

Church friends and mission partners,

Today, far too many children begin their lives without a positive adult relationship. Too many children are still living in 'relational poverty,' without the ability to connect or bond, even with people who *do* care for them. Intermountain exists for them, to embrace them as Jesus did.



For the children in Intermountain's residential programs, the treatment is intensive and takes almost two years. It is expensive and exhausting - for the children, their families, and the staff alike. As phenomenal as the residential program is, though, it is not for everyone.

That's why Intermountain now provides a number of services for children, youth and families who are struggling with mental health issues. What began as a rather small home for children suffering from the ravages of poverty in a gold mining town is now a resource to more than 1,500 children and families throughout Montana each year.

Intermountain is a place that ensures that children are taken seriously, loved unconditionally, and equipped for a fruitful and faithful life. Our mission of "Healing Through Healthy Relationships" guides our work with children, youth and families who are struggling with emotional well-being.

Your participation in the Change for Children program provides an opportunity for your congregation to partner with us in mission as we continue to be a resource to those in need.

Here are some ways to incorporate Change for Children materials during a special offering, event, activity, or project that benefits the Chaplain's Program.

- **Prayer cards** can be placed in bulletins or pews, displayed on dining tables during seasonal meals, at events, or provided to small groups for prayer
- **Offering envelopes** can be used in conjunction with a special offering, event or dedicated meal
- **Change cans** encourage congregation members to collect their loose change during a church season like Lent, Advent or VBS
- **Bulletin inserts and announcement items** can enhance your newsletters, displays and bulletin boards and are available on the resource page of the Intermountain Ministry website at <http://www.intermountainministry.org>
- **Children's sermons** are also available on the website and can be used to tie in the message of hope and healing.

Would you like to have an Intermountain representative visit your church to share a mission moment or provide pulpit fill? Is a group from your church interested in visiting Intermountain for a tour?

Please let us know how we can assist in your efforts by providing any of the Change for Children items, and as always, we appreciate your keeping the children, families and staff in prayer.

We can be reached by calling (406)457-4804 or by sending us an email at teresam@intermountain.org .



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CHANGE
for children

www.intermountainministry.com

A Quick Step Instruction Guide for Distributing Change for Children change cans

Step 1 Set a Goal

Set a reasonable goal for your church – it can be as low or as high as you want, or you can use the campaign to create awareness about Intermountain.

Step 2 Select a Leader

Choose someone to be in charge of orchestrating can distribution, pick-up and promotion.

Step 3 Propose a Timeframe

Set up a timeframe that is convenient for your congregation- when will you promote cans in your bulletin? When will they be picked up? (Use the enclosed poster to let your congregation know.)

Step 4 Promote Change for Children

Create excitement around the project before the cans are distributed. Put an article in the bulletin or have someone from Intermountain provide a mission moment. Connect the change can campaign to Lent, VBS, Advent or other church seasons. Put up an Intermountain bulletin board or use an Intermountain bulletin insert, which can be found at <http://www.intermountainministry.org>.

Step 5 Distribute Cans

Set up a table with cans for easy taking! Include some information about Intermountain on the table.

Step 6 Promote During Campaign

Put reminder articles in the bulletin - perhaps on the 3rd, 5th and 7th weeks of the campaign, or “We are halfway through our Change for Children campaign! Is your cans half full?” Provide information about Intermountain – announcement items can be found at <http://www.intermountainministry.org>.

Step 7 Make a Plan to Collect the Cans

Pick 2 Sundays for the cans to be returned. Put a reminder in your bulletin the week before cans are due for turn in. Remind participants to write their name and the name of your church on the can.

Step 8 Return the Cans to Intermountain– Choose What Works For You!

1. Contact us - we would be happy to arrange a pick up!
2. Have the bank capture the amount in each can with the contact information (so we can send a thank you and a tax receipt), deposit the money and send a check with the contact list and dollar amounts for each individual.

Step 9 Thank Your Congregation

Thank everyone who helped make this such a success and for their support of Intermountain's healing work with children and families!

Tips to Help Get People Involved

- Give Incentives to pick-up, check-out and return cans (ex. complimentary donuts or a cookie)
- Get the youth of the church involved, have them make thank-you cards for people returning their cans or have the youth group collect the cans
- Have a “Lucky Can” drawing. Designate a can as the “Lucky” can and let your congregation know that if that can is returned, they will receive a special prize of some sort
- Set a target dollar amount – whether it be the amount in each individual can or the church as a whole. After the cans are returned to Intermountain, we will let you know how much money your efforts raised.



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