

EXPLORE ADOPTION

FINDING FAMILIES FOR FLORIDA'S KIDS

faith-based partnership

Churches and other faith-based organizations are ideal places to spread awareness about the wonderful children in Florida looking for families to love and nurture them.

Communities of faith embrace beliefs and values that call on their members to provide for “the fatherless” and to “look after orphans.” It is through love that the faithful are motivated to take responsibility for one another and care about their neighbors.

You can become a vital and active partner in Florida’s statewide adoption initiative by encouraging your congregation to *Explore Adoption* and experience the joy of building a new family and improving the well-being of Florida’s children.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN EXPLORE ADOPTION PARTNER:

ADVOCATE ADOPTION Make your congregation aware of the many children in Florida who need permanent homes. Speak about public adoption as an important ministry.

SUPPORT ADOPTIVE FAMILIES Provide a post-adoption support system for your members who adopt one of Florida’s children. Consider a welcome home reception and organize an extended spiritual family for encouragement and support.

PROMOTE ADOPTION in your communications with members, including bulletins and newsletters and by providing a link on your Web site to www.adoptflorida.org

FEATURE A SPECIFIC CHILD who is seeking a home. Your local adoption provider can identify a child and provide child-specific materials to present to your congregation members. Consider displaying a Heart Gallery at your place of worship.

HOST ADOPTION AWARENESS EVENTS in conjunction with your local adoption provider, community-based care organization or Heart Gallery. For more information, please visit www.adoptflorida.org and click on the Heart Gallery link.

PRAY FOR FLORIDA’S CHILDREN IN CARE that the right families may find them.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP INCLUDE:

IDENTIFY CONGREGATION members who have adopted one or more of Florida’s children; ask them to provide testimonials to your congregation.

HONOR MEMBERS of your congregation who have adopted or who themselves are adopted and support them through prayer.

IDENTIFY SOMEONE in your organization to serve as a spokesperson and contact for members seeking adoption information.

BUILD A RELATIONSHIP with a local community-based care organization and display *Explore Adoption* materials in common areas. Regularly feature children waiting for homes.

CONSIDER CONGREGATION events as avenues for families to gather adoption information through orientations, picnics with available children and group viewings of the *Explore Adoption* video program.

With the support of our faith-based organizations around the state, we can begin a healing mission for Florida’s children. Finding and supporting safe and loving families for these adoptive children will create a beautiful sense of belonging, not only for the adoptive families, but also for the entire spiritual community that takes part in the journey to bring a special child home.



visit www.adoptflorida.org
1-800-96-adopt

meet the weaver family:

Bradley and Tammy Weaver became foster parents after being inspired by some fellow members of First Christian Church in Cape Coral who were foster and adoptive parents.

When they received 10-month-old Katie in 2003, she instantly became a part of the family. Their older daughter, Miranda, loved having a younger sister and later that year, the Weavers decided they wanted to adopt Katie. The Weavers found support and strength in the families of their church congregation, who were able to mentor and guide them. Three years later, the Weavers became Katie’s forever family. Today, Katie is a typical 7-year-old who enjoys gymnastics, attends church with her parents, and participates in youth group and Bible camp.