

# Prayer Tent for Children's Health Care

## *Suggestions for Faith Communities*

***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. Contact a local hospital or clinic to hold a fair to enroll children in state programs at your church or school.
- **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 campaign.
- Week 1—Ask your pastor to explain this effort as a moral issue that touches your congregation. Distribute the prayer tents as people come in, or place them by their seats—suggest they set it up at home. Place the newsletter article and Insert #1 in your church bulletin.
- Weeks 2-6—Place another insert in your bulletin each week. Ask your pastor to call attention to the insert and urge worshippers to read it. Use tents/inserts for reflection at prayer groups, adult education, committee meetings and other church functions.
- Week 6—Return evaluation to your coordinator.

To order materials contact [CHRinfo@stjoe.org](mailto:CHRinfo@stjoe.org)  
See electronic versions and more activities at [www.healthcaredialogues.org](http://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.*