



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

***"Find One Family in  
Each Church to  
Adopt One Child"***

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**In partnership  
with**



November 1, 2016

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 13, 2016.
- 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](mailto:info@ococfl.org) or view [www.ococfl.org](http://www.ococfl.org)

Sincerely,

*Dr. Arie Sailor*

Dr. Arie Sailor  
Executive Director

Enclosure



**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](mailto:info@ococfl.org), [www.ococfl.org](http://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





## 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 13, 2016) 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

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## ***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, up to \$1000 per child adopted.

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](http://WWW.OCOCFL.ORG)**

**(GOES ON THE BACK OF THE PROCLAMATION)**





## 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.

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