.

