



LOVE HUNT

For Church

Children's early life forms the basis for future learning, good health and well-being. Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs ensure that children under six, particularly children under three, are reaching their cognitive, language, social, emotional and physical developmental milestones. Investing in children and their primary caregivers during this time can result in lifelong benefits. Read the latest report summary [here](#).

ECD volunteers train parents and primary caregivers to focus on the healthy growth and development of children by nurturing their thinking, communication, motor skills, social and emotional development.

Read the [MOMENTS THAT MATTER](#) story about Millicent, who is learning critical skills to support nurturing care and stimulation for her young children. Millicent calls the program, "God sent."

Encourage parishioners to invite friends to join your LOVE HUNT and share Millicent's story with them so they understand the importance of this work.

Inspired by the Rev. Jimmy Bartz's Easter Day 2020 LOVE HUNT for St. John's, Jackson Hole. This intergenerational activity will engage families to learn, share and give to **ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE** campaign.

Instructions

Create a route in Google maps and share with parishioners.

Choose which Gifts that Nurture Children image format to print; black and white or full color. Download and print the nine 8.5 x 11 Love Hunt image PDFs onto cardstock and laminate for durability.

Secure the Gifts that Nurture Children images along the route (ask permission to post in store windows, attach to mailboxes, in the windshield of parked cars). Be creative!

Choose a time for parishioners to drive their cars, ride bikes or walk along the route to find the nine Gifts that Nurture Children images that children up to 3 years old need to learn and thrive to their full potential.

Since music is so good for children's bodies and minds, you could create a playlist of your favorite songs about love and family to accompany people during their hunt or encourage them to create their own playlist. This [YouTube video](#) of *What the World Needs Now* by Tank and the Bangas is sure to inspire.

There are nine Gifts that Nurture Children images to find on the LOVE HUNT:

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| 1. Nutrition | 4. Listening | 7. Prayer |
| 2. Music | 5. Playing with Peers | 8. Language |
| 3. Play with Grownups | 6. Bond | 9. Patience |

Grownups hide the icons of love around the house and yard so children can find them.

Adults: We are going on a LOVE HUNT to find what children up to 3 years old need to feel nurtured, loved, thrive and learn.

Pray: Lord Jesus, we pray for all children in the world to learn to think, speak, play and sing. We pray their grownups hold, feed and love them with all their hearts. Amen.

Adults: What do you need to feel loved? What do you think children up to 3 years old need to feel nurtured, encouraged and loved?

When you find an image, take a photo and post on these social media platforms. Be sure to post images on yours and your church's social media platforms as well.



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Decide as a family how you will give financially to the **ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE** campaign. The *Gifts for Life* catalog is a fun way for a family to choose gifts together. Gifts range from Care for Mother and Newborns for \$35 to a **ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE** Package for \$1000. You can even purchase a bicycle for \$95!

Special thanks to our contributors for LOVE HUNT - Jamie Martin-Currie and Lisa Puccio. Illustrations created by The Rev. Jay Sidebotham. The FAMA card illustrations by Mango Tree, based in Kampala, Uganda. Layout and design for LOVE HUNT by Alexis Fortuna Caoili.