

# One Church, One Child of Florida, Inc.

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“Summary on the Status of the Corporation”

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## Annual Report to the Legislature

**Fiscal Year 2006-2007**

September 1, 2007



Charlie Crist, Governor  
Robert Butterworth, Secretary  
Patricia Badland, Director  
Office of Family Safety



Rev. Beverly Lane, President  
Bishop Eustace Vice-President  
Arie Collins Sailor, Executive Director

**One Church, One Child of Florida, Inc.  
Summary on the Status of the Corporation  
Fiscal Year 2006-2007**

**A. Summary of Organization**

One Church, One Child of Florida aggressively advocates on behalf of children in the state's foster care system in need of permanent homes.

In 1990, the Legislature passed the One Church, One Child Corporation Act, section 409.1755, Florida Statutes (F.S.), under the sponsorship of Senator Carrie Meek and Representative Bill Clark. This action placed the program into state law and mandated its operation as a non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor. To carry out the intent and provisions of subsection 409.1755(3)(b)5, F.S., the statute authorized a Board of Directors, with two directors representing each Department of Children and Families (DCF) district and one member-at-large. Board members serve a minimum 3-year term. The current board was appointed/reappointed by former Governor Jeb Bush in April 2005. During Fiscal year (FY) 06-07, 12 director positions were filled, representing DCF Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 15 and the Suncoast Region.

The One Church, One Child of Florida Corporation (OCOC) operates statewide as a 501c3 non-profit, licensed child placing agency, in response to legislative mandate to privatize child welfare services.

During Fiscal Year 2006-2007, OCOC operated an office in Tallahassee which serves as the state headquarters, a co-located office in District 2 (the Tallahassee area) and an office in District 9 (the West Palm Beach area).

Staff in the Tallahassee headquarters office include: an Executive Director, Program Manager, Public Information/Community Coordinator, Staff Assistant and volunteers. The District 2 and District 9 staff each include: a Program Specialist/Coordinator and Adoption Recruiter/Trainer.

OCOC works in partnership with churches, local businesses, agencies and entities such as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), AmeriCorps, Daniel Memorial, Florida A&M University and Florida State University Social Work Programs, Florida Coalition for Children, Florida Baptist Children's Home, Children's Home Society and other Community Based Care Agencies, and continues its partnership with the Department of Children and Families.

State Board Members, advisory committee members and staff, in conjunction with members of the community, are involved in efforts to recruit adoptive and foster families.

Volunteers are working with the state board members to support recruitment efforts locally. During FY 06-07, more than 2,000 volunteer hours were logged by advisory committee members and other volunteers and more than 2040 hours of volunteer time were logged by state board members, for a total of 4,044 volunteer hours.

## **B. Community Awareness and Involvement Activities**

The One Church, One Child State Board Members and local advisory committee members continue to engage churches and communities by keeping the program's mission as the focal point. The "Covenants of Participation" process was continued in churches to heighten awareness and increase recruitment of potential adoptive and foster families.

Successful activities included:

- Meeting with local churches and pastors, inviting them to partner with OCOC as Covenant Churches. Musical Benefit Programs were held for OCOC to recruit churches not already involved. Presentations were made before congregations and community audiences.
- Monthly packets of pictures and mini-briefs (biographies) of actual children waiting to be adopted were distributed to local churches for presentation and posting.
- Advertising was placed in various media including radio stations, television stations through their community calendar, programs and newspapers.
- Posters, flyers and partnership information packets were distributed throughout the local area.
- One Church, One Child Information Booths were set up at various community activities, such as Local Community Awareness Day, Church Conventions and Conferences, Vacation Bible School, Family Day, Annual Legislative Day, Homecoming Activities, Annual Fair, Market Day, etc.
- The "Adoption Crusade Campaign" was continued to promote community awareness of the children in foster care in need of adoptive homes.

- National Foster Care Month was observed in May and National Adoption Month in November with local recruitment efforts.
- Observed One Church, One Child Sunday” on November 19, 2006, by distributing thousands of the OCOC Sunday Proclamations signed by the Governor to churches across the state, focusing attention on children waiting for adoption.

**\*Major Accomplishments:**

**OCOC Major Accomplishments since July 1, 2006 – June 20, 2007:**

**Twenty (20)** approved families  
**Thirteen (13)** children placed for adoption  
**Seven (7)** adoptions were finalized  
**Three (3)** children visiting approved families  
**Thirty seven (37)** families trained

\*Data source for statistics taken from OCOC Monthly Activity Reporting documents July 2006 – June 2007.

**C. Development of Beneficial Program Activities, Major Accomplishments:**

OCOC continued its work with the new Godparent Program, which provides an opportunity for youth in long term foster care (who generally age out of care) to become part of an extended family network, so that they have a chance to experience the positive influence of a broader network of support. Because the Godparent relationship is currently recognized by churches and diverse communities as a respected and viable connection, there continues to be foundational support for this program in the OCOC network. God parenting involves families that volunteer in providing a life-long link to a child.

OCOC engaged the African Methodist Episcopal Church Women’s Missionary Society as a new partnership within the church structure. The Missionary Society is an auxiliary with capacity to expand recruitment through their multi-church associations on the local, district and state level.

**Major accomplishments:**

The Missionary Society partnership agreement has been forged and serves as an active catalyst to other church auxiliaries statewide,

expanding support for the increased recruitment of adoptive families and adoption support.

**D. Summary of the Provision of Training and Technical Assistance Activities**

OCOC held monthly Orientations for families interested in adopting or providing foster care service.

OCOC provided the 30-hour parent preparation classes for prospective adoptive and foster families in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Ft. Pierce and West Palm Beach.

**Major Accomplishments:**

Thirty-seven (37) families attended the 30-hour adoptive and foster parent preparation training.

**E. Summary of Fund Raising Activities**

Fundraising activities have included adoption recruitment crusades, individual fund raisers, and grant writing to state and private foundations and private contributors. Funds raised during FY 06-07, excluding state monies, totaled \$36,271.00.

This report is submitted pursuant to section 409.1755(3)(b)5, Florida Statutes, which directs the One Church, One Child of Florida, Corporation in conjunction with the Department of Children and Families (formerly the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services) to submit an annual report to the Legislature by September 1, each year.

## NOTICE OF FILING

<b>Reporting Agency:</b>	Department of Children and Families
<b>Recipient Agency:</b>	GOVERNOR, SENATE PRESIDENT, HOUSE SPEAKER, MINORITY LEADERS
<b>Subject:</b>	One Church One Child of Florida, Summary on the Status of the Corporation – Annual Report to the Legislature, Fiscal Year 2006-2007, September 1, 2007
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	09/01/07
<b>Statutory Requirement:</b>	s. 409.1755(3)(b) 5,F.S.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>One Church, One Child of Florida aggressively advocates on behalf of children in the state's foster care systems that are in need of permanent homes. Recruitment, training and study of prospective adoptive families characterize this advocacy effort.</p> <p>The legislation for this program is presented in one statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• s. 409.1755(3)(b) 5, F. S. This Legislation provides for the establishment of the One Church, One Child Corporation Act. This action placed the program into state law and mandated its operation as a non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor.</li></ul> <p>To carry out the intent and provisions of s. 409.1755(3)(b)5., F.S., the program currently has a 31 member Board of Directors, which includes two members from each Department of Children and Families district/zone, four from the region and one member-at-large. Board members serve a minimum 3-year term. Governor Bush appointed the current Board in April 2005.</p> <p>Since 2003, One Church, One Child Corporation of Florida has operated statewide as a 501(c)3 non-profit, licensed child-placing agency, in response to legislative mandate to privatize child welfare services.</p> <p>This evaluation is comprised of four sections: an evaluation of community awareness and involvement activities, development of beneficial program activities, provision of training and technical assistance activities and fund raising activities.</p> <p>The report provides information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of approved families. (20)</li><li>• The number of children placed for adoption. (13)</li><li>• The number of finalized adoptions, July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. (7)</li></ul> <p>Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting:</p> <p>Dept. of Children and Families Office of Family Safety 1317 Winewood Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700 Attn: Josette P. Marquess (850) 922-6234, email: <a href="mailto:josette_marquess@dcf.state.fl.us">josette_marquess@dcf.state.fl.us</a></p>

