

Who Can Help Our Nation's Children Get the Health Care and Healing They Urgently Need?

Friends....

Then some people came, bringing to Jesus a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. (Mark 2:3-4)

Parents...

Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw Jesus, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." (Mark 5:22-24)

Ourselves...

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." (Matt. 9:20-21)

The Bible is full of stories of people in search of healing—people trying to get their friend to a source of healing, a frantic parent seeking help for his or her child, a woman reaching out to find healing for herself. In these stories, we hear God's intention for our health and wholeness and discover the ways that we can reach out to get the care and healing that is needed. Today, **8.4 million uninsured children need us** to help them get the healing and health care they need. Read on to learn more about the problem and how you can help.

Today, 8.4 million children do not have health care coverage. Like Jairus, the parents of many uninsured children are frantic with worry and desperately want to get their children the health care they need. They have made the agonizing choice between taking their sick child to a doctor they cannot afford or hoping and praying the child gets better on their own. They have struggled to pay for doctor bills out of pocket and endured the endless wait in an emergency room when they had to get care for their child.

The good news is that low-cost and free health care coverage is available for many of the uninsured children in our community through Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). These programs pay for regular doctor visits, hospitalizations, vaccinations (shots), prescription medicine and more. While eligibility varies by state, on average, a family of four that earns up to \$38,700 a year or more is likely to qualify.

Many parents of eligible, uninsured children may not realize their children are eligible.

We can help change that! Like the friends digging through the roof in order to reach the healing powers of Jesus, we can help uninsured children get the health care coverage and healing they need. How?

- If your own children or grandchildren are uninsured, call toll-free 1(877) KIDS-NOW today to find out about low-cost and free health care coverage.
- If you know a family whose children do not have health insurance, share this information with them and encourage them to call toll-free 1(877) KIDS-NOW.
- Encourage your local schools, your workplace, child-care centers, businesses and others to display posters, fliers and hand out information encouraging people to call toll-free 1(877) KIDS-NOW to find out if their children are eligible.
- Logon to www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/communications to order free outreach materials such as posters, fliers, bookmarks, stickers and fans.