

# One Church, One Child of Florida, Inc.

111 West Madison Street, Claude Pepper Building, Room 806  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
850/414-5620



## “Summary On the Status of the Corporation “

---

Annual Report to the Legislature  
Fiscal Year 2007-2008  
September 1, 2008



Charlie Crist, Governor  
George Sheldon, Interim 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 2007-2008**

**A. Summary of Organization**

One Church, One Child (OCOC) of Florida was created to aggressively advocate 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 s.409.1755 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 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 Circuit, four from the region 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. Of the 31 slots, 7 were filled during the fiscal year representing the Department of Children and Families Districts 2, 3, 4, 9, 15 and the Suncoast Region in accordance with statutory requirements.

One Church, One Child of Florida Corporation operates statewide as a 501(c)3 non-profit, licensed child placing agency, in response to the legislative mandate to privatize child welfare services.

During fiscal year 2007-2008, OCOC operated an office in Tallahassee which serves as the state headquarters, a co-located District 2 office and an office in District 9, West Palm Beach. Under a Pilot Project OCOC opened offices in District 4, (Jacksonville) and SunCoast (Tampa).

Staff in the headquarters office include an Executive Director, Program Manager, Public Information/Community Coordinator, Staff Assistant and volunteers. The District 9 staff include a Program Specialist/Coordinator and Adoption Recruiter/Trainer and the District 2 staff include a part-time MAPP Trainer. The District 4 and Suncoast offices each include a Recruitment Coordinator.

OCOC works in partnership with churches, local businesses, agencies and entities such as AARP, AmeriCorps, Daniel Memorial, Jacksonville Community Council, Tallahassee Chapter of Buffalo Soldiers, Florida A&M University and Florida State University Social Work Programs, Florida Coalition for Children, Family Support Services of NE Florida, Hillsborough

Kids, Inc., Florida Baptist Children's Home, Children's Home Society and other Community Based Care Agencies and continues the 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. This year, over 3,000 volunteer hours were logged by advisory committee members and other volunteers and over 2000 hours of volunteer time were logged by State Board Members, for a total year-to-date of 5,000+ 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 focusing on the mission as directed in statute. The Covenants of Participation process was continued in churches to heighten awareness and increase recruitment of potential adoptive and foster families. Successful activities included:

- Met with local churches and pastors inviting them to partner with OCOC as Covenant Churches. Musical Benefit Programs were held to encourage new churches to participate in the program and several presentations were made before congregations and community groups on the goals and objectives of the program.
- Distributed monthly packet of pictures and mini briefs of children waiting to be adopted to local churches for presentation and posting.
- Advertised in various media including radio stations, television stations (through the community calendar), programs and newspapers.
- Distributed posters, flyers and partnership information packets throughout local areas.
- Set up One Church, One Child information booths 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.
- Observed National Foster Care Month in May and National Adoption Month in November with local recruitment efforts.

- Coordinated an adoption Kickoff Campaign for November, National Adoption Month, including partners across Florida coming together to celebrate adoption and recognize the on-going critical need to find families for children.
- Coordinated an Adoption Recruitment/Celebration Banquet highlighting the state's children in need of adoption along with celebrating adoptees and families.
- Observing "One Church, One Child Sunday" November 18, 2007. Distributing hundred of letters and flyers to churches across the state focusing attention on children waiting for adoption.
- Coordinated, in partnership with the Tallahassee Chapter of Buffalo Soldiers, collection and purchase of bicycles and Christmas gifts for children in foster care in Leon and Gadsden Counties.
- Coordinated Adoption Prayer Breakfasts to recruit, educate and engage church leadership in adoption recruitment and support efforts.

**\*Major Accomplishments:**

**OCOC Major Accomplishments Since July 1, 2007:**

**Ten (10)** families were approved for adoption

**Nine (9)** children were placed for adoption

**Six (6)** additional children are in placement process

**Eight (8)** adoptions were finalized

**Thirty seven (37)** families were trained

**Fifty (50 )** families were referred directly to CBC and provider agencies for training, preparation and processing.

\*Data source for statistics taken from OCOG Monthly Activity Reporting documents July 2007 – June 2008.

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

This fiscal year, an Adoption Recruitment Pilot Project was initiated to increase the number of families interested in adopting children out of foster care in the Department of Children and Families District 4, (Jacksonville) and SunCoast Region (Tampa). Staff was hired and offices were established in local churches in the respective cities.

In District 4, One Church One Child worked in partnership with Family Support Services of Northeast Florida and the Department of Children and Families. In the SunCoast Region, One Church One Child worked in partnership with Hillsborough Kids Inc. and the Department of Children and Families.

The pilot's major emphasis was engaging the faith community in recruitment of families, primarily through church and community presentations. Activities involved developing covenant partnerships with churches, displaying pictures of children waiting to be adopted, and mentoring interested families through the adoption process. Also included were adoption recruitment prayer breakfasts, as well as adoption presentations on local radio and television programs. Support to children waiting to be adopted, included such activities as sponsoring pizza parties and collecting Christmas gifts for them.

**Major accomplishments:**

The pilot project exceeded its identified goal of recruiting 36 families interested in adopting children out of foster care. A total of 37 interested families were referred to Family Support Services and Hillsborough Kids, partner Community Based Care agencies, for training, preparation and adoption homestudy.

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

OCOC held monthly orientation 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, Ft. Pierce, and West Palm Beach.

OCOC Florida co-hosted with National One Church One Child, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The conference included a Town Hall Meeting on Adoption Critical Needs and an Adoption Prayer Breakfast engaging the Faith Community in Adoption Recruitment efforts.

**Major Accomplishments:**

1. Thirty-seven (37) families attended the 30-hour adoptive and foster parent preparation training.
2. Staff of 30 state and community agencies attended training provided during the National One Church, One Child Conference, with a 98% satisfaction rate on the program evaluations.

**E. Summary of Fund Raising Activities**

Fund-raising activities included adoption recruitment concerts, banquets, individual fund raisers, and private contributors. To date, funds raised excluding state contract monies, total \$59,000.

In-Kind Contributions of bicycles and gifts provided for children in foster care were valued at over \$3,000.

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, 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 2007-2008, September 1, 2008
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	09/01/08
<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. (10)</li><li>• The number of children placed for adoption. (9)</li><li>• The number of finalized adoptions, July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (8)</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>

