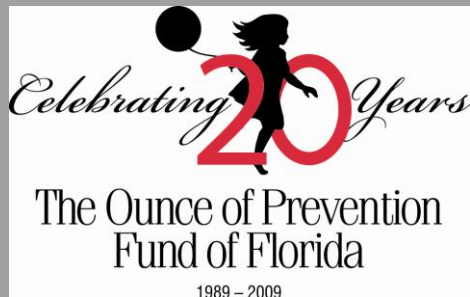




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## Adoption Sunday Toolkit

\*Introduction

\*Overview of Roles and Responsibilities

\*Sample Materials/Templates

- Media Advisory/ Event Announcement
- Press Release
- Article

\*Supplies

- Copies of Proclamation
- Poster
- Flyer
- Brochure

# **ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD ADOPTION SUNDAY**

## **Introduction**

November has been recognized as National Adoption Month since 1990. National Adoption Month activities focus attention on the increasing number of children in the child welfare system waiting for placement with loving families. According Adoption/Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) reports, there are approximately 496,000 children currently in foster care, 130,000 of whom are waiting for permanent families.

According to Department of Children and Families, Florida has 850 children with no identified family. Of the children in need of adoption, 63 percent are African Americans and 72 percent are over the age of five. Many of these children will reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday without ever knowing what it is like to have a loving, forever family.

One Church, One Child Adoption Sunday is a statewide effort to encourage and equip Florida's faith-based community to support and promote adoption. Each year, on the Second Sunday in November, One Church, One Child provides information and promotional materials to local coalitions, community partners and congregations to help them increase awareness of children available for adoption, and recognize and support families who have adopted.

One Church, One Child of Florida is part of a national effort founded on the realization that if just one family from each church adopted just one child, we could successfully place all the waiting children in loving, permanent homes with forever families.

At the state level, One Church, One Child of Florida coordinates activities to help launch National Adoption Month in Florida. In addition to creating and distributing this toolkit, One Church, One Child of Florida has developed a public service announcement featuring Father George Clements, Founder/President of the National One Church, One Child movement, which will air statewide throughout November; the Board of Directors has issued a proclamation, which has been copied for distribution in church bulletins throughout the state; and One Church, One Child will host an Adoption Celebration at the Capitol on November 13.

This toolkit describes the roles and responsibilities of One Church, One Child board members, coalition members and partners, and offers ideas for other businesses, organizations and individuals in the community interested in supporting adoption. We encourage you to modify the templates provided in this toolkit to promote your local adoption month events, and we hope you will share photos from these events with us so we can recognize your efforts on our Web site and in future newsletter articles.

Please contact us if we can provide any additional information in support of your local events.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

**Members of the Board of Directors for One Church, One Child of Florida are expected to foster local collaboration for the promotion of National Adoption Month and One Church, One Child Adoption Sunday by:**

- Promoting National Adoption Month and One Church, One Child Sunday in their communities through opinion editorials or letters to the editor submitted to the local media, or by preaching a sermon related to adoption and foster care.
- Collaborating with their local Department of Children and Families district administrator and community based care agencies to plan a community event and determine the dignitaries and other guests to be invited.
- Providing pastors in the district with toolkits and copies of bulletin inserts for distribution on Adoption Sunday.
- Advertising Adoption Sunday on area church and business marquee signs during the month of November.
- Inviting partner churches to join together to celebrate Adoption Sunday if they are not conducting a service at their church.

**Local Advisory Committee Members and Partner Churches are expected to support the board members efforts to foster collaboration and promote National Adoption Month and One Church, One Child Adoption Sunday by:**

- Preparing letters to the churches, for board members' signature, asking them to focus one sermon on the importance of adoption and inviting them to attend board members church to celebrate Adoption Sunday if they will not be holding their own service.
- Ensuring bulletin inserts provided by board members are incorporated into the Sunday bulletins.
- Using available bulletin board space to promote adoption during the month of November.
- Arranging for foster parents, adoptive families and children waiting to be adopted to attend local events and Adoption Sunday services.
- Preparing children who are awaiting adoption to participate in events and services (i.e. Read a poem, sing a song, group to perform a skit, etc.)
- Preparing display boards that showcase available children, or families who have adopted, to be displayed in the foyer of area churches.
- Distributing media advisories and press releases for local events to the media (television, radio, newspaper, DCF PIO, CBC PIO)

**And to support the One Church, One Child headquarters by:**

- Informing headquarters staff of dignitaries scheduled to attend local events and services.
- Sending samples of promotional items to the headquarters staff 10 days prior to event/service.
- Arranging for someone to take pictures during the event/service and submitting one set of photographs to headquarters staff with a description of the event/service.
- Arranging for someone to video the service and providing a copy of the video to headquarters staff.

**Local businesses, community-based agencies and interested individuals can also help promote adoption throughout November by:**

- Hosting a family movie night and provide information and training to help families move through the adoption process.
- Organizing a matching event where prospective adoptive parents connect with waiting children by doing activities such as crafts or games together.
- Displaying a Heart Gallery photo exhibit of waiting children and agency contact information in busy local businesses.
- Partnering with local banks in a "Children Are Banking on You" campaign to recruit families for children.
- Engaging a local theater troupe to help adopted young adults tell their stories.
- Sponsoring a bowling party for prospective adoptive parents to meet waiting children.
- Training local agencies to make quality videos of children waiting for families.
- Encouraging a large company in your area to send adoption information with employees' pay stubs.
- Hosting a Parent Appreciation Dinner, invite speakers to talk about adoption, provide child care, and feature pictures of waiting children.
- Asking local businesses to sponsor a golf tournament to raise money to help foster kids and recruit new families.

**Timeline**

Preparation for One Church, One Child Sunday is a continuous cycle. Toolkits and bulletin inserts are provided by mid-October to allow staff, board members and local advisory committee members to distribute materials to churches at least two Sundays before the event. All photos and event descriptions should be submitted to headquarters following local events and no later than December 5<sup>th</sup> to be included in newsletter articles.

For further information, please contact Paulette Glover by email at [Paulette\\_Glover@ococfl.org](mailto:Paulette_Glover@ococfl.org) or phone toll-free at 888/283-0886.