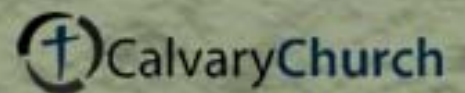


# WAIT NO MORE



Finding Families for  
Missouri's Waiting Kids



**Wait No More: Finding Families for Missouri’s Waiting Kids**

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter..... 2  
Agenda ..... 3  
Speaker Biographies..... 4  
Foster Care Adoption Process ..... 8  
Resource Family Overview\* ..... 9  
Frequently Asked Questions ..... 10  
Resource Family Supports ..... 12  
Tips on How to Choose an Adoption Agency..... 14  
Training Overview ..... 16  
Sponsoring Organizations..... 17  
County Adoption Agencies ..... 18  
Private Adoption Agencies ..... 22  
Helpful Organizations ..... 26  
Information for our Illinois Guests ..... 31  
Next Steps ..... 33  
Focus on the Family Support Resources ..... 34

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\* “Resource family” is the phrase used by child welfare officials to refer to both foster and adoptive families





June 6, 2009

Greetings from Focus on the Family® and the Missouri Children's Division.

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

Our unprecedented event, *Wait No More: Finding Families for Missouri's Waiting Kids* brings together Missouri's state, county, faith-based, and adoption agency leaders. We are united in one goal: to find families for each and every one of Missouri's more than 1,400 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 Missouri kids waiting for adoptive families;
- Informed about the next steps for exploring adoption;
- 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

*Amy Martin*

Amy Martin  
Program Manager  
Missouri Children's Division  
Department of Social Services

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

Saturday, June 6, 2009

## **Check-In and Registration**

### **Praise & Worship**

Amy Perry of *Selah*

**Yvette Maher, Vice President, Sanctity of Human Life,  
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

### **Andrew and Lisa Vander Maas**

One Missouri Family's Story

### **Tiffany Beal**

When Love Came for Me

### **Amy Perry of *Selah***

How Adopting from Foster Care Impacts the Kids Already in your Home

**Dr. Sharen Ford (Colorado) and a representative of  
Missouri's Children's Division**

Practical Realities, Adoption Process 101

## **Next Steps**

**Lunch & Booths Open**

## Speaker Biographies



### ***Yvette Maher***

Yvette Maher is Vice President of Sanctity of Human Life at 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.



### ***Andrew and Lisa Vander Maas***

Andrew and Lisa Vander Maas are happy parents of seven children: Josiah 13, Isaiah 13, Malachi 13, Lydia 11, Sophia 10, Gabriella 7, and Zoe 5. Five of their children have come by way of adoption, with Malachi and Isaiah being finalized as Vander Maas' on May 1st of this year! Andrew and Lisa have been active in the Saint Louis foster care/adoption scene for the past 11 years and are huge advocates of waiting kids finding homes. When they aren't chasing after kids, Andrew

pastors a local congregation and Lisa manages all the household comings and goings. Perhaps more than anything, however, Andrew and Lisa are just regular people seeking to shine the light of Christ one child at a time.



### ***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.



### ***Children's Division Representative***

We are honored to be joined today by a representative of Missouri's Children's Division (CD), a state agency under the Department of Social Services. The Children's Division provides assistance to children and family issues regarding abuse and neglect. One way that they provide assistance is through the Foster and Adoption program.

The CD licenses families that can meet the State of Missouri licensing standards and that can provide temporary or forever care of a child. The children served do have varying degrees of mental and behavioral challenges due to the emotional, sexual, and physical abuse or neglect that they were exposed to. Due to this, all families that are interested in providing either foster or adoptive care would be required to attend training, meet the competencies of the training, and complete necessary criminal and child abuse record checks. Fostering and adopting are very rewarding experiences that will bring connections that will last a lifetime.

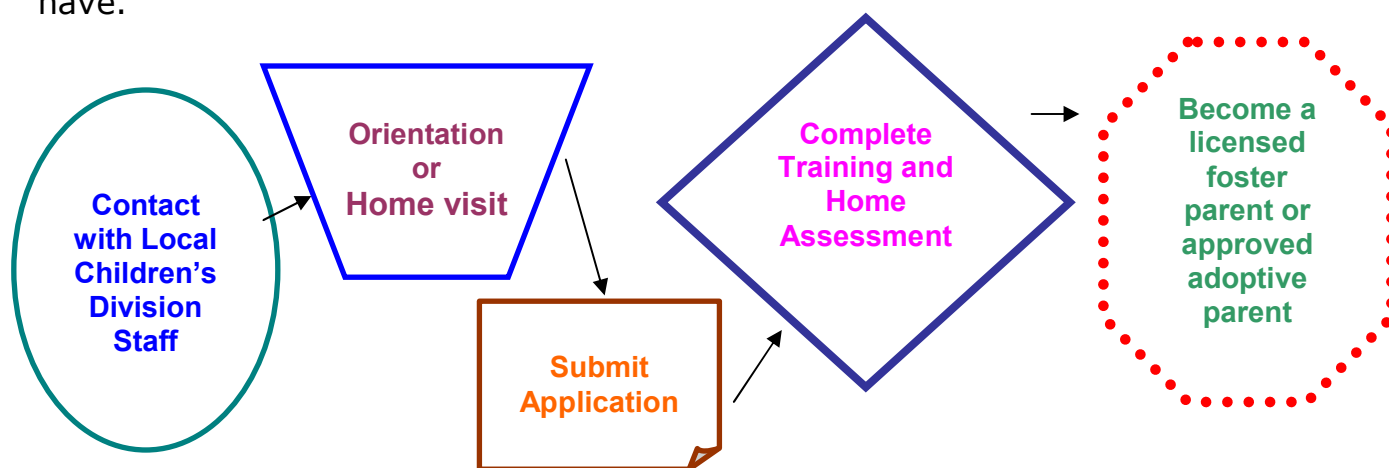
## Foster Care Adoption Process

The Children's Division thanks you for your interest in helping families and children across Missouri. We are pleased that you took the time to seek information on becoming part of the team of professionals who are dedicated to locating homes for children when they cannot safely remain in their own home. This team also strives to keep sibling groups together, reunify families, and support our foster and adoptive parent partners.



There are many reasons why people consider becoming a foster or adoptive parent. Whatever that reason may be, there is basic information that needs to be considered before starting the process. That information is included in this packet. The Children's Division is committed to locating and training couples and individuals who can provide stable, safe, caring, and skilled homes for children across the State of Missouri. Please take the time to read through the information in this packet and talk to your local Children's Service Worker so that you can make an informed decision.

You have already taken the first step to becoming a resource for children in the state's care. We hope that you will continue through the training and assessment process and join our efforts to help Missouri families and children. Your Children's Service Worker will be happy to answer any further questions you have.



## **Resource Family Overview**

### To be a Foster or Adoptive Parent, you must:

- Be at least 21 years of age;
- Complete a child abuse/neglect check and criminal record check;
- Be in good health, both physically and mentally;
- Have a stable income;
- Be willing to participate in and complete a free training and assessment process;
- Be part of a professional team willing to voice perspectives and concerns; and
- Be willing to partner with the child's family.

### You can:

- Be with or without children;
- Be single or married; and
- Own or rent a home, apartment, condo, or other residence that meets the licensing standards.

### Foster Care Overview:

Foster parents provide temporary care for children whose families are not able to care for them. Foster parents provide a safe and supportive home in which a child's emotional, physical, and social needs are met. Foster parents offer general guidance for growth and development to a child and their family, while supporting their relationships with kin and others who are important to the child. Throughout a child's stay, the foster parents will be expected to be an active member of a team that consists of children's service workers, the child and their family, the court and community members. The goal of this team is to meet the needs of the family in order to safely return the child home whenever possible.

### Adoption Overview:

Adoptive families provide permanent, safe and stable homes for children. Adoption is the permanent, legal transfer of parental rights and responsibilities from a child's birth parents to the adoptive parents.

Many of the children who wait to be adopted from child welfare programs have reached the age of five or older, are children of color, are part of a sibling group, have special needs, and have lived in multiple out-of-home placements.

## **Foster Care and Adoption Frequently Asked Questions**

### What is foster care?

Foster care is a temporary placement for children without parental care due to abuse or neglect. Foster families provide a safe and nurturing home while the parents receive supportive services to regain custody of their children.

### What is adoption?

Adoption is the permanent option for children who have been in foster care. Children are legally free for adoption only after the court has terminated the parental rights of the birth parents.

### Who are the children in State care, in foster care or awaiting adoption?

Children in state care range in age from 0 to 21 and frequently are part of a sibling group that must remain together. More than half are of minority descent. Some of these children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities ranging from mild to severe. Children enter foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. All have endured the trauma of being separated from their families. Just as each child is an individual, the challenges vary in meeting their needs, but they all need patience, understanding and unconditional love.

### Do I have to be married?

You do not have to be married. Foster and adoptive parents can be married couples, single, or divorced.

### Do I have to own my own home?

Foster and adoptive parents do not have to own a home; in fact, many foster or adoptive parents rent their place of residence. Foster and adoptive parents must be able to maintain their residence.

### What are the costs of becoming a foster or adoptive parent?

There is little to no cost involved in becoming a foster or adoptive parent. The home assessment and training is provided by the state free of charge. The majority of adoption expenses are covered by the state.

### Do I have a choice in which children are placed in my home?

Together with a representative of the Children's Division, a child preference and parenting assessment is completed during the initial licensure of the home. Your individual parenting skills and the capacity of your home will be matched with the information you provide in regard to child preferences. This allows the agency to identify when you, as a parent, are most likely to meet the unique needs of a child in the state's care. The assessment process is on-going and part of the continuing licensure process. It is crucial that homes be identified that will best meet the parenting needs of children in care. Even if your home is identified as

suitable for a specific child, foster and adoptive parents have the option to decline the placement.

What type of support services are provided after a child is placed in my home?

Foster parents receive a monthly maintenance payment to help cover the costs of caring for their foster children. Medicaid is provided by the state for the child's medical, psychological and dental needs. Foster parents and adoptive parents, who are employed or enrolled in school full time, may be able to receive childcare services. Visitation plans for children and their families are also part of the supportive services offered to families in order to maintain relationships and preserve those essential connections that are so important to a child's development and the process of reunification.

What are the age requirements to become a foster or adoptive parent?

The minimum age is 21. There is no maximum age limit.

What are the training requirements for becoming foster or adoptive parents?

STARS (Specialized Training, Assessment, Resources, Support and Skills), a twenty-seven hour pre-service training, is required of both foster and adoptive parents. Professional foster parents are required to complete 30 hours of in-service training during their two year licensure period. In two-parent homes, both parents must complete the required number of training hours. An additional twelve hours of training is required for individuals or couples wishing to adopt.

Do I have to foster before I can adopt?

No, you do not have to become a foster parent before you become an adoptive parent.

## **Resource Family Supports**

### Agency Support

It is our intent to support you in being as successful as possible. Some of the ways that we may support you include regular contact with agency staff, respite (as appropriate), ongoing training, professional development plan, support groups, child care, home visits, team meetings, phone consultation, and a formal process for sharing your concerns.

### Medical Services

Medical and Dental insurance is provided to children in the state's custody. When a child in care needs counseling or therapeutic services, the state also provides for those services through a Medicaid provider. We will assist you in identifying a provider.

### In-Service Trainings and Support Groups

The Children's Division, contracted agencies, and other community-based organizations offer continuing education and in-service training opportunities to enhance the skills and knowledge of foster parents. Each foster parent is required to complete fifteen (15) hours per year or thirty hours every two years of approved in-service training. Agency staff will assist you in locating the training opportunities. There are a number of local and statewide foster and adoptive parent support groups across the state. Parenting associations and agency coalitions are dedicated to supporting and advocating for foster and adoptive families.

Resource lending libraries are available to families across the state of Missouri. These libraries include titles pertaining to child development, attachment, family dynamics, and issues related to adoption of children with special needs.

### Respite and Child Care

Respite may be provided to resource families when temporary care is needed for their foster or adoptive children. Respite care providers are certified by the state and the Children's Division may cover the costs of using these providers.

When child care is approved for children who are not school aged, resource parents can choose the child care facility for the child as long as it is state licensed/contracted.

## Maintenance

Resource parents receive a monthly foster care reimbursement, which helps cover the cost related to caring for the children in their home. Typically, the costs are for the child's food, clothing, and personal needs. Foster care reimbursement amounts vary depending on the age of the child, the level of care being provided, and the training level of the foster parents.

In foster care, an infant allowance is paid for qualifying children between the ages of 0-2 to help with the additional costs of providing for the specific needs of infants, such as formula, diapers, special food, extra clothing and supplies. Each child in foster care is eligible for a clothing allowance to assist the resource parents with the expense of providing for the child's clothing needs.

## **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 placing agencies must meet the licensing standards for Child Placement Agencies in order to provide adoption services in Missouri. Licensed child placement agencies that provide adoptive services must be authorized to do so by the Children's Division Licensing Unit. The regulations for child placement agencies are minimum standards, and it is the responsibility of the persons using the adoption services to examine the agency's program and decide whether it meets their needs. There are no statutes or regulations governing the fees charged by private agencies except that all fees must be reported to the Court at the time of adoption. Adoptive parents must decide for themselves if the costs of the services are appropriate. 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 Children's Division licensing unit.
- Find out if complaints have been filed against the agency and, if so, how they were resolved. Some information can be given over the phone by the Licensing Unit at (573) 751-4954. The licensing file is available for inspection by appointment.
- 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.
- If this does not resolve the problem, you may file a complaint with the Missouri Children's Division Licensing Unit (573) 751-4954.

## Training Overview

The first step toward becoming a resource parent is the agency's assessment and training program. All resource parents are required to successfully complete our STARS training program. Adoptive parents continue with additional training. The STARS program introduces prospective resource families to the rewards and challenges involved in caring for Missouri's most vulnerable children.

The STARS program is important for even the most experienced parents because fostering and adopting is very different from parenting a biological child. Resource parents need to support the relationship of the child with his/her birth family and help the child manage feelings about being in foster care or the possibility of being adopted.

STARS is a pre-service training program that strives to prepare you to:

- Protect and nurture foster and adoptive children;
- Meet the children's developmental needs and address developmental delays;
- Support relationships between children and their families;
- Connect children with safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime; and
- Actively participate in a professional team.

STARS also includes an in-home assessment consisting of at least four visits to your home by the Family Development Specialist. The specialist will discuss information with you about our agency and the children in our care as well as talk with you about your family. He or she will also look at your home environment for compliance with licensing requirements. Part of the assessment process is to help you make important decisions about whether or not fostering or adopting a child is right for you and your family.

Additional training is required for prospective adoptive families. These classes offer families the tools and information that they need to:

- Understand how adoptive families are different;
- Anticipate the effects of separation, loss, and grief in adoption;
- Understand the need to maintain optimal connection with those who matter to the child;
- Understand attachment and its importance in adoption;
- Anticipate challenges;
- Identify strategies for managing challenges as an adoptive family; and
- Explore the lifelong commitment to a child that adoption requires.



Training sessions provide the opportunity to have questions answered, build relationships with other parents and agency staff, and determine whether your family has the ability and desire to meet the children's needs.



## Sponsoring Organizations

<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><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>	<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>
<b>Missouri Children’s Division</b>	
	<p>The Children’s Division (CD) is a state agency under the Department of Social Services. We provide assistance to children and family issues regarding abuse and neglect. One way that we provide assistance is through our Foster and Adoption program. Our agency licenses families that can meet the State of Missouri licensing standards and that can provide temporary or forever care of a child. The children we serve do have varying degrees of mental and behavioral challenges due to the emotional, sexual, and physical abuse or neglect that they were exposed to. Due to this, all families that are interested in providing either foster or adoptive care would be required to attend training, meet the competencies of the training, and complete necessary criminal and child abuse record checks. Fostering and adopting are very rewarding experiences that will bring connections that will last a lifetime.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd">www.dss.mo.gov/cd</a>  <a href="mailto:AskCD@dss.mo.gov">AskCD@dss.mo.gov</a></p>	

## County Adoption Agencies

<b>Franklin County Children's Division</b>	
	<p>The Children's Division is a state agency under the Department of Social Services. We provide assistance to children and family issues regarding abuse and neglect. One way that we provide assistance is through our Foster and Adoption program. Our agency licenses families that can meet the State of Missouri licensing standards and that can provide temporary or forever care of a child. The children we serve do have varying degrees of mental and behavioral challenges due to the emotional, sexual, and physical abuse or neglect that they were exposed to. Due to this, all families that are interested in providing either foster or adoptive care would be required to attend training, meet the competencies of the training, and complete necessary criminal and child abuse record checks. Fostering and adopting are very rewarding experiences that will bring connections that will last a lifetime.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Emily VonBehren</i>, Adoption Specialist            PO Box 930            Union, MO 63084            Phone: 636-583-2571            Fax: 636-583-2916  <a href="mailto:Emily.D.VonBehren@dss.mo.gov">Emily.D.VonBehren@dss.mo.gov</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Service Area: Franklin County</b></p>
<b>Gasconade County Children's Division</b>	
	<p>The Children's Division is a state agency under the Department of Social Services. We provide assistance to children and family issues regarding abuse and neglect. One way that we provide assistance is through our Foster and Adoption program. Our agency licenses families that can meet the State of Missouri licensing standards and that can provide temporary or forever care of a child. The children we serve do have varying degrees of mental and behavioral challenges due to the emotional, sexual, and physical abuse or neglect that they were exposed to. Due to this, all families that are interested in providing either foster or adoptive care would be required to attend training, meet the competencies of the training, and complete necessary criminal and child abuse record checks. Fostering and adopting are very rewarding experiences that will bring connections that will last a lifetime.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Emily VonBehren</i>, Adoption Specialist            PO Box 930            Union, MO 63084            Phone: 636-583-2571            Fax: 636-583-2916  <a href="mailto:Emily.D.VonBehren@dss.mo.gov">Emily.D.VonBehren@dss.mo.gov</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Service Area: Gasconade County</b></p>

<b>Jefferson County Children's Division</b>	
	<p><b>Adoption Services</b></p> <p>A range of services is offered for children and parents involved in the adoption process. These include the evaluation of the child's needs prior to placement, arrangements for care of the child prior to the child's adoptive placement, and the approval of the adoptive family. Also, special activities are provided to help adoptive parents and children adjust to the new family situation. Payment is provided for legal services associated with the freeing of a child for adoption. For special needs children, costs are underwritten by the state through the Missouri adoption subsidy program (MASP) for legal, medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, and/or integrative services for the child both before and following adoption. For an adoptive family to receive an adoption subsidy, an agreement must be negotiated between that family and CD.</p> <p>To assist in locating homes for children, CD operates an Adoption Photo Listing of children waiting for an adoptive family and a Foster-Adoptline which may be called without charge: 1-800-554-2222.</p> <p><b>Service Area: Jefferson County</b></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Michelle Davis</i>            PO Box 1088            Hillsboro, MO 63050            Phone: 636-797-9618            Fax: 636-797-9755  <a href="mailto:Michelle.Davis@dss.mo.gov">Michelle.Davis@dss.mo.gov</a>  <a href="mailto:Thomas.J.Foerster@dss.mo.gov">Thomas.J.Foerster@dss.mo.gov</a>  <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt.htm">www.dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt.htm</a></p>	
<b>Lincoln County</b>	
	<p>The Children's Division is a state agency under the Department of Social Services. We provide assistance to children and family issues regarding abuse and neglect. One way that we provide assistance is through our Foster and Adoption program. Our agency licenses families that can meet the State of Missouri licensing standards and that can provide temporary or forever care of a child. The children we serve do have varying degrees of mental and behavioral challenges due to the emotional, sexual, and physical abuse or neglect that they were exposed to. Due to this, all families that are interested in providing either foster or adoptive care would be required to attend training, meet the competencies of the training, and complete necessary criminal and child abuse record checks. Fostering and adopting are very rewarding experiences that will bring connections that will last a lifetime.</p> <p><b>Service Area: Lincoln County</b></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Debbie Atkins, Adoption Specialist</i>            PO Box 318            Troy, MO 63379            Phone: 636-528-8521            Fax: 636-528-3861  <a href="mailto:Debra.E.Adkins@dss.mo.gov">Debra.E.Adkins@dss.mo.gov</a></p>	

<b>St. Charles County</b>	
	<p>The goal for all Missouri children is safe and permanent homes. Whenever possible, we help to strengthen the biological families of children in foster care so they can safely return to their own homes. However, when reunification is not possible, adoptive families are sought to provide forever homes for the children.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Deborah “DJ” Douglass</i>  3737 Harry S. Truman  St. Charles, MO 63301  Phone: 636-940-3382  Fax: 636-940-3186  <a href="mailto:Dei.L.Douglass@dss.mo.gov">Dei.L.Douglass@dss.mo.gov</a></p>	<p>We are looking for families who are interested in providing safe, loving, permanent homes for children who are available for adoption and have experienced the foster care system.</p> <p>If you are interested in being an adoptive resource for one of our amazing children, please contact the Children’s Division office in the county you live or call 1-800-554-2222 for more information.</p> <p><b>Service area: St. Charles County</b></p>
<b>St. Louis County Children’s Division</b>	
	<p>The Children’s Division is a state agency under the Department of Social Services. We provide assistance to children and family issues regarding abuse and neglect. One way that we provide assistance is through our Foster and Adoption program. Our agency licenses families that can meet the State of Missouri licensing standards and that can provide temporary or forever care of a child. The children we serve do have varying degrees of mental and behavioral challenges due to the emotional, sexual, and physical abuse or neglect that they were exposed to. Due to this, all families that are interested in providing either foster or adoptive care would be required to attend training, meet the competencies of the training, and complete necessary criminal and child abuse record checks. Fostering and adopting are very rewarding experiences that will bring connections that will last a lifetime.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Jennifer Lester</i>, Recruitment and Retention Coordinator  9900 Page Avenue  St. Louis, MO 63132  Phone: 314-426-8358  Fax: 314-426-6035  <a href="mailto:Jennifer.m.lester@dss.mo.gov">Jennifer.m.lester@dss.mo.gov</a>  <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov">www.dss.mo.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Service Area: St. Louis County</b></p>

## Warren County Children's Division



### Contact Information:

*Melissa Maxwell*, Adoption Specialist  
513 West Booneslick  
Warrenton, MO 63383  
Phone: 573-564-2258  
Fax: 573-564-3167  
[Melissa.S.Maxwell@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Melissa.S.Maxwell@dss.mo.gov)

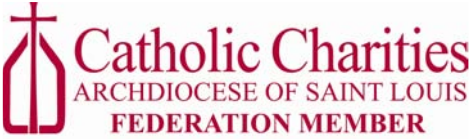

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**Service Area: Warren County**


## Private Adoption Agencies

<b>Bringing Families Together</b>	
	<p>Bringing Families Together (BFT), formed in 1999, is a certified Women’s Business Enterprise and a member of the Better Business Bureau, Adoption and Foster Care Coalition, Missouri Coalition of Children’s Agencies, The Adoption Exchange, and the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition. BFT sought and received full accreditation from Council on Accreditation in April 2006.</p> <p>Bringing Families Together is a privately owned child-placing agency licensed with the State of Missouri. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of Missouri’s children and families, while promoting safe, nurturing environments in which children can learn, grow and develop.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Kim Phelps</i>            7151 North Lindbergh Blvd            Hazelwood, MO 63042            Phone: 314-731-3969            Fax: 314-731-3906  <a href="mailto:KimP@BringingFamiliesTogether.com">KimP@BringingFamiliesTogether.com</a>  <a href="http://www.BringingFamiliesTogether.com">www.BringingFamiliesTogether.com</a></p>	<p>Since 2000, BFT has worked under a variety of contacts with both the State of Missouri and in collaboration with other social service agencies to provide Foster Care Case Management Services to abused and neglected children and their families, to provide foster/adoptive home development and to provide private adoption services, including domestic and foreign adoption services.</p> <p><b>Service area: St. Louis area and surrounding counties; can provide services to a majority of the eastern portion of the state</b></p>
<b>Epworth Children and Family Services</b>	
<p><b>EPWORTH</b>            Where Kids Find Strength</p>	<p>Epworth provides foster care case management, foster and adoptive home licensing, PRIDE training and other support for foster and adoptive families.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Corey Logan</i>            110 N. Elm Ave.            Webster Groves, MO 63110            Phone: 314-918-3363            Fax: 314-961-3503  <a href="mailto:clogan@epworth.org">clogan@epworth.org</a>  <a href="http://www.epworth.org">www.epworth.org</a></p>	<p>In Partnership with the United Methodist Church, Epworth offers a wide array of services to children, youth and families in need by strengthening the capacity of each to thrive in society.</p> <p><b>Service area: St. Louis County, St. Charles County, Franklin County</b></p>





<b>Good Shepherd Children &amp; Family Services</b>	
	<p>Jesus Christ set forth the example of a good shepherd, one who watches over, cares for and guides those in need. Good Shepherd Children &amp; Family Services works to keep the children in their care safe, help them heal, provide them the skills for self care, and connect them with those who will provide support throughout their lives.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Deva Blackman</i>, Foster/Adoptive Family Recruiter  1340 Partridge Ave.  St. Louis, MO 63130  Phone: 314-854-5722  Fax: 314-854-5750  <a href="mailto:dblackman@ccstl.org">dblackman@ccstl.org</a>  <a href="http://www.goodshepherdstl.org">www.goodshepherdstl.org</a></p>	<p>Good Shepherd's mission is to connect children with families and keep families connected. In response to this mission, the agency provides public foster and adoptive care services, private adoption services, mentoring services, expectant parent services, and residential services for teens including those with children of their own.</p> <p><b>Service area: Varies according to the service requested</b></p>
<b>Lutheran Family and Children's Services</b>	
	<p>Beginning as an orphanage in 1868, our mission is to protect and nurture children. With four offices around the state, LFCS offers child care, youth mentoring, pregnancy counseling, adoption services, foster care, and counseling and advocacy to all ages. Along with meeting the needs of children, compassionate support and care are provided to pregnant mothers and their family members as well as adoptive and parenting families through counseling. LFCS also offers temporary and emergency foster care and facilitates domestic, international, relative and independent adoptions. LFCS, along with many other agencies, also recruit and educate prospective foster and adoptive families for the children who are in Children's Division's custody.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Debbie Schallom</i>, Adoption Supervisor  8631 Delmar  University City, MO 63124  Phone: 314-754-2761  Fax: 314-534-1588  <a href="mailto:debbies@lfcs.org">debbies@lfcs.org</a>  <a href="http://www.lfcsmo.org">www.lfcsmo.org</a></p>	<p><b>Service Area: State of Missouri</b></p>

<b>Missouri Alliance for Children and Families</b>	
	<p>Missouri Alliance for Children and Families is a private agency that is contracted with the State of Missouri to provide foster care and adoption services. We are a licensed agency and provide foster parent and adoption training that is mandated by the State of Missouri for licensing of foster and adoptive parents. We are a child placing agency and have the authority through our contract to place children in adoptive homes and provide ongoing adoption services in order to finalize those adoptions.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Amber Warren</i>, Adoption Specialist  <i>Libby Eversgerd</i>, Regional Supervisor of Foster Home Development  1860 Borman Ct.  St. Louis, MO 63146  Phone: 314-991-1737 x250 (Amber)  Phone: 314-991-1737 x225 (Libby)  Fax: 314-991-3722  <a href="mailto:awarren@ma-cf.org">awarren@ma-cf.org</a>  <a href="http://www.ma-cf.org">www.ma-cf.org</a></p>	<p><b>Service Area:</b> <b>St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, St. Charles County</b></p>
<b>MBCH Children and Family Ministries</b>	
	<p>MBCH Children and Family Ministries (an affiliate of Missouri Baptist Children’s Home) is a Christian agency that has been helping hurting kids and families in the St. Louis area since 1886.</p> <p>For many years we have provided foster parenting classes and training for adoption at no cost to qualified families at our Bridgeton location. Our experienced workers will assist you through the process of becoming licensed and prepare you for welcoming a child into your family.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Robbi Haynes</i>, Director of Recruitment and Marketing  11300 St. Charles Rock Rd.  Bridgeton, MO 63044  Phone: 417-831-2342  Fax: 417-831-5424  <a href="mailto:Robbi.haynes@mbch.org">Robbi.haynes@mbch.org</a>  <a href="http://www.mbch.org">www.mbch.org</a></p>	<p>Information meetings are conducted on our campus at 6:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.</p> <p><b>Service area:</b> <b>St. Louis Metro area, St. Louis City and County, Jefferson County, Warren County, St. Charles County, Franklin County, Lincoln County</b></p>

<b>Presbyterian Children's Services</b>	
	<p>Presbyterian Children's Services (PCS) offers therapeutic community-based services as well as case management, residential treatment, and therapies to families and youth across the State of Missouri. The agency's mission is based on the teachings of Christ. Presbyterian Children's Services provides compassionate and therapeutic social, psychological and educational services to children and families of all faiths. PCS is an equal opportunity employer of nearly 300 staff, clinicians, and mentors. PCS is committed to improving the outcomes for the children we serve and utilizing best practice to keep families intact, whenever possible. We recognize the great need for foster/adoptive families and are committed to continuing an active role in engaging churches to care for the orphaned through Fostering Faithful Families.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Kathy Morrison</i>            1353 N. Warson Rd.            St. Louis, MO 63132            Phone: 314-989-9727            Fax: 314-989-9709  <a href="mailto:kathymorrison@care4kids.org">kathymorrison@care4kids.org</a>  <a href="http://www.care4kids.org">www.care4kids.org</a></p>	<p><b>Service area: State of Missouri</b></p>

## Helpful Organizations

<b>Adoption Exchange</b>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">The Adoption Exchange Connecting Children and Families Since 1983</p>	<p>The Adoption Exchange provides the connection between children who wait and families who adopt.</p> <p>The Adoption Exchange recruits families for children who have survived abuse and neglect, provides training and knowledge to permanency planning professionals, and provides information and follow-up support to adoptive families.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Jennifer Beavers</i>, Director of Programs          3437 Bridgeland Drive          Bridgeton, MO 63044          Phone: 314-291-3313          Fax: 314-291-3373  <a href="mailto:jbeavers@adoptex.org">jbeavers@adoptex.org</a>  <a href="mailto:moheartgallery@adoptex.org">moheartgallery@adoptex.org</a>  <a href="http://www.adoptex.org">www.adoptex.org</a>  <a href="http://www.moheartgallery.org">www.moheartgallery.org</a></p>	<p><b>Service area: Missouri</b></p>
<b>Foster Adoption Support Group</b>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Foster Adoption Support Group</p>	<p>We are a new chapter of the premier support group, the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association. The majority of the directors on our board are foster and adoptive parents. While we work closely with Children’s Division and other community agencies, we are an independent organization.</p> <p><b>Membership</b>          Membership is free. Our services are provided free of charge to our qualifying members. To become a qualified member, you must be an active foster, adoptive, kinship or relative licensed provider, have foster/adoptive children in your care or be waiting the arrival of placements. All St. Charles Chapter members will also be members of our parent organization the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association.</p> <p><b>Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation Food Search – Saturdays from 12-2</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Training – Third Thursday of the month at Children’s Division from 7-9pm</li> <li>• Fall Clothing Drive and Clothing Referrals</li> <li>• Teen Support Group for middle &amp; high school students</li> </ul> <p>Please email or call for information about our programs.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Chris Grissom</i>, Director of Communications          3737 Harry S. Truman Blvd.          St. Charles, MO 63301          Phone: 314-428-7333  <a href="mailto:cgrissom@fosteradopt.org">cgrissom@fosteradopt.org</a>  <a href="http://www.fosteradoptcc.org">www.fosteradoptcc.org</a></p>	

<b>Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition</b>	
	<p>The Foster &amp; Adoptive Care Coalition is a non-profit agency, founded in 1985 with the support of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Our agency is dedicated to finding every child a place to call home. The Coalition consists of 38 member agencies, including the area's most-respected public and private agencies. Our staff includes foster/adoptive parents and child welfare professionals with a broad range of expertise.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  111 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 402  St. Louis, MO 63101  Phone: 314-FOSTER-3  Fax: 314-241-0715  <a href="mailto:info@foster-adopt.org">info@foster-adopt.org</a>  <a href="http://www.foster-adopt.org">www.foster-adopt.org</a></p>	<p>We know that opening your heart and home to a child can be an overwhelming prospect. If you are thinking about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, we have services and support to help. Call us at 800.FOSTER.3 or visit our website, <a href="http://www.foster-adopt.org">www.foster-adopt.org</a>, for more information.</p> <p>Want to share your time and talents with a child in foster care, but are not able to make a full-time commitment? There are many volunteer opportunities you can learn about by either calling us at 800.FOSTER.3 or visiting our website, <a href="http://www.foster-adopt.org">www.foster-adopt.org</a>, for more information. You can be a part of creating forever families.</p>
<b>Fostering Faithful Families</b>	
	<p>Fostering Faithful Families (FFF) is a group of six faith-based child welfare agencies in St. Louis, a program developed to recruit foster and adoptive families within the faith-based community. The faith-based community is a largely untapped resource in targeted recruitment of foster and adoptive families. Through the support of their local congregation, families within the faith-based community are better equipped and supported to handle children that are physically or emotionally challenged. The participating organizations are: Good Shepherd Children &amp; Family Services, Epworth Children &amp; Family Services, Lutheran Family &amp; Children Services, MBCH Children &amp; Family Ministries, One Heart Family Ministries, and Presbyterian Children's Services.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Theresa Williams</i>, Program Manager  11746 Manhattan  Des Peres, MO 63131  Phone: 314-835-1690  Fax: 314-835-1691  <a href="mailto:Theresa_oneheart@charter.net">Theresa_oneheart@charter.net</a>  <a href="http://www.FosteringFaithfulFamilies.org">www.FosteringFaithfulFamilies.org</a></p>	<p>Fostering Faithful Families assists families in the process to become foster and adoptive families for children in the custody of the Missouri Children's Division. FFF also helps churches establish a support network within their church to support foster and adoptive families.</p>

<b>One Church, One Child</b>	
	<p>The goal of the One Church, One Child Program is to educate and recruit the faith-based community in largely African American congregations regarding the need for more adoptive families for African American children who make up the vast majority of "Waiting Children."</p> <p>This program was designed locally with the belief that African American faith leaders in the community were the key to accessing a valuable resource of potential adoptive families. There is a governing board of One Church, One Child, Inc. in the metropolitan St. Louis area. Our partners work in collaboration with the Division in the distribution of literature regarding children in foster care, allow the agency to host adoption expos at churches and other faith-based organizations, host National Adoption Sunday Celebrations, host the annual "Waiting" Children's Christmas Party, and serve as liaisons to speak to their congregations periodically regarding the need for additional adoptive families. One Church, One Child specifically addresses the adoptive needs of African American children focusing on sibling groups, older children and teens, and African American males.</p> <p><b>Service Area: St. Louis, Kansas City</b></p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Amanda Cowan-Johnson</i>, Children Service Worker II, Faith Based Liaison          PO Box 771820          St. Louis, MO 63177          Phone: 314-340-7263          Fax: 314-340-7009  <a href="mailto:Amanda.J.Cowan-Johnson@dss.mo.gov">Amanda.J.Cowan-Johnson@dss.mo.gov</a></p>	
<b>One Heart Family Ministries</b>	
	<p>The purpose of One Heart Family Ministries is to recruit Christian parents for children in need of a foster or adoptive home. One Heart will assist in providing the necessary state training to become licensed foster and adoptive parents along with a Biblical foundation and perspective. One Heart also offers a network of support to their families after classes are completed and children join their family.</p> <p>One Heart desires to help all children who have been abandoned, abused, neglected or orphaned so they may have a chance at a new life with a Christian family. One Heart teaches and encourages their families to love these children unconditionally and to help them through their pain and struggles by sharing Christ's love and giving them hope for the future.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Emily Nienhuis</i>, Director          11746 Manhattan          Des Peres, MO 63131          Phone: 314-835-1690          Fax: 314-835-1691  <a href="mailto:emilyn@ohfm.org">emilyn@ohfm.org</a>  <a href="http://www.oneheartfamilyministries.org">www.oneheartfamilyministries.org</a></p>	

<b>Open Arms – Calvary Church</b>	
	<p>The vision and purpose of Open Arms Adoption, Foster Care and Orphan Care Ministry is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ educate the church and the community on adoption, foster care and orphans;</li> <li>▪ provide hope by reaching out to orphaned and abandoned children around the world and children in foster care;</li> <li>▪ provide support and education to families who are called to adopt or foster.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Kim Smith</i>, Director  3998 Mid Rivers Mall Drive  St. Peters, MO 63376  Phone: 636-939-4343 x1250  Fax: 636-939-3458  <a href="mailto:OpenArms@CalvaryMidRivers.org">OpenArms@CalvaryMidRivers.org</a>  <a href="http://www.OpenArmsSupport.com">www.OpenArmsSupport.com</a></p>	
<b>People of Faith for Foster Care</b>	
	<p><i>Goal / Mission Statement:</i>  We represent churches of all denominations and faiths. Our program encourages congregations to make foster care one of their social ministries. We strive to support and retain foster families as well as broaden the base from which new foster parents can be drawn. We believe it is our mission to encourage the support and involvement of area congregations in the issues of foster care.</p> <p><i>Program Description:</i>  We serve the most precious commodity of any civilization, OUR CHILDREN!! We also support those who have opened their homes and hearts to children and their families. Member churches meet, discuss, and organize events to provide support to traditional foster parents and the children they serve. Our focus events are the annual Back to School Picnic &amp; School Supply Giveaway and the annual Warming Tree and Coat Giveaway.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b>  <i>Amanda Cowan-Johnson</i>, Children Service Worker II, Faith Based Liason  PO Box 771820  St. Louis, MO 63177  Phone: 314-340-7263  Fax: 314-340-7009  <a href="mailto:Amanda.J.Cowan-Johnson@dss.mo.gov">Amanda.J.Cowan-Johnson@dss.mo.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Service Area: St. Louis Metropolitan area</b></p>

**Urban Behavioral HealthCare Institute (UBHI)**



We are actively recruiting foster homes for children of all races and ages. We are not an adoption agency. However, we have been able to assist people who are interested in fostering to adopt by connecting them with the necessary training and resources.

**Service area: Missouri**


**Contact Information:**

*Leslie Rice*, Licensing Coordinator  
1104 S. Jefferson  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
Phone: 314-577-5000 x108  
Fax: 314-577-5003  
[lrice@urbanbehav.com](mailto:lrice@urbanbehav.com)  
[www.urbanbehav.com](http://www.urbanbehav.com)



## Information for our Illinois Guests

If you are joining us from across the border in Illinois, the contact information below should assist you in selecting an agency and starting the adoption process in your state.

<b>Adoption Information Center of Illinois</b>	
	<p>The Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI) serves some of the state's most vulnerable children – those who can no longer live with their birth families because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.</p> <p>In operation since 1981, the AICI has been primarily funded by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The Center is a successful example of public and private collaboration to benefit the waiting children of Illinois by promoting the adoption of these children and recruiting adoptive and foster families.</p>
<p><b>Contact Information:</b> <i>Olga Dotson-Landingham</i> 800-572-2390 x224 <a href="mailto:ol@adoptinfo-il.org">ol@adoptinfo-il.org</a> <a href="http://www.adoptinfo-il.org">www.adoptinfo-il.org</a></p>	<p>Hundreds of Illinois children are in need of families who can provide a nurturing and caring home on a temporary or permanent basis. AICI is your link to adoption and foster care and assisting children in need.</p> <p>Our web site offers the information and resources you need before, during, and after becoming an adoptive or foster parent.</p>

## **Interstate Compact on Placement of Children<sup>†</sup>**

The Compact is a uniform law enacted by all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands to assist in the placement of children from one state to another. Provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) ensure the same protection and services to children as if they had remained in their home state.

The Compact applies to:

- Children who are wards of the court and are being placed with a parent or relative when a parent or relative is not making the placement;
- Children who are entering foster care or a placement for the purpose of adoption;
- Children who are wards of the court for placement in a group home and/or residential treatment facility;
- Children who are to be placed in a group home and/or residential treatment facility by a legal guardian;
- Children who are placed by a legal guardian with a person outside of the third degree of relationship;
- Children who are adjudicated delinquents for placement in a group home and/or residential treatment facility.

ICPC provides the sending agency the opportunity to obtain home studies in the receiving state prior to placement of the child. The prospective receiving state ensures that the placement is not “contrary to the best interests of the child” and that all applicable laws and policies are followed before it approves the placement. ICPC guarantees the child’s legal and financial protection once the child moves to the receiving state. The sending agency receives the opportunity to obtain supervision and regular reports on the child’s adjustment and progress in the placement.

The sending agency is defined as a party state to the Compact, officer or employee, a subdivision of a party state, a court of a party state, a person, corporation, association, charitable agency or other entity which sends, brings, or causes to be sent or brought any child into another party state. Placement is defined as the arrangement for the care of a child in a family home, or boarding home, or group home and/or residential treatment facility. The Compact does not apply to placement of children into any institution caring for the mentally ill, mentally defective or epileptic, or any institution primarily educational in character, and/or any hospital or other medical facility.

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<sup>†</sup> Information taken from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/icpc.htm>

## 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 in this guide and your opportunity to interact directly with those organizations today to select the agency that seems best for your family.

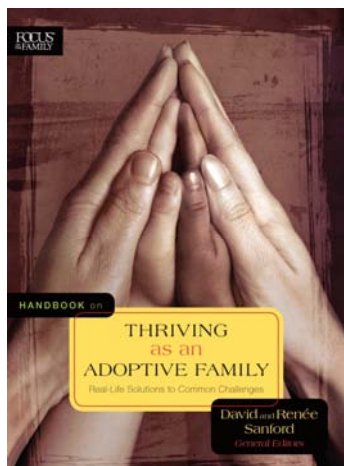
Next Steps:

- 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.**

Thank you again for your willingness to help Missouri's waiting kids.

## Focus on the Family Support Resources

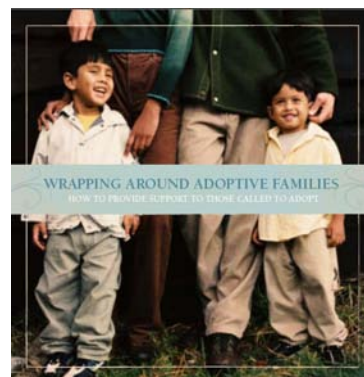


### ***Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family***

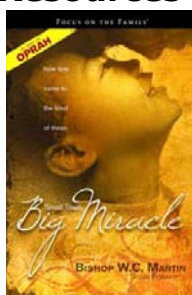
Adoption is a high calling from God, and the Christian home is primary soil for planting seeds of faith. But how will post-adoption challenges affect this growth? Many families do not feel adequately prepared for unexpected challenges like a child who has been adopted fighting with his new siblings, 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.



Fostering Faithful Families



Focus on the Family would like to extend special thanks to the Fostering Faithful Families (FFF) Coalition for the invitation to come to St. Louis. The ground-breaking and collaborative faith-based work established by FFF and the Missouri Children's Division provided the perfect foundation for Wait No More Missouri.

May God continue to bless the work of FFF and all those in Missouri laboring on behalf of children and youth in foster care.

*Kelly M Rosati*

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