



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2018

### **KC Mayor Sly James to declare Dec. 9 'CarePortal Day'**

Technology platform connects churches to help Kansas City children in foster care

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mayor Sly James has issued a proclamation establishing Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018 as "CarePortal Day" in Kansas City, Mo. Councilwoman Alissia Canady will present the proclamation at a public event at Paseo Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

"Addressing the complex physical and social needs of children and families today is fundamental to the future of the City of Kansas City," the proclamation by Mayor James reads. "It is appropriate that a day should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts toward those who serve our children and families in child welfare through use of the CarePortal platform."

CarePortal is an online platform that connects local children and families with the greatest need to churches with the ability to help. Since CarePortal launched in March 2015, 45 churches in Jackson County have served more than 1,300 local children by responding to requests that employees of the Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division have submitted through the online platform.

"It is an honor to present the CarePortal Day proclamation," Canady said. "CarePortal and those serving through the platform are making a tangible difference in the lives of children and families in our community. This active example of unity, collaboration and generosity is exactly what our city needs more of."

Here is how it works: A child welfare employee signs into [careportal.org](http://careportal.org) and shares a need. Common requests include beds, clothing, school supplies, bus passes and car seats. Using geo-radius technology, CarePortal distributes the request via email to nearby churches who sign up to serve their community. The responding church or group of churches will then work with the caseworker to provide what is needed. Sometimes these requests support children in foster or kinship care placements, while others help children remain with their biological families.

Since launching in March 2015, the platform has facilitated connections to serve more than 32,000 children in 18 states, with an estimated economic impact of nearly \$12 million.

“Every request presents the opportunity for churches to make meaningful connections,” said Adrien Lewis, executive director of [The Global Orphan Project](#), the Kansas City-based nonprofit that created and manages the CarePortal platform. “Sometimes that connection involves meeting one need at just the right moment. At other times, it develops into a lasting relationship.”

Churches interested in joining the CarePortal community in serving at-risk children can start that process at [careportal.org/enroll](https://careportal.org/enroll) or by emailing [info@careportal.org](mailto:info@careportal.org).

## About CarePortal

CarePortal is a platform launched in March 2015 by The Global Orphan Project, headquartered in Kansas City, Mo. CarePortal brings faith and government entities together by utilizing a volunteer network and innovative technology to bring the needs of children and families in crisis to the attention of local churches. Child welfare workers uncover the needs. CarePortal makes local churches aware, giving them a real-time opportunity to respond. Currently active in 18 states in the U.S., more than 1,600 churches have served more than 32,000 children and counting. See CarePortal's live impact report at [careportal.org/impact](https://careportal.org/impact).

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