

# WAIT NO MORE



Finding Families for  
California's Waiting Kids



***Wait No More:  
Finding Families for California's Waiting Kids***

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September 19, 2009

Greetings from Focus on the Family® and our local California partners.

We're glad you're here! Thank you for taking the time to learn more about California's waiting children and youth who desperately need adoptive families.

Our unprecedented event, *Wait No More: Finding Families for California's Waiting Kids*, brings together LA and Orange County social service officials, along with Southern California's faith-based and adoption agency leaders. We are united in one goal: to find adoptive families for all of Southern California's waiting children and youth in foster care.

You and your family are who we've been waiting for! Thank you for your willingness to explore the role you might play in helping these waiting kids.

It is our goal that today you will be:

- Inspired by adoptive families and youth formerly in foster care;
- Educated about the California kids waiting for adoptive families and the process involved in adoption from foster care;
- Informed about the next steps for exploring adoption; and,
- Equipped to access relevant supportive resources for you and your family.

At the close of our program, you will have ample time to visit the information booths to get answers to your questions and sign up for next step agency orientations.

And, before you leave, if you plan to take the next steps in the adoption process, **please leave your green interest form in one of the many marked boxes.**

Again, thank you for your attendance. It's going to be a great day.

Sincerely,

*Kelly M Rosati*

Kelly M. Rosati, J.D.  
Senior Director, Sanctity of Human Life  
Adoption and Orphan Care Initiative  
Focus on the Family

***Wait No More:  
Finding Families for California's Waiting Kids***

Saturday, September 19, 2009

**Check-In and Registration**

**Praise & Worship**

Amy Perry of *Selah*

**Yvette Maher, Senior Vice President, Family Ministries,  
Focus on the Family**

**Kelly Rosati, Senior Director, Sanctity of Human Life,  
Focus on the Family**

God's Heart and the Spiritual Journey of Adoption  
Adoptive Mom's Perspective

**The Moore Family's Journey**

One California Family's Story

**Tiffany Beal**

The Waiting Child Perspective: When Love Came for Me

**Amy Perry of *Selah***

The Sibling Perspective: How Adopting from Foster Care Impacts the  
Kids Already in your Home

**Dr. Sharen Ford (Colorado) and  
Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW, LA County DCFS Director**

Practical Realities, Adoption Process 101

**Next Steps**

**Booths Open**

## Speaker Biographies



### ***Yvette Maher***

Yvette Maher is Senior Vice President of Family Ministries for Focus on the Family. In her 17 year tenure, Yvette has authored many articles for Focus on the Family magazines and appeared frequently on the daily broadcast as well as Weekend Magazine. She is a frequent speaker at women's conferences and retreats around the globe. After leaving Kentucky for the Rocky Mountains, she met and married Tom Maher. Her title aside, Yvette considers her family as her greatest accomplishment and she likes to brag on their 21-year-old twin daughters and 20-year-old son, as well as their son-in-law and adorable grandson!

Her experience at Focus on the Family has given Yvette valuable insight and a heightened sensitivity to the many challenges people face in today's society. Her combination of an engaging and humorous personality, along with knowledge of spiritual principles and truths, allows Yvette to encourage people to value their God-given design and to impact their homes, communities and the world for Christ.



### ***Kelly M. Rosati, J.D.***

Kelly M. Rosati is the Senior Director of the Sanctity of Human Life Division at Focus on the Family where she oversees the Adoption & Orphan Care Initiative. She is a frequent media spokesperson for Focus on the Family in the areas of sanctity of human life and adoption and orphan care. An attorney by training, Kelly was the Executive Director of Hawaii Family Forum for 10 years where she advocated for Hawaii's children and families in the legislature and media.

Kelly received her undergraduate degree in 1990 from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. In 1993, she graduated cum laude from the University of Nebraska

College of Law.

She has been married to John for 17 years and they were blessed to adopt their four children through the foster care system.



### ***John and Terri Moore***

John and Terri Moore are the proud and happy parents of five children that the Lord brought to them through Los Angeles County Foster Care: Ashley (17), Chris (14), Anthony (13), Aruna (9), and Hallie (almost 3). John and Terri have been active in the L.A. County foster care/adoption community for the past 9 1/2 years. In addition to promoting adoption and foster care in area churches, they feel a strong call to advocate for the children and families involved. Terri is a stay-at-home mom (a full-time job!) and

John is the Content Manager for Hope for Orphans, a ministry of FamilyLife. They are members of Grace Brethren Church in Long Beach, where John also serves as an elder.



### ***Tiffany Beal***

Tiffany has seen more in her life than most adults would ever want to see in their lifetime. After her parent's divorce, she and her siblings lived with her mom and her abusive boyfriend. At 9 years old, her world was rocked when her baby sister died. Within seventeen days of her sister's death, Tiffany was in a different home with strangers she didn't know, separated from her other two siblings, and grieving the loss of her family.

Fortunately, later that year, an adoptive family came forward wanting Tiffany and her siblings. She was adopted at 11 years old, and has now been with her parents for nine and a half years.

Tiffany is a senior at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and is earning her bachelor's degree in nursing. She is the next president of Beth-El Student Nurses Association and hopes to open a midwifery clinic for underprivileged families. Tiffany spends much of her days studying for school but in her spare time enjoys swing dancing, the MILL, and time with her family and friends.



### ***Amy Perry***

The Duets Album was the introduction of vocalist Amy Perry into the Selah family. Perry, who hails from northern California, grew up with 6 siblings: 2 biological and 4 adopted through foster care. She cut her vocal teeth at the tender age of 4 and spent her teens in musical theater. After a year of singing background vocals for a popular gospel singer in California, the 19-year-old decided to pursue music in earnest. She moved to Nashville in 2000, "because that's where all the Christian music people lived," and there, God began to change her heart.

In 2005, a friend told her about the opening in Selah, a group with whom Amy was unfamiliar. Her husband picked up a copy of 2004's *Hiding Place*, and Amy couldn't believe her ears. "The more I listened, the more I realized that Selah had been doing exactly what God had been growing inside of me to do: worship leading and ministering to the church. It was then that I began to be excited about the possibilities."

"We auditioned 15 female vocalists," Todd [of Selah] recalls, "and Amy really stood out. She can do it all—she's amazing at picking up harmonies, but most importantly, she's very much in tune with her spiritual walk. What you see is what you get with Amy, so we knew our audience would love her openness and honesty. She's just a perfect fit."



### ***Dr. Sharen Ford***

Sharen Ford, Ph.D., is a nationally-recognized child welfare consultant and the Manager for Permanency Services for the Colorado Department of Human Services in the Division of Child Welfare Services. She has a comprehensive work history there for 25 years. She oversees six programmatic areas including the Adoption Program and supervises a team of professional staff.

Dr. Ford is the former President of the National Association of State Adoption Programs (NASAP) and currently serves as a member at large. She is also the current President of the Association of Administrators for the Interstate Compact on Adoption Medical Assistance (AAICAMA). She is speaking today in her personal capacity because of her commitment to the goal of every child having a permanent family.

She is married to Roy, is a mom to Jennifer, and a grandmother to Ezran.

# Frequently Asked Questions on Adoption<sup>1</sup>

## 1. What is adoption?

Adoption is a legal process which permanently gives parental rights to adoptive parents. Adoption means taking a child into your home as a permanent family member. It means caring for and guiding children through their growing years and giving them the love and understanding they need to develop their full potential.

## 2. How do agency adoption, independent adoption, and intercountry adoption differ?

In an agency adoption, a licensed public or private adoption agency or a California Department of Social Services (CDSS) adoptions district office places the child for adoption. The birth parent's parental rights are terminated either by court order or by the filing of a relinquishment. The adoption agency becomes legally responsible for the care, custody and control of the child. The agency studies and approves adoptive applicants before placing a child in their home for adoption, then supervises the placement for six or more months before the court approves the adoption.

NOTE: The following two types of adoption are not covered at *Wait No More*.

In an independent adoption, birth parents choose the prospective parents and place the child directly with them. When making this decision, a birth parent must have personal knowledge of certain facts about the adopting parents. The birth parent placing the child for adoption must receive an advisement of rights, responsibilities, and options from an Adoption Service Provider (ASP). The birth parent must also sign an Independent Adoption Placement Agreement (AD 924), which in 30 days automatically becomes an irrevocable consent to adoption unless revoked within that time.

In an intercountry adoption, prospective parents adopt foreign-born children for whom the federal law makes a special immigration entry visa available. Intercountry adoption includes completion of the adoption in the child's native country or in California.

## 3. About the children!

Children in foster care of all ages are in the child welfare system awaiting permanent homes. The county selects permanent homes in which to make an adoptive placement. Potential adoptive parents are informed of special needs or significant problems which the child may have or encounter. Information provided by the child's caseworker depicts the child and describes the

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<sup>1</sup> All information adapted from <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cfsweb/PG1302.htm>



adjustments and challenges the child will have to overcome once placed with an adoptive family.

In an effort to use the power of the Internet and to bring children and families together, the California Kids Connection program was developed as California's registry of children waiting to be adopted and families wanting to adopt. The program offers both a secure website accessible only to California licensed adoption agency personnel and a public site accessible to any Internet user (public site is available anyone using the Internet at [www.cakidsconnection.com](http://www.cakidsconnection.com)). Visitors to this area of the website may view and indicate their interest in specific children by sending an immediate email to the adoption agency identified for each child. This site features children for whom legal clearance has been granted by the court. Other sites including [www.AdoptUSKids.org](http://www.AdoptUSKids.org)

#### **4. How do I adopt a child from foster care?**

- Contact your local licensed public or private adoption agency to speak with an agency representative about the process
- Attend an orientation
- Complete training, an application, background check, and other requirements
- Complete and submit a written application
- Discuss the type of child you wish to adopt and the children that are available through the public adoption agency with your caseworker
- Participate in a "family assessment," which consists of a thorough review of your criminal, medical, employment, emotional, marital, and life history and your home environment, as required by law (This process is a joint effort by the agency and the adoptive applicants. The agency evaluates and determines your ability to provide a stable, safe and permanent home to a child who is available for adoptive placement.)
- A child is matched with your family and adoption is finalized

#### **5. What ages of children are available?**

The ages of children awaiting adoption range from all ages and often include sibling groups with multiple ages.

#### **6. How much will it cost to adopt?**

The licensed public adoption agency or CDSS adoptions district office may require that you pay a fee of several hundred dollars prior to submitting a favorable report to the court. This fee may be deferred, reduced, or waived under certain conditions. You should also expect to pay for fingerprinting, medical examination, court filing and other adoption-related costs that usually total no more than \$100-\$300. Some agencies may have costs you can get reimbursed for after the adoption is finalized.

Adoptive parents may qualify for a federal tax credit for certain expenses paid to adopt an eligible child with special needs and a state tax credit for adopting a child who was in the custody of a California public child welfare agency. For further information about the federal adoption tax benefit, contact the Internal Revenue Services at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or 1-800-829-1040 and request Publication 968. For further information about the state tax benefit, contact the California Franchise Tax Board at [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov) or 8-800-852-5711 and request information on Credit for Child Adoption Costs - Tax Credit Code 197.

**7. Is there financial assistance provided once the adoption is final?**

The Adoption Assistance Program can provide financial assistance and in most cases, complete medical coverage for many of today's waiting children in foster care. This assistance may continue until the child is age 18 or, in certain circumstances, age 21.

**8. Both of us work. Will I have to quit my job if I want to adopt or be a foster parent?**

NO. Both parents may be working as long as appropriate childcare arrangements are made.

The State also enacted new legislation which extends disability compensation to allow individuals who take time off work to bond with a new child. Find more information online about the Paid Family Leave Insurance Program.

**9. I don't own my own home, or I live in an apartment. May I adopt?**

YES. You don't have to own a house to give a home. You may rent or own as long as your home is safe and has enough room for family members. What is most important is the love, understanding and guidance you can offer a child.

**10. May single persons adopt?**

Yes. In fact, approximately one-fourth of the children adopted from the public foster care system are adopted by single individuals.

**11. I'm over forty. Am I too old?**

NO. As long as you are in good health and have the energy and desire to be a parent, age is not a decisive factor. A 50-or-55-year-old person or couple may be perfect for the adoption of an older child.

**12. How long will it take to adopt a child?**

In an agency adoption, the process may be lengthy but well worth the wait. Depending on the workload of the agency selected, it will take anywhere from

four to eight months to complete an adoption family assessment. Most adoptive placements occur one to several months after the family assessment has been approved (this depends on the type of child you are interested in adopting).

### **13. What if I don't live where the child lives?**

In 1999, California enacted statutes that implemented interjurisdictional adoption provisions. These provisions specify that the placement of a child for adoption may not be delayed or denied because the prospective approved adoptive family resides outside the jurisdiction of the Department or the licensed adoption agency. Such an adoptive family is one who is approved by an authorized entity in the state of residence in accordance with California standards.

It is also indicated in statute that if a person alleges there was a denial or a delay in the placement of a child for adoption based solely because they live outside the jurisdiction of the Department, they will be accorded an opportunity for a state hearing.

Counties will work cooperatively to make a placement happen. If you find a child, let caseworker know to help identify match.

### **14. What is the difference between adoption and guardianship?**

Adoption is the permanent legal assumption of all parental rights and responsibilities for a child. Adoptive parents have the same legal rights and responsibilities as parents whose children are born to them.

A guardian is someone appointed by the court to care for a child until he or she is 18. If you become a guardian, the court grants you the right to make most decisions regarding the child. A guardian is not a child's legal parent and may be subject to ongoing supervision of the court. Guardianship does not give all the legal rights and responsibilities of a parent to the guardian the way adoption does to an adoptive parent. The court can make a decision about guardianship whether or not the parent agrees.

### **15. What support services are available to help families after a placement?**

The *Post-Adoption Services (PAS) Unit* is available for all adoptive families. *PAS* social workers provide support, information about community resources and recent literature about adoption to all members of the *adoption triad*: adoptees, adoptive families and birth families. There are no fees or time limits for Post-Adoption Services.

## **Tips on How to Choose an Adoption Agency**

Adoption is a life long process for parents and children, and it is important to choose an agency that can help you assess your readiness to adopt and has the expertise to help you through the process. Child placement agencies must meet the licensing standards for Child Placement Agencies to provide adoption services in California. A personal evaluation prior to selection of an agency will generally lead to positive results for families. The following points may be helpful in choosing a private agency:

### **1. Learn about adoption and the issues involved**

- Read books and articles on adoption
- Attend an adoptive parents' group
- Talk to other adoptive parents
- Attend agency orientation and information meetings

### **2. Determine the type of child you are interested in adopting**

- Infant or older child
- Domestic or International
- Special needs (emotional problems, mental or physical handicaps) or minimum problems.

### **3. Contact the agencies and learn about their program.**

- Ask about any requirements/restrictions on adoptive parents such as length of marriage, age etc
- Ask for brochures on their program
- Attend orientation/information meetings

### **4. Evaluate the agency's program**


- Ask about the steps in the agency's process such as orientation, application, study, parenting classes and the estimated time frames involved. Make a list of special questions you want answered.
- Make sure the agency is licensed; ask when was the last time the agency was visited by a representative from the licensing unit.
- Find out if complaints have been filed against the agency and if so, how they were resolved.
- Find out the staffs' education, background, and experience in adoption.

- Ask about the services the agency gives to birth parents and evaluate the completeness and sensitivity of this work.
- Learn the costs involved for the screening, orientation meeting, home study, supervisory visits, court reports, educational groups, services to and expenses in connection with birth parents in designated adoptions, extra work in connection with interstate placement, extra personnel and services in international adoption, and other possible expenses. Obtain written detailed information on all costs involved including the agency's policy on refunds.
- If the child will be placed from another country, ask if the agency is authorized to do international adoptions.
- Ask about any support groups the agency facilitates and any post finalization services they might offer.
- If possible, talk to other adoptive parents about their experience with the agency.

#### **5. After you have chosen the agency**

- Keep in regular contact with the agency but be realistic with the staff's time
- If you have a complaint or are dissatisfied, talk honestly to the person with whom you are working and, if this is unsatisfactory, then talk to the director

## Agency Overview

<b>Arrow Child &amp; Family Ministries</b>	
 <p>The logo for Arrow Child &amp; Family Ministries features a blue square divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant contains a white heart, the top-right a white figure of a person, the bottom-left a white church steeple, and the bottom-right a white dome. To the right of this square is a red arrow pointing right, with the word "Arrow" in a serif font above it. Below the arrow, the words "CHILD &amp; FAMILY" and "MINISTRIES" are stacked in a smaller serif font.</p>	<p>James 1:27 gives the church a clear mandate to care for orphans. With this directive from Scripture, it is clear to Arrow Child &amp; Family Ministries that the answer for children rescued from abuse without a family to call their own is...the church. Our goal is to facilitate the adoption of the over 125,000 children in foster care who are waiting for a “forever family” by Christian parents. To achieve this goal, Arrow trains, certifies, and actively supports our “Ambassador Families” throughout the entire adoption process. We will provide you with all of the necessary training, adoption home-study, and round-the-clock guidance at virtually no cost to your family. If you share our conviction that <b>“Children are a gift of the Lord...like Arrows in the hand of a warrior” (Psalm 127)</b>, become an ambassador of Christ to make an eternal difference in the life of a child through adoption.</p> <p><b>Service area: Ventura, Riverside, San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties</b></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Melissa Jinariu, MA, LMFT, Dir. of Clinical Services</i>            621 Via Alondra, Suite 608            Camarillo, CA 93012            805-482-9301            Fax: 805-482-9301  <a href="mailto:Melissa.Jinariu@arrow.org">Melissa.Jinariu@arrow.org</a>  <a href="http://www.arrow.org">www.arrow.org</a></p>	

## Koinonia Family Services



**KOINONIA FAMILY SERVICES**  
*Bringing Hope to a New Generation*

### Contact Information:

*District Parent Coordinator*  
550 E. Carson Plaza Dr. #200  
Carson, CA 90746  
877-CHILDS-HOPE  
Fax: 310-217-0907  
[swesson@kfh.org](mailto:swesson@kfh.org)  
[www.kfh.org](http://www.kfh.org)

Founded in 1982, Koinonia Family Services offers a variety of programs throughout California and Nevada. A leader in the industry, Koinonia is well-known for its service to staff, families and children. Experienced and sensitive staff guide you through the adoption process with a dedication to match families that will provide loving, permanent lifelong commitments to our youth.

Family is the cornerstone of society. Through your commitment to vulnerable children, Koinonia is a shining beacon of hope during these turbulent times. Families of faith are needed now more than ever to foster-to-adopt a child.

Koinonia is a Greek word that means “fellowship” and carries the meaning of trustworthy and dependable relationships. We distinguish ourselves from other agencies by our commitment of quality and compassion for children through programs that have family-centered values and a faith-based approach.

Throughout Koinonia’s rich history, thousands of children have been adopted and placed with loving families. Give the gift of family by becoming adoption ready today. Call 877-CHILDS-HOPE for more information.

**Service Area: San Diego, Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Tulare, Fresno, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, plus many others in CA**

**Los Angeles County**

Share Your Heart...  
Share Your Home  
Comparta Su Corazón...  
Comparta Su Hogar



**Contact Information:**

*Evelyn Santiago, Adoption Asst.*  
532 E Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91325  
888-811-1121  
626-229-3782  
Fax: 626-397-9170  
[adopt@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:adopt@dcfs.lacounty.gov)  
[www.ShareYourHeartLA.org](http://www.ShareYourHeartLA.org)

There are over 500 children waiting to be adopted in Los Angeles County. They are usually of African-American or Latino decent, and part of a sibling group. Although they may have some special medical, emotional, or educational needs, they are loving, playful, and insightful children who could thrive in a family of their own.

Many people don't think they qualify to adopt. But, you can be single or married, work or stay home, rent or own and there is no minimum income as long as you can provide a safe, stable, and nurturing home. Further, financial assistance and medical coverage are provided for all our children and we provide extensive supportive services before, during, and after the adoption process.

We have 13 orientations each month throughout LA County where you can get all your questions answered. Not ready to adopt? Consider becoming a foster parent or week-end host. To learn more or to sign up for an orientation, call 1-888-811-1121. It will be the most rewarding thing you do for a child and for yourself.

**Service Area: All of Los Angeles County**



**Olive Crest**



**Contact Information:**

*Kerri Dunkelberger, Executive Dir*  
2130 E. Fourth St. Suite 200  
Santa Ana, CA 92692  
714-543-5437 x 1164  
Fax: 714-543-5463  
[Kerri-Dunkelberger@olivecrest.org](mailto:Kerri-Dunkelberger@olivecrest.org)  
[www.olivecrest.org](http://www.olivecrest.org)

Since 1973, Olive Crest has been a part of transforming the lives of over 50,000 abused, neglected, and at-risk children and their families. Dr. Donald and Lois Verleur founded Olive Crest on Judeo-Christian values and a commitment to engage the faith-based community in the care of children in crisis. Olive Crest works tirelessly to meet the individual needs of kids by providing safe homes, counseling, and education for both youth and parents. Our many innovative programs reflect our conviction that strengthening the family is one of the most powerful ways to help heal children.

Olive Crest's Adoption Program started in 1998 and is licensed to provide adoption and foster family services in 5 Southern California counties. A passion for finding permanent homes for the increasing number of special needs children has allowed Olive Crest to facilitate over 1,000 adoptions.

Established, proven, and respected, Olive Crest serves nearly 1,000 children and families each day throughout California, Nevada, and the Pacific Northwest.

**Service area: Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino**

**Orange County**



**Contact Information:**

*Cheryl Alexander, Supervisor*  
800 N. Eckhoff Ave.  
Orange, CA 92868  
714-940-3964  
Fax: 714-940-3962  
[Cheryl.Alexander@ssa.ocgov.com](mailto:Cheryl.Alexander@ssa.ocgov.com)

Orange County offers the following adoption services:

- Training, including PRIDE training
- Support services
- Referrals for counseling, including in-home counseling services and behavioral specialists
- Ongoing home visits
- Coordination of medical/developmental needs
- Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)

**Service area: Orange County**

**Serenity Infant Care Homes, Inc.**



**Contact Information:**

*Jennifer Choctaw*  
600 S. Grand Avenue  
Covina, CA 91724  
626-859-6200  
626-252-9499 (Woodland Hills  
Office)  
Fax: 626-859-6206  
[serenityffa@earthlink.net](mailto:serenityffa@earthlink.net)  
[www.serenityinfantcarehomes.com](http://www.serenityinfantcarehomes.com)

Serenity is a 501(c)3 charitable organization with a twenty-year history of providing nurturing, quality foster homes for infants and children through 18 years of age. Our mission remains to provide early intervention services to break the cycle of child abuse and heal the hearts and minds of traumatized children and families. Licensed as an adoption agency in 2006, Serenity has expanded its mission to provide permanency through adoption of its children out of the foster care system, should family reunification efforts fail. Serenity Adoptions:


- offers education, emotional support and guidance to families committed to adoption through foster care;
- trains and assists families to complete all adoption requirements concurrently with foster care requirements;
- guides families through the unique challenges and experiences of transitioning from foster care to adoption;
- educates families in the financial resources available for adopted children;
- provides Post-Adoption Services including on-going counseling, crisis intervention, and monthly support groups.

We invite everyone, who is interested in furthering God's presence in the lives of abused, abandoned and orphaned children, to join Serenity in this mission.


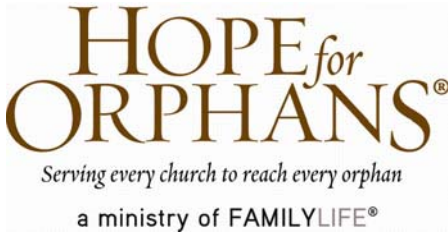
**“A heart at peace gives life to the body...”  
Proverbs 14:30**

**Service area: Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange (Sub-Office in Woodland Hills/Chatsworth Area focuses on sibling sets/older youth)**

## Helpful Organizations

CASA of Orange County	
	<p>Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Orange County trains community volunteers to serve as powerful mentors and advocates for abused and neglected children in the foster care system. CASA volunteers are paired one-on-one with a child in foster care, spend time with him or her on a regular basis and are appointed by the court to advocate for a child's individual needs – including his or her education, physical and emotional health, and ensuring they are being moved toward a permanent placement in a timely manner. Although children are not placed in your home, as a volunteer you will form a unique one-on-one relationship with your assigned child and may become the best equipped person in your child's life to know what he or she truly needs. Although we encourage anyone able to become a foster or adoptive parent, for those not yet ready to take that step, becoming a CASA mentor-advocate is an outstanding opportunity to make a difference in the life of youth in foster care.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b> <i>Lynda Sloan, Director of Community Relations</i> 1615 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 100 Santa Ana, CA 92705 714-619-5155 Fax: 714-619-5152 <a href="mailto:volunteers@casaoc.org">volunteers@casaoc.org</a> <a href="http://www.casaoc.org">www.casaoc.org</a></p>	

<b>California Family Council</b>	
	<p><b>California Family Council</b> is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3, educational organization. Our mission is to protect and promote Judeo-Christian principles in California's culture for the benefit of its families. CFC works in association with Focus on the Family.</p> <p><b>Our foundational pillars affirm:</b></p> <p><b>The Sanctity of Human Life</b> – Life is sacred, stemming from our Creator. CFC serves to protect the innocent and frail – including the preborn – from harm.</p> <p><b>The Protection of Traditional Marriage</b> – Marriage between a man and a woman is God's design. Only in the union of a man and a woman can a godly legacy be fruitfully multiplied. Marriage is the building block of a stable society, and from the commitment of a man and woman in marriage comes the best opportunity for children to thrive.</p> <p><b>The Authority of Parents</b> – Parents have the responsibility of nurturing their children and equipping their children with a worldview. CFC serves to maintain this freedom, exposing and opposing legislation that attempts to usurp the authority of parents in child-rearing.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Ron Prentice, CEO</i>          Box 20012          Riverside, CA 92516          951-354-8362  <a href="mailto:info@californiafamily.org">info@californiafamily.org</a>  <a href="http://www.CaliforniaFamily.org">www.CaliforniaFamily.org</a></p>	
<b>Calvary Chapel Downey's House of Ruth</b>	
	<p>House of Ruth is an outreach to women who are faced with unplanned pregnancies. It is our belief that every unborn baby has the right to life, and we encourage girls to continue with their pregnancies rather than opt for abortion. Whatever plan a mother should choose for herself or her baby, we will help her with a variety of referrals. If the birthmother chooses adoption, then we will help her in a private or independent adoption, where she will choose for herself the family with whom her baby will be placed. House of Ruth is an outreach to help girls find homes for their babies. Our aim is to help make the adoption process as easy as we can for the birthmother and her family.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Karyn Johnson, Director</i>          12808 Woodruff Avenue          Downey, CA 90242          562-803-1477          Fax: 562-803-3939  <a href="mailto:Heart4baby@calvarydowney.org">Heart4baby@calvarydowney.org</a>  <a href="http://www.calvarydowney.org">www.calvarydowney.org</a></p>	

<b>Focus on the Family</b>	
	<p>At Focus on the Family we believe that every child deserves to know the love of a forever family. Therefore, our goal is to raise awareness of and recruit families for the children and youth waiting in foster care. To that end, we are working collaboratively with state, county, church and adoption agency leaders to help find families for waiting children and youth in foster care.</p> <p>Our awareness and recruiting efforts are complemented by desperately needed post-placement resources for adoptive families – resources that are both biblically-based and relevant to their unique struggles. These resources also provide practical ways for churches and individuals to support the adoptive families in their communities.</p> <p>And while not every family is called to adopt, we believe everyone can play a role through prayer support, mentoring, giving, or mobilizing the church. Focus on the Family believes our efforts will inspire and equip families and churches to meet the needs of orphan children in their communities.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <a href="http://www.iCareAboutOrphans.org">www.iCareAboutOrphans.org</a>  <a href="mailto:orphancare@family.org">orphancare@family.org</a></p>	
<b>Hope for Orphans, a ministry of FamilyLife</b>	
	<p>At Hope for Orphans, we want to serve your church by helping you do what God has called you to do in serving children in foster care here in the United States and orphans around the world. We provide biblically-based materials about adoption, foster care, and orphan care, and we build relationships with partner organizations that we can introduce to you in order to help you live out God’s call for your church. Through our <i>If You Were Mine</i> DVD Adoption Workshop, you can learn more about adoption from a biblical perspective. We also have various resources designed to help you launch an effective orphans ministry in your church. To find out more about how we can serve you and your church, please visit <a href="http://HopeForOrphans.org">HopeForOrphans.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  5800 Ranch Dr.  Little Rock, AR 7223  <a href="mailto:jmoore@familylife.com">jmoore@familylife.com</a>  <a href="http://www.hopefororphans.org">www.hopefororphans.org</a></p>	

<b>LA County Heart Gallery</b>	
	<p>The Heart Gallery LA is a stirring portrait exhibit of some of Los Angeles County’s children in foster care awaiting permanent adoptive homes. DCFS has over 500 children in LA County in need of permanent adoptive homes. Many of these children are considered harder to place due to their age, sibling set status or special needs. The Heart Gallery focuses on this special population, finding forever families for these great kids through the power of an amazing photograph. These amazing portraits are taken by volunteer professional photographers and then prominently displayed throughout LA County in hopes of finding adoptive families for our waiting children. Infants and younger children are not displayed in the Heart Gallery as we have families waiting to adopt these younger children. Our older children and sibling sets often are overlooked by people when thinking of adoption and the Heart Gallery brings to light the need for families for this special set of kids.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Stephanie Clancy, Program Mgr</i>  1373 E. Center Court Drive  Covina, CA 91724  626-938-1849  Fax: 626-859-3761  <a href="mailto:clancs@dcfs.lacounty.gov">clancs@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a>  <a href="http://www.heartgalleryla.org">www.heartgalleryla.org</a></p>	
<b>Orange County Heart Gallery</b>	
	<p>The Orange County Heart Gallery is a non-profit 501c3 organization made up of all volunteers. We work in collaboration with Orange County Children and Family Services to present a collection of museum quality portraits of children in our county’s foster care system awaiting adoption. These portraits are presented to the public via the web and exhibits at various venues throughout Orange County in an effort to raise awareness of the great need for foster and adoptive families in our own neighborhoods as well as nationwide. As just one of the now approximately 100 Heart Galleries across the U.S., the Orange County chapter is now the most successful adoption outreach project in our county’s history.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  PO Box 4171  Orange, CA 92863  949-439-3566  <a href="mailto:heartgalleryoc@gmail.com">heartgalleryoc@gmail.com</a></p>	

## Next Steps

Each of the adoption agencies and helpful organizations listed in this attendee guide have specifically identified next steps for interested families to take as you explore your role in meeting the needs of a waiting child.

Please utilize the information on the next pages of this guide and your opportunity to interact directly with those organizations today to select the agency that seems best for your family.

Next Steps:

- Visit the agency booths
- Determine which agency you prefer to work with
- Obtain any relevant paperwork
- Ascertain their orientation and training schedule

**If you are planning to further explore adoption, please fill out the green interest form and place it in the marked boxes throughout the church or hand them to one of our event volunteers. It is important to do this even if you are not sure which agency you prefer to work with yet.**

For more information on any of the orientations, trainings, or other events listed on the pages that follow, please contact the agency hosting the particular event. Thank you again for your willingness to help California's waiting kids.



## September 2009

### **Koinonia Family Services**

Thursday, September 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm – Initial Adoption Training  
Burbank, CA

Wednesday, September 30 – Initial Adoption Training  
Temecula, CA

### **Olive Crest**

Thursday, September 24 from 6-8 pm – Orientation  
Parkcrest Church in Lakewood  
562-866-8959 x1659

Thursday, September 24 from 6-8 pm – Orientation  
Zion Lutheran Church in Victorville  
760-240-2445

Saturday, September 26 from 9-11 am – Orientation  
Zion Lutheran Church in Victorville  
760-240-2445

Sunday, September 27 from 3-5 pm – Orientation  
Olive Crest, Burbank Office  
818-563-2300 x1322

Sunday, September 27 from 3-5 pm – Orientation  
Olive Crest, Bellflower Office  
562-866-8959 x1322

## October 2009

### **Arrow Child and Family Ministries**

Saturday, October 3 – Orientation  
Time and location TBD

Tuesday, October 13 from 6-9 pm – Orientation  
Calvary Chapel Thousand Oaks  
2697 Lavery Ct. Suite 17 Newbury Park, CA 91320

### **Koinonia Family Services**

Tuesday, October 6 – Initial Adoption Training  
San Bernardino, CA

Thursday, October 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm – Initial Adoption Training  
Carson, CA

Saturday, October 10 from 8 am to 5 pm – Clinical Adoption Training  
Anaheim, CA

Monday, October 12 – Initial Adoption Training  
Anaheim Hills, CA

Saturday, October 17 – Parent Orientation Training  
Carson, CA

Monday, October 19 – Initial Adoption Training  
Palmdale, CA

Saturday, October 24 8 am to 5 pm – Parent Orientation Training from  
Palmdale, CA

Tuesday, October 27 – Initial Adoption Training  
Temecula, CA

**CASA of Orange County**

Tuesday, October 6 from 6 to 8 pm – CASA Information Session  
CASA Training Room  
1575 E 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Saturday, October 10 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm – CASA Information Session  
CASA Training Room  
1575 E 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Saturday, October 31 from 1:30 to 3:30 – CASA Information Session  
CASA Training Room  
1575 E 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Ana, CA 92705

**Serenity Infant Care Homes, Inc.**

Saturday, October 3 – Certification as foster/adoptive family  
Continues through October

**Olive Crest**

Thursday, October 1 from 6-8 pm – Orientation  
Olive Crest, Santa Ana Office  
714-543-5437 x1127

Sunday, October 4 from 2:30-4:30 pm – Orientation  
Olive Crest, Santa Ana Office  
714-543-5437 x1127

## November 2009

### **Koinonia Family Services**

Tuesday, November 3 – Initial Adoption Training  
San Bernardino, CA

Saturday, November 7 – Parent Orientation Training from 8 am to 5 pm  
Anaheim Hills, CA

Monday, November 9 – Initial Adoption Training  
Anaheim Hills, CA

Tuesday, November 10 – Initial Adoption Training  
Oxnard, CA

Tuesday, November 17 – Initial Adoption Training  
Oxnard, CA

## December 2009

### **Koinonia Family Services**

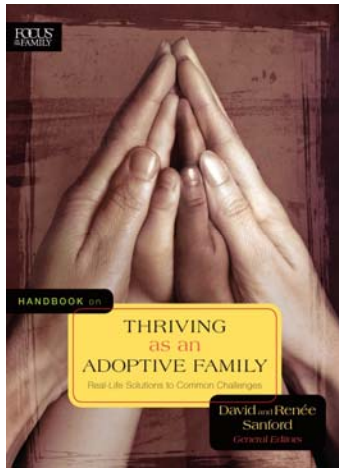
Tuesday, December 1 – Initial Adoption Training  
San Bernardino, CA

Saturday, December 5 – Clinical Adoption Training  
Palmdale, CA

Monday, December 7 – Initial Adoption Training  
Palmdale, CA

Tuesday, December 15 – Initial Adoption Training  
Temecula, CA

## Focus on the Family Support Resources

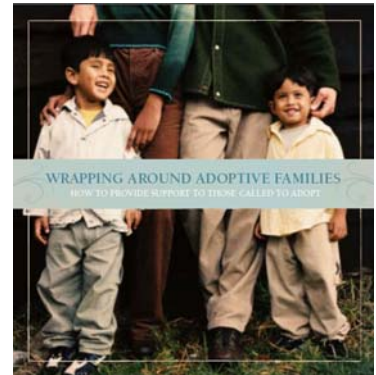


### ***Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family***

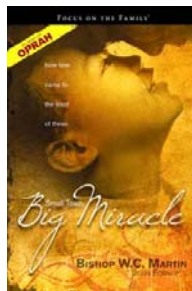
Adoption is a high calling from God, and the Christian home is primary soil for planting seeds of faith. But how will post-adoption challenges affect this growth? Many families do not feel adequately prepared for unexpected challenges like a child who has been adopted fighting with his new siblings, not wanting to be touched, or showing signs of reactive attachment disorder (RAD). Packed with practical advice, ideas and resources, this distinctively Christian book is an important parenting resource that provides comprehensive, topical, Bible-based solutions for the inevitable challenges after adoption.

### **Wrapping Around Adoptive Families**

There are many different ways to minister to God's orphan children and to the adoptive families that have welcomed these children home. This booklet makes it clear that struggling adoptive families need their church families to support them during times of trials. While the suggestions in this booklet may not apply to all situations, they represent a general "cry of the heart" of adoptive families who welcomed home an emotionally wounded or struggling child. The goal is to provide practical guidance for churches seeking effective ways to support adoptive families.



### **Other Resources**



*Small Town, Big Miracle*



*Castaway Kid*



*Finding Home*

### **Counseling for Families in Need**

Families seeking someone to talk with can call 1-800-A-Family (232-6459) and ask to speak with one of our licensed counselors.

## Notes

## Notes