

# Annual Legislative Report

## “Summary on the Status of the Corporation”

Fiscal Year 2008-2009



September 1, 2009  
111 North Gadsden Street, Suite 300  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
850/414-5620



The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor  
Mr. George Sheldon, Secretary  
Mr. Alan Abramowitz, State Director  
Office of Family Safety



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

**One Church, One Child of Florida, Inc.  
Summary on the Status of the Corporation  
Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

**A. Summary of Organization**

One Church, One Child of Florida advocates on behalf of children in need of permanency and aggressively recruits families interested in adopting children waiting in the state's foster care system.

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 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 circuits, four from the regions 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 Circuits 2, 3, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, and 19.

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

During Fiscal Year 2008-2009, OCOC operated an office in Tallahassee which serves as the state headquarters and a co-located Circuits 2/14 Office, Circuit 15 Office in West Palm Beach, Circuit 4 Office in Jacksonville and Circuits 6/13 Office in Tampa.

Staff in the headquarters office include an Executive Director, Program Manager Supervisor, Public Information/Community Coordinator, Staff Assistant and volunteers. The Circuit 15 staff includes a Program Specialist and Adoption Recruiter; the Circuits 2/14 staff includes a part-time MAPP Trainer. The Circuits 4 and 6/13 Offices each include a Recruitment Coordinator.

OCOC works in partnership with churches, local businesses, agencies and entities, such as Daniel Memorial, Jacksonville Community Council, Tallahassee and Jacksonville Chapters of Buffalo Soldiers, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, Heart Gallery, 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 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. This year over 3,300 volunteer hours were logged by advisory committee members and other volunteers, and over 2,000 hours of volunteer time were logged by state board members; for a total year-to-date of 5,300+ volunteer hours.

\*Volunteer hours are captured on OCOC time tracking logs.

## **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 in efforts 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 in highlighting the needs of children and presenting to congregations and community audiences.
- Mailing monthly packets of pictures and mini briefs of actual children waiting to be adopted which were distributed to local targeted churches for presentation and posting.
- Advertising in various media, including radio stations, television stations through their community calendar, programs and newspapers.
- Distributing posters, flyers and partnership information packets throughout the local area.
- Setting up One Church, One Child Information Booths at various community activities, such as Local Community Awareness Day, community festivals, Christmas Market, Unity in the Community Day, Martin Luther King Holiday Celebrations, Church Conventions and Conferences, Vacation Bible School, Family Day, Homecoming Activities, Annual Fair, Market Day, etc.

- Observing National Foster Care Month in May and National Adoption Month in November with local recruitment efforts.
- Coordinating 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 in need of adoption.
- Coordinating an Adoption Recruitment/Celebration Banquet highlighting the state's children in need of adoption, along with celebrating successful adoptions.
- Observing "One Church, One Child Sunday" November 16, 2008. Distributing hundred of letters and flyers to churches across the state focusing attention on children waiting for adoption.
- Coordinating, in partnership with the Tallahassee and Jacksonville Chapters of Buffalo Soldiers, bicycles and Christmas gifts for children in foster care in Leon, Duval, Hillsborough and Gadsden Counties.
- Coordinating Adoption Prayer Breakfasts to recruit, educate and engage church leadership in adoption recruitment and support efforts.

**\*\*Major Accomplishments:**

**Recruited and referred over 120 families interested in adopting children from foster care.**

**Exceeded adoption recruitment goals, realizing 127% in the number of families recruited.**

**Exceeded church presentation goals, realizing 133% in the number of churches at which recruitment presentations were made.**

\*\*Data source for statistics taken from OCOC Monthly Activity Reporting documents July 2008 – June 2009 in DCF contract #LJ806 and #LJ824.

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

This fiscal year, One Church, One Child aggressively stepped up its child specific recruitment initiative by monthly mailings to targeted churches that focused on children identified by the local community-based care. The

churches were provided pictures, along with brief bio information, and asked as a congregation to display the pictures, pray for the children and consider adopting the particular child or sibling group.

**Major accomplishments:**

One Church, One Child realized a 60% increase in responses from the faith community as a result of the monthly contacts with the churches making the tangible connections about real children.

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

One Church, One Child coordinated its Annual Meeting and Faith-Based Training Symposium. The symposium focused on adoption permanency efforts through participants' involvement in interactive and informative workshops, collaborations and generation of successful strategies in faith-based adoption recruitment. Attendees represented churches, community-based care lead agencies and/or provider agencies, the Department of Children and Families, other private and public agencies, and included:

- *Adoption Professionals*
- *Foster Care Professionals*
- *Social Workers*
- *Clergy*
- *Counselors & Therapists*
- *Foster & Adoptive Parents*
- *Child & Family Advocates*
- *Community Members*

**Major Accomplishments:**

The symposium training included work sessions that resulted in identification and development of specific faith-based recruitment strategies that were formulated as best practice and made available for use by agencies across Florida.

**E. Summary of Fund Raising Activities**

Fundraising activities have included adoption recruitment services, individual fund raisers, and private contributors. To date, funds raised excluding state contract monies total \$57,200.

In-Kind Contributions in bicycles and gifts provided for children in foster care valued over \$3,700.

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 2008-2009, September 1, 2009
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	09/01/09
<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 20 member Board of Directors, which includes at least two to four members from each of the Department of Children and Families Judicial Circuits. Board members serve a minimum 3-year term. Governor Crist appointed the current Board in August 2009.</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 families recruited and referred for Parent Preparation Classes. (120)</li><li>• The number of church presentations made by OCOC Staff and OCOC Board Members. (457)</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>

