

Prayer Tent for Children's Health Care

Suggestions for Healthcare Ministries

We never built a healthcare system for children. It is time we do.

Children's health care is so important that it needs a national solution.

- Sick children are often absent and fall behind in school.
- Now 9 million children are uninsured; over 12,400 of them live in North Dakota.
- Most uninsured children qualify for state insurance programs. However, the paper work is confusing and often needs to be renewed every six months.
- Coverage is lost when families move or when parents change jobs.



Answering the Call—Two Layers of Justice

Finding a solution begins with learning more about the plight of our nation's healthcare and thinking about how we have met other national challenges.

- **Short-term justice of rescue:** By reaching out to help local children obtain health coverage, we will respond with Samaritan care. Partner with a faith community to hold a fair to enroll children in state programs.
- **Long-term system building:** By focusing attention on this issue and promoting respectful discussions, we will respond with justice. Tell elected officials we need a better system. Children's healthcare is the place to start.

Using the Prayer Tent

- This is a six week (or six-day) campaign that combines well with other advocacy efforts.
- Week 1—Distribute the prayer tents to staff or hospital visitors—suggest they set it up at home. Explain this effort as a moral issue that touches your community. Place the newsletter article and Insert #1 in your employee bulletin or send them by e-mail.
- Weeks 2-6—Place another insert in your bulletin weekly (or daily). Use tents/inserts for a reflection at staff meetings and other ministry functions.
- Week 6—Return evaluation to your coordinator.

To order materials contact CHRinfo@stjoe.org
Electronic versions and more activities at www.healthcaredialogues.org.

Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." *I was without healthcare and you helped me get it.*