
Go to www.pcv.org for more information or call 610.519.1615.

Presbyterian Children's Village has been serving children and their families since 1877, but much has changed since then! We encourage you to take a **Next Step** with us to keep this needy population in the minds and hearts of those who care with messages that inform and inspire. The following messages can be used as a monthly reminder about ways to help, coordinating with the liturgical or seasonal calendar. You are welcome to share these in your Sunday bulletin, in your church newsletter, on your church website, in your emails, and anywhere else you see fit. If you prefer, please create your own message related to the mission focus of your own congregation.

A statement suitable as a beginning to each month's message:

Presbyterian Children's Village works to heal spirits, nurture children and serve communities through services that address the consequences of violence, abuse, trauma, mental illness, and neglect. Here's one way you can take a Next Step to help. Go to www.pcv.org for more information or call 610.519.1615.

September

Pray for Peace! Observe the International Day of Peace (September 21) by learning about Philadelphia's Zones of Peace initiative and considering how you might work with PCV to help your families, your community.

October

Remember the Children! Celebrate the Children's Sabbath (October 16) by preparing a care package for children entering foster care, teens entering the Residential Program or transitioning to independence, or a needy family served by Presbyterian Children's Village. Toiletries, baby supplies, and house wares are a few of the ideas.

November

Express your thankfulness with a gift of food to a needy family! Hunger is a stark reality within many of our families. PCV provides emergency grocery gift cards to its neediest families all year round, and especially during the holidays. Convenient choices include ShopRite, Acme, and Fresh Grocer. Increments of \$25 are suggested.

December

Follow the Wise Men! Christmas gifts are needed for about 500 children and their families, as well as for teens in the PCV residential programs in Rosemont. Toys, games, clothes, and many basic items are on their wish lists, as well as many common household items. Full details at www.pcv.org.

January

Speak up for children! Become an advocate for at-risk children and their families. PCV makes it easy by letting you know when challenges arise, explaining how to connect with your legislator and even providing sample messages for email and regular mail. You can take a Next Step by getting on the PCV e-list or inviting a Village speaker to your gathering.

February

Share the love and remember those that are hungry! Celebrate the Souper Bowl of Caring: purchase grocery gift cards. \$25 increments are suggested (or donate the cash and PCV will buy the cards). Stores easily accessible to our families include ShopRite, Acme, Fresh Grocer.

March

Give time! Lent is a time of self reflection and re-dedication. Whether you have one day or a series of days to give, consider volunteering at Presbyterian Children's Village at either the Rosemont or Southwest Philadelphia site. Individual and group are projects available at both locations. Possibilities include tutors, child care, clerical help, career night, fix-up projects, and various child-focused activities with school-age children. (Must be 21.) For more information contact Betty Wu (efwu@pcv.org) or 610-519-1615.

April

Celebrate Rebirth and Renewal! Donate a family-sized group of passes to a local museum, sports event, movie, or cultural venue. When you treat your family, buy a second set for a family who can't.

May

Raise Awareness! May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Invite a Presbyterian Children's Village speaker to talk to your group about the experiences and needs of children in foster care. Take it one step further and hold a diaper drive to collect new baby essentials or host an information session on how to become a foster parent.

June

Learn more: choose a summer reading title from the PCV recommended list. The stories of many children in the welfare system are disheartening, a broken system full of lost opportunities. Learn about how a little effort can make an enormous difference in helping a child reach his potential. Here's one inspirational story: *My Story: A Child Called "It", The Lost Boy, A Man Named Dave* (by Dave Pelzer). Find other suggestions at www.pcv.org.

July

Share the joys of summer with a child you haven't met! A dip in the pool, a trip to the park, a new swing set in Rosemont, a tour of a science museum—you can help make these simple but important pleasures accessible to the kids served by PCV. In celebration of Metropolitan and Urban Ministry Sunday, why not consider donating one of the experiences your own children or grandchildren have come to expect to a family served by PCV. If you buy a set of museum tickets, buy another set and send them to the Village. If you're buying some special summer equipment for your kids, make a similar cash donation to the Village. When combined with other gifts, these smaller gifts can add up to a group trip to the pool or the purchase of a piece of playground equipment to be enjoyed by many for years to come.

August

Ready to learn! Celebrate Youth in the Church and the World Sunday and help the youth served by Presbyterian Children's Village School and after school programs. Donate school supplies or filled backpacks; donate new or gently used books; clip Box Tops for Education and Campbell's labels; participate in Target's Take Charge of Education program (designate the Village School).

Thank you for your prayers and your support in all forms.