



Since 1988

“Finding at least one family
in each church to
adopt, foster or mentor
at least one child”

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In partnership with:



National Adoption Toolkit

A recruitment resource guide for
use by One Church One Child

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ONE CHURCH ONE CHILD ADOPTION SUNDAY

November 8, 2015

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 and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) June 2015 report, there are approximately 415,000 children currently in foster care, 108,000 of whom are waiting for permanent families.

According to Florida Department of Children and Families, there are over 700 children waiting in foster care statewide with no identified family to adopt them. Of the children in need of adoption, 50 percent are minority and 97 percent are over the age of five. Many of these children will reach their 18th 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.

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 ask you to share photos from these events with One Church One Child of Florida Headquarters so we can recognize your efforts on our website and in future newsletter articles.

Please contact One Church One Child of Florida Headquarters at 850/414-5620 if we can provide any additional information in support of your local events.

Op Ed by Dr. Arie Sailor

Executive Director
One Church One Child of Florida

Pulling the pieces together for children: We can all be winners in this process. It is that time again, the fall is here and all the changes that come with it in nature. However, the environmental reason remains complicated at best as it relates to the safety and wellbeing of children in local communities.

According to the Florida Department of Children and families September 2014 FSFN listing over 700 children across the state who are **WAITING** and have no permanent family to call their own. On any given day of the year, this is the case, despite the 3000 + children who are being adopted annually, others are languishing and young people are still aging out of foster care. I believe that everyone would agree that these children should not have to grow up in foster care and they should not have to age out of foster care without a permanent home. No one really knows what is ahead of us in the future, but it helps to have supportive, loving family in our corner.

As a pastor's wife, birth and adoptive mother, minister of the Gospel, and social service administrator, I have been afforded the opportunity to view child welfare from various perspectives. On one hand, the churches are lead centers in the community with ministries to reach out to people, provide Watch Care, help heal the broken-hearted, assist the poor, building and strengthening the lost/hurting people, etc. On the other hand, the community service organizations are working to address many of the same needs to keep children safe and strengthen families and communities. The social service agencies are looking for help from the community. One Church One Child wants to build partnerships and collaborations with the church and the Community Based Care and local provider agencies.

We need the help of Pastors, to encourage families to consider opening their homes and their hearts to help a child or a sibling group of children in foster care and think of the older children who will need a family even after they turn 18 or 21. Certainly, when I turned 18, I still needed my parents' support, encouragement, help and guidance in making life decisions. Pastors can encourage some members to consider becoming a mentor for children in foster care or supporter to families who could use some guidance and support with parenting. Church Watch Care Ministries are perfectly suited to help address the response to church outreach and the community agency outreach to address needs of children and families in local communities.

While agencies across the nation are preparing for November, National Adoption Month, we want to join in with our individual efforts to connect and make positive changes for Florida's children.

One Church One Child of Florida is a statewide, faith-based organization that works to build partnerships across Florida and help ensure that potential partners are educated about the needs of children and how pulling the pieces together can help. By statute, One Church One Child of Florida is mandated to help with tapping the faith community and bringing them to the table of discussion and to bring the social service agencies together.

Contact One Church One Child of Florida today for more information and bring your piece/strength to the table of working partners for children. In pulling the pieces together for children and for local families, we are all winners in this process, especially the children and the families who can use a hand-up for family strengthening.

If you are a pastor, member of a church, concerned citizen, community organization and want to be a part of the efforts to make key partnership connections, please contact One Church One Child of Florida at 1-888-283-0886, 850-414-5620 or visit us on the web at www.ococfl.org.



(PRESS RELEASE)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2015

Contact: Paulette Glover

Paulette_Glover@ococfl.org

850-414-5620

One Church One Child Adoption Sunday Focuses on Families and Faith
Every Child Deserves a Loving Home

Tallahassee– One Church One Church of Florida is asking religions leaders and congregations statewide to join in celebrating November National Adoption Month. Special emphasis is placed on recognizing adoptive families and remembering the over 700 children in the state still waiting in foster care with no family identified to adopt them.

Second Sunday, November 8, 2015 is One Church One Child Adoption Sunday. Pastors are asked to preach sermons on adoption from the Bible, pray for all of the 700+ children on the waiting list and actively call out the names of at least 10 children during the Sunday service.

When Pastors and congregations get involved, open their hearts and homes to the “Orphans”- children who are legally without families- we fulfill God’s command to help bring positive change in the lives of children, the least ones,” said Dr. Arie Sailor, Executive Director of One Church One Child of Florida.

During the entire month of November, One Church One Child asks religious leaders to allow the reading of a special church announcement about adoption at each of their services. “We recognized that if just one family from each church across Florida adopted just one child, we could successfully move all of Florida’s waiting children into permanent forever homes,” said Rev. Beverly Lane, President of the Board for One Church One Child of Florida.

Since 1990, the nation has officially proclaimed November as National Adoption Month to focus attention on the increasing number of children in the foster care system waiting for placement with families. According to the Florida Department of Children and Families, there are over 700 children currently in foster care with no identified family. African American children represent 52 percent of those children and 72 percent are over the age of five. Many of these children will reach their 18th birthday without ever knowing what it is like to have a loving, forever family.

For information about National Adoption Month or One Church One Child of Florida, visit the website at www.ococfl.org or contact Paulette Glover at 850-414-5620.

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**ONE CHURCH,
ONE CHILD
OF FLORIDA, INC.
Since 1988**

***“Find One Family in
Each Church to
Adopt One Child”***

Board of Directors

Rev. Beverly Lane
President
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Douglas**
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Treasurer
Rev. Karl Anderson
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Mr. Admiral Henderson
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Rev. Clifton Riley
Rev. Lee M. Sapp
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WEBSITE
www.ococfl.org

**In partnership
with**



October 6, 2015

Dear Pastors:

November is National Adoption Month. Since 1990, the second Sunday of November has been recognized statewide as One Church, One Child Adoption Sunday. The purpose of this celebration is to bring attention to families and their children who are in Florida's foster care. Many of these children are available for adoption and waiting for a loving family.

One Church, One Child of Florida (OCOC) is encouraging spiritual leaders across the state to participate in the Adoption Sunday celebration by authorizing and allowing:

- The reading OCOC's Adoption Sunday Proclamation on November 8, 2015.
- The "calling out" or reading of the names and praying for at least 10 children of the approximate 700 children waiting for a forever family. (See attached list of name of waiting children, their personal ID number and age)
- The delivery of a sermon that focus on God's love for children, especially orphans.
- The inclusion of the enclosed special announcement about adoption in the church bulletin or reading it each Sunday.
- The display of the enclosed materials including children's pictures with brief bio and flyers about OCOC in your lobby, library and/or vestibule area.

Enclosed you will find information about OCOC, a church announcement and the OCOC Adoption Sunday Proclamation. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Children are waiting, and your support will be of great importance in helping us find homes for these precious ones.

If you require additional information, please contact One Church One Child Headquarters toll free at (888) 283-0886, (850) 414-5620 or email info@ococfl.org or view www.ococfl.org

Sincerely,

Dr. Arie Sailor
Dr. Arie Sailor
Executive Director

Enclosure



ONE CHURCH ONE CHILD ADOPTION SUNDAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, One Church One Child was founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1980 by Father George Clements and implemented in Florida in 1988 as a statewide, nonprofit adoption organization for the purpose of providing services to adoptable children and increasing children’s potential for placement in a permanent family home, publicizing the plight of children in foster care and promoting child welfare services to children and supporting families; and

WHEREAS, One Church One Child particularly encourages the involvement of ministers and churches, in the process of identifying suitable families for adoption, foster care and mentoring with the basic philosophy being “to find at least one family per church to adopt, foster or mentor at least one child;” and

WHEREAS, the month of November has been declared National Adoption Month by National One Church One Child, the National Council on Adoption and other adoption promotion organizations across the country to raise public awareness of the number of children in foster care who need good, caring and stable homes; in Florida over 700 children are waiting/languishing with no family identified to adopt them; and

WHEREAS, One Church One Child of Florida, Inc. is promoting Adoption Sunday in Florida; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the One Church One Child of Florida Board of Directors and Executive Director, understanding the critical situation of children waiting for an adoptive family, continue to designate and publish, through this resolution, Second Sunday in November (November 8, 2015) as One Church One Child Adoption Sunday in Florida, calling attention to children in need of adoption, and the urgency for families to open their hearts and providing permanent, loving homes for these children.

Rev. Beverly Hills Lane

Reverend Beverly Hills Lane
State Board President

Arie Sailor

Dr. Arie Sailor
Executive Director

One Church One Child of Florida, Inc., 3051 Highland Oaks Terrace
Tallahassee, Florida 32301, 888/283-0886 or 850/414-5620

PERSERVE THE LEGACY

“Adopt, Foster, Mentor or provide Watch Care to a Child Today”

How It’s Done in Florida

One Church One Child works in partnership with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), approved Community Base Care organizations and Churches to find adoptive families and Foster families and mentors to provide support for children in foster care.

What Does it mean to Adopt or Foster a child or sibling group?

To Adopt means to legally give a permanent loving home and family to a child who has neither. To Foster means to provide a child a temporary home with a loving and stable environment until the child can return to his/her home or be placed for adoption.

How can Mentoring or Church Watch Care Help a Child?

Mentoring a child means-providing encouragement support and assistance to children. Church Watch Care is a care ministry of local churches that can be extended to children in foster care and local families to provide a long term congregation family connection.

You Should Know That To Be An Adoptive or Foster Parent;

You don’t have to earn a high income, although you must have enough money to provide for the basic needs of your family.
You can have children of your own or other adopted or foster children.
You don’t have to own your own home and you can work full-time.

***How Much Does It Cost To Adopt and
How Long Does It Take?***

Generally, there is no charge for adopting children in Florida’s foster care system. You may need to pay a reasonable amount of lawyer’s fee to finalize the adoption which is usually reimbursed.

College, medical and financial assistance is available to help meet the needs of children in foster care. The time spent in learning about and preparing for adoption varies. On the average, it will take three to nine months.

How soon a child is placed with you may depend on the age and the sex of the child.

**IF YOU CAN GIVE A CHILD THE LOVE AND CARE HE OR SHE
NEEDS, YOU MAY BE AN IDEAL CANDIDATE TO BECOME AN
ADOPTIVE, FOSTER PARENT OR MENTOR!**

CALL TOLL FREE: 888/283-0886

MAIN OFFICE: 850/414-5620

WWW.OCOCFL.ORG

(GOES ON THE BACK OF THE PROCLAMATION)



Church Announcement:

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Right now, there are over 700 children waiting in Florida's foster care system with no identified family to adopt them. Many children are members of sibling groups and want to stay together. You can help these children. Over 52% of the children waiting are children of color and tend to wait longer to be adopted, but you can make a difference for these CHILDREN!

Join One Church one Child of Florida in celebrating National Adoption Month throughout November and increase awareness of children available for adoption. Support adoptive families in your community and consider becoming an adoptive parent. Remember, every child deserves a loving home, so open your heart and home. Thank you for your prayers.

For additional information, please contact One Church One Child of Florida at info@ococfl.org, www.ococfl.org, toll free (888) 283-0886 or 850-414-5620.

One Church One Child of Florida, Inc., 3051 Highland Oaks Terrace, Suite 1
Tallahassee, Florida 32301, 888/283-0886



Assistance/Benefits for Adopting Families

Adopting provides opportunities to change children's lives and also enrich the life of the potential adoptive parent or family that welcomes them in. Adopting one of Florida's children from foster care offers special benefits.

No or Low Cost – Adopting a child(ren) from foster care costs little or nothing. The required parent training class and home study are provided free of charge, and even court costs and fees can be paid by the agency responsible for the child, if the family cannot afford them.

Secure Adoption – Adopting a child from foster care is very secure because Florida's children are not made available for adoption until a court has already terminated the parental rights of their birth parents.

Financial Assistance – Families that adopt one of Florida's children in foster care will likely qualify for a monthly subsidy (financial assistance) to help offset ongoing costs. This amount is negotiated on a child-by-child basis, depending on the child's unique needs and the availability of funds.

Health Care – All of the children who receive a monthly subsidy are eligible to receive health care through the state's managed care program until age 18. Some of the children are eligible for medical care until age 21.

Free Tuition – Florida's children adopted from care are eligible for free tuition at any state university, community college or vocational school in Florida. That's a great benefit for those considering adopting an older child, who is closer to college age.

One Church One Child of Florida, Inc., 3051 Highland Oaks Terrace, Suite 1
Tallahassee, Florida 32301, 888/283-0886

APPENDIX

INSERTS (pictures and briefs of waiting children)

LIST OF WAITING CHILDREN

OCOC BROCHURE