

Wait No More®



Finding Families for Texas' Waiting Kids



Frequently Asked Questions about Adoption¹

1. What is adoption?

Adoptive families provide a permanent home for children. This lifelong commitment requires that they provide for the short- and long-term needs of a child through adulthood. Adoptive families provide for the emotional, mental, physical, social, educational and cultural needs according to the child's developmental age and growth.

2. I read that there are more than 3,000 children waiting for adoption. Why aren't they all listed on the adoption exchange web site?

There are close to 1,000 children photo-listed on the adoption exchange web site. There are several hundred who were listed, but were removed due to numerous inquiries received or have had a family selected and they are pending placement with them. These children are still considered as "waiting" because staff are still either reading the home studies received from the numerous families or the children have a placement selected but they have not yet been placed in the identified selected home.

Many other children do not have to be photo-listed after termination of parental rights because staff have identified a placement for them with a relative, a foster family or an adoptive family but these children are still considered "waiting" because they have not yet been placed in the identified selected home. Other children are not photo-listed because of their medical or therapeutic needs and they are not ready for adoption.

3. What is required to become an adoptive parent?

You need to find a licensed child-placing agency in your state so that a home study can be completed. This will involve the completion of training, a check of your references, and a criminal background check. The cost is minimal with a public state agency. The cost varies with the private adoption agencies. In either case, there are federal income tax credits available for families who adopt children. Most public state agencies such as DFPS will only perform a home study for families who are willing to become the adoptive parent of the children they have waiting for adoption. Generally, children available for adoption through DFPS have special needs. These children may be:

- school-age
- members of sibling groups
- diagnosed with disabilities or conditions that affect their physical, emotional, or medical well-being
- African-American, Hispanic, or other ethnic backgrounds.

4. Why doesn't DFPS (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services) place infants for adoption?

DFPS rarely places infants for adoption because children come into the temporary care of the agency due to abuse and neglect. The majority of children placed in adoptive care through DFPS are ages 7 to 17.

¹ All information taken from http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/About_TARE/FAQ/default.asp.

5. Can we look up information on the different adoption agencies in Texas?

Yes please go to <http://www.txchildcaresearch.org>. Each child-care facility's regulatory history of inspections and reports will be available online. You may also call 1-866-TX-CHILD.

6. Can Texas children be placed out of state?

Yes. Out-of-state homes must be approved for adoption by agencies licensed or certified to approve adoptive home studies in the state where the home is located. Your state's home study and the placement of a child in your home both must meet the Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies prescribed by the Child Care Licensing Division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Texas participates in the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. This is an agreement among states to cooperate with each other in the interstate placement of children.

7. Can Texas children be placed out of the country?

Generally, Texas children cannot be placed outside the United States.

8. What is the cost of adoption? Can I receive any assistance to adopt? What are the tax implications?

The cost of adoption through a public state agency is nominal. Adoption assistance is available in different forms including tax credits.

9. When do you get too old to adopt?

There is no maximum age limit on adoptive parents. There is a minimum age requirement of 21, but many older parents make wonderful adoptive parents for older children.

10. How long is the waiting list?

The waiting time involves completion of the home study and training, as well as the right match for meeting the needs of a particular child.

11. I am divorced. Can I foster or adopt?

You may be eligible to become an adoptive parent if you are single, divorced, married, or widowed.

12. We both work and can't afford for one of us to quit to take care of an adoptive child.

Both parents may work and still adopt children.

13. I am single and do not own my home. Can I still adopt?

Yes, single parent families can adopt and you do not have to own your home to adopt a child.

14. We have children and we want to adopt.

Many families who adopt have birth children who are still living in their homes or who have grown up and moved out on their own.

15. We want to adopt but we can't afford it.

You do not have to be rich to become an adoptive parent. You need to be financially stable. Also, adoptive parents may receive an adoption assistance to defray the cost of adopting a child that may have special needs.

16. How long does adoption last?

Adoptive care is a permanent, lifelong commitment to a child.

17. I am approved to become an adoptive parent in my state. What is the next step?

If you are approved to adopt by your state or adoption agency, please review the Texas Foster Care and Adoption information and use the inquiry form found at the bottom of each child's profile page to submit your interest regarding that child or sibling group. You may also email the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange with the name and identification number of the children that you are interested in adopting. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Please include the name of the agency you are working with and your caseworker's name and phone number. You will receive the name and phone number of the child's caseworker. You may also call 1-800-233-3405. See the Frequently Asked Questions about TARE for more information about the exchange.

18. I am not yet approved to adopt. How do I start?

If you reside in another state, and you are not yet approved to adopt in your state, you may start the adoption approval process by calling a licensed child-placing adoption agency in your state. You may visit your state web site for information regarding your state's adoption resources.

If you live in Texas, you may submit your interest to become an approved adoptive family or a licensed foster family by filling out an interest form in the Get Started section or by leaving a message at the Foster Care and Adoption inquiry line at 1-800-233-3405.

Today, fill out the green initiation form located in this booklet to start the process of adoption from foster care and place it in the marked boxes located throughout the church or hand it to one of our event volunteers.

Steps to Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent²

Information Meeting

You will need to attend an information meeting in your area where you can discuss the scope and requirements of being a foster or adoptive parent. You will get basic information and questions are welcome. Your local DFPS office will furnish you with this information if there are no informational meetings in your area. You do not need an appointment.

Preparation and Selection

If you can meet the basic requirements, you are invited to meet with DFPS staff to decide if fostering or adopting is right for your family. You will also be assessed by DFPS staff. This process furnishes you with information about DFPS and the children who come into the foster care system.

Training

You will attend training (PRIDE) to learn more about the children available through DFPS and to assess your strengths in parenting children. The classes also boost your knowledge and confidence to meet the challenge of taking children into your home and to be sure you are ready to follow through on the commitment.

What is PRIDE?

Child Protective Services (CPS) recognizes that 16 hours of pre-service training for foster parents is insufficient. Therefore, CPS requires potential foster parents to attend Parent Resource Information Development Education (PRIDE) as part of the family's required pre-service training.

Texas PRIDE is a 35-hour competency-based training program that is co-trained by an agency staff member and a foster or adoptive parent. PRIDE provides prospective foster families with base knowledge of information on caring for children in the child welfare system. PRIDE covers topics such as child attachment, loss and grief, discipline and behavior intervention, effects of abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, working with the child welfare system, and the effects of fostering and adopting on the family. Through collaborative efforts with the Texas Alliance, a statewide advocacy organization that represents many private CPA's in Texas, DFPS has made PRIDE available to private CPA's.

Additional Training Requirements

The state minimum standards require that prospective foster families also complete the following trainings or certifications, which are not part of the PRIDE curriculum:

- Universal precautions training
- Psychotropic medication training
- Certification in both First Aid and infant/child/adult CPR

State minimum standards also require that verified foster homes receive annual in-service training. Depending on the number of foster parents and the needs of the children in a foster home, the annual training requirements range from 20 hours per family to 30 hours per foster parent.

Family Home Study

A caseworker will visit you in your home. The purpose is to discuss your personal history, family interests and lifestyle, childcare experiences, the types of children you feel would best fit in your home, and your strengths and skills in meeting the children's needs.

² All information taken from http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Get_Started/steps.asp.

Requirements for Foster/Adopt Families³

Basic Requirements

The prospective foster/adoptive parents may be single or married and must:

- be at least 21 years of age, financially stable, and responsible mature adults,
- complete an application (staff will assist you, if you prefer),
- share information regarding their background and lifestyle,
- provide relative and non-relative references,
- show proof of marriage and/or divorce (if applicable),
- agree to a home study which includes visits with all household members,
- allow staff to complete a criminal history background check and an abuse/neglect check on all adults in the household, and
- attend free training to learn about issues of abused and neglected children.

The training provides an opportunity for the family and DFPS to assess whether foster care or adoption is best for the family. The family may withdraw from the meetings at any time. There is no charge for the meetings. Foster/adoptive parents generally train together.

Additional Foster Care Requirements

In addition to the basic requirements, foster parents must:

- have adequate sleeping space,
- allow no more than 6 children in the home including your own children or children for whom you provide day care,
- agree to a nonphysical discipline policy,
- permit fire, health and safety inspections of the home,
- vaccinate all pets,
- obtain and maintain CPR/First Aid Certification,
- obtain TB testing as required by the local Health Department for household members, and
- attend 20 hours or more of training each year.

Responsibilities of Foster and Adoptive Families

Foster Parents:

- provide daily care and nurturing of children in foster care;
- advocate for children in their schools and communities;
- inform the children's caseworkers about adjustments to the home, school, and community, as well as any problems that may arise, including any serious illnesses, accidents, or serious occurrences involving the children or their birth families;
- make efforts as team members with children's caseworkers towards reunifying children with their birth families;
- provide a positive role model to birth families and
- help children learn life skills.

Adoptive Parents:

- provide permanent homes and a lifelong commitment to children into adulthood;
- provide for the short-term and long-term needs of children;
- provide for children's emotional, mental, physical, social, educational and cultural needs, according to each child's developmental age and growth;
- may become certified as a foster family and accept children who are not yet legally free for adoption, but whose permanency plan is adoption.

³ All information taken from http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Get_Started/requirements.asp.

Can foster families adopt?

Yes! Many families are interested in both fostering and adopting. They agree with the agency that the children's needs come first. In most cases, this means helping prepare children for reunification with their birth family, mentoring the birth parents, or working toward a relative or kinship placement.

When termination of parental rights is in the children's best interest and adoption is their plan, then foster parents who have cared for the children will be given the opportunity to adopt. Dual certification of parents to both foster and adopt speeds up the placement process, reduces the number of moves a child makes, and allows relationships to evolve with the initial placement process. Nearly half the adoptions of children in DFPS foster care are by their foster families.

Can adoptive families provide foster care?

Yes! Adoptive families who are willing to accept placement of children who are not yet legally free for adoption but have a plan for adoption can also become certified as foster families. This dual certification increases the opportunities for successful adoptions. In some areas of the state, a "buddy system" has been developed in which experienced foster families, who understand the challenges and rewards of foster parenting, are available to share experiences with new families and give support.

Our Children⁴

Children are placed in foster homes because they have been removed from their birth families due to abuse, neglect, or other family problems that endanger their safety.

The children may range from:

- infancy through 18 years of age;
- may have special medical, physical, or emotional needs;
- may belong to any ethnicity or race; and
- may be a part of a group of brothers and sisters who need to be placed together.

Children are placed in adoptive homes if efforts to reunify them with their birth families are unsuccessful. Children whose parental rights have been legally terminated may be adopted by relatives, a foster family, or an adoptive family.

Who are children with "Special Needs?"

The term "Special Needs" is used to define children with several characteristics and does not necessarily mean the child has a mental, emotional or physical disability.

The children may have one or more of the characteristics listed below:

- The child is at least six years old;
- the child is at least two years old and a member of a minority group that traditionally has barriers to adoption;
- the child is being adopted with a sibling or to join a sibling; or
- the child has a verifiable physical, mental, or emotional handicapping condition, as established by an appropriately qualified professional through a diagnosis that addresses:
 - what the condition is; and
 - that the condition is indeed handicapping.

⁴ All information taken from http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/About_Our_Children/default.asp.

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 placement agencies must meet the licensing standards for Child Placement Agencies to provide adoption services in Colorado. 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 an 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 minimal problems.

3. Contact the agencies and learn about their programs.

- 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 licensing unit.
- Find out if complaints have been filed against the agency and if so, how they were resolved.
- Find out the staff's 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 and other possible expenses. Obtain written detailed information on all costs involved including the agency's policy on refunds.
- 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, than talk to the director.

Agency and Ministry Overview

A World For Children



"Changing the world... one child at a time."

Contact Information:

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A World for Children is a statewide, Christian, non-profit child placing agency who believes that every child is uniquely special and deserves to live in a loving and supportive home, free from harm and fear. We have foster and foster to adopt programs to serve all the needs of families and children. We serve therapeutic, habilitative and medically fragile children, ages birth to 18. We offer a professional and experienced support system to our foster families that include assistance from case managers, staff therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists and administrators all of whom are dedicated to serving foster children and their foster families. We believe in **"Changing the world...one child at a time."**

Service Area: state wide agency, local offices in Dallas and Tyler

ACH Child and Family Services



Through strength-based partnership ACH Child and Family Services, formerly All Church Home for Children, brings resources and skills to children and families struggling with life's challenges. Together we develop solutions that create safety, hope, love and the capacity to thrive.

Contact Information:

Donna Stowe, Recruiter

1424 Summit Ave.

Fort Worth, TX 76102

(817) 866-7140

(817) 480-6309

Fax: (817) 336-3280

dstowe@achchildandfamilyservices.org

www.WhatAreYouMissing.org

ACH is a licensed foster care and adoption provider through the State of Texas.

The ACH foster care program partners with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to provide temporary placements for children who are abused or neglected and unable to live with their parents or families. ACH trains, licenses and supports both basic and therapeutic homes for children ages 0-17 who need protection from abuse and neglect or whose biological families are unable to care for them.

The ACH adoption program places children 0-17 who are in the custody of TDFPS. The adoption program promotes a healthy family model providing children and youth with a stable home where they can remain safe and healthy while they heal from trauma caused by abuse, neglect and family separation. Our program trains adoptive families and adoption staff on attachment principals, trauma informed care and grief and loss.

Service area: Dallas/Fort Worth area and surrounding counties such as Johnson, Hood, Parker, Wise and Denton.

Angelheart CPA



Contact Information:

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(817) 283-2560
(512) 310-0329
Fax: (817) 283-7241
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www.angelheartshelter.org

The mission of Angelheart Child Placing Agency is to have a positive impact in the heart of every child we serve. We stand by our motto, "Believe, Hope, Guide and Protect" as a solid foundation in order to help at risk children. We feel it is important to offer our families strong clinical support and accessibility to agency staff on a 24-hour on-call basis. Our goal is to not only provide a safe, structured setting that will provide for the basic needs of children but one that invests in each child to ensure that they have the greatest amount of support possible in order to be successful. To our foster families we offer agency paid assistance with children's extra curricular activities, higher reimbursement rates to meet the needs of children in care and a true open door policy.

Service Area: All counties in region 3

Arrow Child & Family Ministries



Contact Information:

Matt Whetzel, State Director of Ministry Relations
(877) 92-ARROW(27769)
(817) 437-3309
matt.whetzel@arrow.org

Arrow Child & Family Ministries seeks to provide permanent homes for children rescued from abuse through Arrow Christian Adoption by recruiting, training and supporting Ambassador Adoptive Families throughout the adoption process.

We are all Christ's ambassadors as though God is making his appeal through us.
-II Cor. 5:20

The ultimate goal of Arrow Adoption is to transition these children out of the foster care system and into a safe, loving, permanent home with a Christian worldview.

For the past 2 years, Arrow has assisted in finalizing more adoptions from foster care than any other agency in Texas.

Service Area: North Texas, Abilene, Angleton, Austin, Bryan, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Spring, Tyler and Waco.

Buckner Children and Family Services



Contact Information:

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Developer Supervisor*
5200 S. Buckner Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75227
(214) 319-3425
(214) 328-3141
Fax: (214) 319-3495
ScottSheree@Buckner.org
www.beafamily.org

Buckner's Dallas office serves North Texas through services such as family advocacy, crisis intervention and non-residential outreach. Buckner Foster Care is one department of Buckner Children and Family Services, which has been dedicated to the healing and restoration of families since 1879. In the delivery of all services, Buckner, a non-profit faith based organization, adheres to Christian principles which are ministered with professional competence. Children in foster care 0-18 years of age receive basic and therapeutic services according to their individual needs.

Buckner provides services that include foster care, international adoption, infant domestic adoption, CPS adoption, counseling women in crisis pregnancy, and post-adoption services. Families are not required to participate in fostering a child before adopting through Buckner. Buckner has been practicing adoption since 1884. At the heart of their ministry is the child's best interest, with an emphasis on adoption education. Individual attention from Buckner staff and Foster Parent/Adoptive Parent support groups help foster a healthy transition for each child.

Service Area: Region 3

Covenant Kids



Contact Information:

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jsmiley@covenantkids.org
www.covenantkids.org

Covenant Kids is a Christian agency serving North Texas families from our offices in Arlington and Plano. Our belief that *some promises should never be broken* fuels our passion for reaching at-risk children. Our families provide basic and therapeutic care and we are always seeking to grow our partnership with Christian families that can provide a stable and nurturing environment in which children can experience the love of Christ.

We offer individualized support for our families and children through regular contact with experienced clinicians, consultation with our staff psychologist and through on-going prayer support. We deliver high quality, innovative training to prepare and equip families with the best parenting strategies and interventions for children who have experienced trauma, and we have the tools to meet all of your needs for training, case management and support. Covenant Kids works diligently to reunify children with their birth family, when possible, and we are also proud to have helped nearly 500 children find their adoptive homes.

"For in you the fatherless find compassion."
-Hosea 14:3

Service Area: Families that reside within Region 3 (North Texas) for placement of children from all over the state of Texas.

Giocosa Foundation



Contact Information:

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Renee Hardtke,
Developer/Recruiter
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renee@giocosa.com
www.giocosa.com

The Giocosa Foundation takes their name from the phrase, "La Giocosa" meaning, "the place where happiness dwells." The Giocosa Foundation was established in 1988 in Austin, Texas as a home for adolescents in long term care. To fulfill the need to keep adolescents and their younger siblings together, Giocosa began to accept children ages 0-18. Giocosa is committed to helping children develop responsible and individual values in quality foster and adoptive homes. Giocosa has offices in Austin, Bedford, Hutto and Houston. Giocosa is a non-profit corporation providing therapeutic foster care and adoptions. Giocosa offers an array of support services consisting of experienced case managers, therapists, psychiatrists, foster and adoption coordinators and administrators to our parents. Giocosa believes that children can overcome their past through a holistic and supportive family environment provided to them in caring foster and adoptive homes. Giocosa is dedicated in guiding children to discover their personal potential by leading them in developing the necessary skills to function successfully and independently.

Service Area: Austin, Bedford, Hutto and Houston.

The Gladney Center for Adoption



Gladney Center for Adoption

Contact Information:

Emily Behrens, New Beginnings

Caseworker

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Fort Worth, TX 76132

(817) 922-6064

(817) 922-6000

Fax: (817) 922-6066

Emily.Behrens@gladney.org

www.gladney.org

The Gladney Center for Adoption is an international leader in adoption services, having placed more than 26,000 children in forever homes throughout our 120 year history. A genuine commitment to client service and support makes adopting through Gladney an exceptional experience. The Gladney Center for Adoption is partnering with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to find homes for children who are currently in foster care. We believe that every child deserves a permanent, loving family who can provide the nurturing care and patience necessary to raise a child who has come from a hard place. Through Gladney, children are placed into permanent adoptive homes, not foster care, so there is no legal risk that the child could be removed from your home once he/she is placed with you.

Gladney provides pre-adoption preparation and training, home study services, placement services and post-placement services. In addition to the basic post-adoption services offered through the state, Gladney families enjoy access to our Family Services department and the Gladney Family Association, providing a lifetime of professional resources and social support for your family. For families who receive placement of a child in the conservatorship of DFPS, there are no agency fees.

Service area: State of Texas

Kids First, Inc.



Kids First, Inc. is an adoption and foster care agency offering services to children who are in need of loving parents and relationships that last a lifetime. Kids First, Inc. recruits, orients, trains and supports adoptive parents and foster parents who develop their capacities to provide a nurturing and structured environment for children and youth. We have supportive services in place to help you every step of the way. Our qualified staff has Master level and Doctorate degrees and years of experience with the foster care and adoption industry.

Kids First, Inc. is a place where kids are number one!

Service Area: Dallas-Fort Worth area and surrounding counties.

Contact Information:

Carla Johnson, Executive Director
3825 East Loop 820 S.
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Fax: (817) 446-3400
cjohnson@kidsfirstinc.net
www.kidsfirstinc.net

Kornerstone



Kornerstone is seeking Christian families who will provide an adoptive or foster home for children who may never have experienced the hope and healing power of God's love.

Founded in 1995. Kornerstone is licensed with the State of Texas to provide adoption and foster care services for children, including foster-to-adopt, legal-risk, adoption only and personalized adoption support. Kornerstone serves basic, therapeutic and PMN (including intense level services) children birth to 18 years of age. All parts of Kornerstone's program are intended to support our adoptive and foster parents so that they will have the resources to help children heal and rebuild their lives.

Kornerstone offers a unique and effective system for training adoptive/foster families, including regular pre-service training. 72 hours of annual training are provided, including 24 hours provided with child care. Web based services are provided, including monthly parent paperwork.

Service area: State of Texas

Contact Information:

Dale H Smith, Executive Director
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One Church One Child



Contact Information:

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www.ococtexas.org

One Church One Child of North Central Texas and Surrounding Counties (OCOC) is a faith-based non-profit family recruitment and child placing agency. Our mission is to find permanent adoptive homes for children in foster care utilizing the OCOC model founded by Father George Clements in 1980. This model has resulted in helping thousands of minority children and sibling groups of all ethnicities achieve permanency nationwide. OCOC Texas organizations have recruited thousands of families since their inception.

One Church One Child of North/North Central Texas was established in the late 80's as a leader in faith-based minority recruitment and became a licensed child placing agency in 2005. The organization operates at One Church One Child (OCOC) with services to 19 counties which make up Region 3. OCOC collaborates with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to place children with families in other regions of Texas. OCOC also provides foster care, kinship family and support group services.

Service Area: Region 3

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services



Presbyterian Children's
Homes & Services

Contact Information:

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Coordinator*

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www.pchas.org

Since its beginnings in 1903 as an orphanage in Dallas, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services has been providing residential care and other services to children and families that have no place else to turn.

PCHAS offers a variety of Christ-centered services which include foster care, foster to adopt and adoption services.

PCHAS carefully screens, selects, trains, supervises and supports qualified foster and foster to adopt families to ensure high-quality care to children. PCHAS closely matches foster family characteristics with the unique needs of each child, giving placements a strong opportunity to be successful.

In January 2010, PCHAS began offering foster care and adoption services in the Houston area when Homes of St. Mark, a well-known children's charity, merged into our agency. The Houston program serves children through foster and foster to adopt homes and helps children and birth families through our maternity, adoption and post-adoption services.

Service area: DFW, Houston, Austin, Weatherford, Itasca, Wichita Falls and Longview.

Refuge House



Contact Information:

*Kelsey Batista, Adoption Program
Director*

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(972) 662-5112

Fax: (817) 887-5540

kbatista@refugehouse.org

www.refugehouse.org

Refuge House is a unique and innovative non-profit care and adoption agency that strongly believes in its motto, "A home is in the Heart of EVERY child." The agency was founded on traditional Christian values and works hard to keep things "family focused." The staff is a team of excellence, comprised of those committed not just to their roles in the agency, but to each of the children and families served. Unlike government run agencies, we provide round the clock access every day of the year. We know needs arise 24/7 and we offer 24/7 access and hands-on support to those we serve. Faith and prayer are a large part of our day to day operation because we understand that without God nothing is possible. Currently, the agency serves newborns through 21 years of age. If you are looking for an agency that will not only walk with you, but support you through the ins and outs of foster care and adoption, we urge you to consider making Refuge House your home.

Service Area: DFW and all surrounding counties

Texas Baptist Home



Contact Information:

Jennifer Walker, Family Recruiter and Developer

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jwalker@tbhc.org

www.tbhc.org

The Texas Baptist Home is a Christ-centered organization that promotes Christian values and ethical standards and morals. Our goal is for our staff and foster parents to be agents of redemptive change in broken lives, showing compassion and understanding and forgiveness. The Texas Baptist Home is sponsored by the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and Southern Baptist of Texas Convention. The Texas Baptist Home has over 100 years of experience in providing foster care and adoption services. The agency does not discriminate based on ethnicity, gender or race. We provide our foster and/or adoptive parents with extensive pre-service training so that we can equip them with the tools needed to successfully parent abused and neglected children. We contract for basic, moderate and specialized children with emotional disorders, primary medical needs and mental retardation. Our foster care utilizes a behavioral treatment model that stresses relationship development, skills enhancement, community integration, individual treatment planning and recreation therapeutic treatment.

Service Area: 75 miles from Waxahachie and Bedford. Also Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Collin and surrounding counties.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services



Open Your
Heart
to a Child



Foster! Adopt!



Contact Information:

Laurel Towne MSW, Foster/Adopt Supervisor

1200 E Copeland Rd., Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011

(800) 233-3405

(817) 792-4409

Fax: (817) 276-3969

mailbox@dfps.state.tx.us

www.dfps.state.tx.us

Child Protective Services, CPS, an Agency of the Department of Family and Protective Services, is mandated by state and federal law to provide services to strengthen families and protect children under the age of 18 from abuse and neglect by a person responsible for the child's care, custody or welfare. As a part of this mandate, CPS trains, licenses and supports foster and adoptive homes to protect children and provide for permanency. Our foster care and adoption program primarily serves children ages 0-17. CPS licenses homes for foster care and adoption. Recruitment efforts focus heavily on families who are interested in adopting CPS children listed on the TARE website (Texas Adoption Resource Exchange). As part of the faith-based initiative, Child Protective Services has within the agency a faith-based program called "CHILD – Congregations Helping In Love and Dedication". The CHILD Program recruits and trains foster and adoptive families within the religious congregations for the 19 counties of Region 3. Training is scheduled after parenting applications have been processed and approved. Licensed foster and adoptive families are an integral part of our team helping to fulfill our mission-Children FIRST: Safe and Secure.

Service Area: State of Texas

Texas Mentor



Contact Information:

10935 Estate Lane, Ste 253
Dallas, TX 75238
(214) 343-4800 (Dallas)
(817) 460-1332 (Arlington)
(903) 438-9629 (Sulphur Springs)
www.thementornetwork.com

Texas MENTOR specializes in foster care and adoption. Texas MENTOR is dedicated to the placement of children and adolescents between the ages of 0-17 in safe, caring and therapeutic foster homes. Helping at-risk youth through individualized community-based care and treatment, we provide DFPS with placements for children from Tarrant and Dallas counties, as well as Collin, Cooke, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Parker, Rockwall, and Wise. We also have programs located in Austin, Houston, San Antonio, Temple, Bryan, and Sulphur Springs. Prospective MENTOR foster families undergo an intensive selection process during which all aspects of the home and family are considered. Prospective MENTORS are then trained and matched with clients who are best suited for the composition of their family and home. MENTOR's homes are screened and monitored regularly to ensure quality and excellence in standards of care and supervision of children placed within their homes.

Service Area: Various Counties (see above)

Therapeutic Family Life

Therapeutic Family Life
Letting His Light Shine Through



Contact Information:

Pam Royal, Program Coordinator

Carrie Griffith, Case Manager

Supervisor

Sharon Hanes, Case Manager

Danielle Douglass, Foster Home

Developer

2229 Ave J

Arlington, TX 76006

(817) 265-2328

(940) 300-5919

Fax: (817) 469-8345

www.tflife.org

Therapeutic Family Life has been in existence in Texas since July of 1993, providing service to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Child Protective Services Division, as well as County Juvenile Probation Departments. We currently serve children in therapeutic special needs homes throughout Texas.

Therapeutic Family Life is a Christian based, private, non-profit corporation that places abused, neglected and hurting children in therapeutic placements, which ensure that the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the children are being served. Therapeutic Family Life is dedicated to the goal of providing a therapeutic (healing) milieu to help children work through the emotional scars resulting from their physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect, as well as their delinquent and maladjusted behavior.

Therapeutic Family Life believes that there is a child for every family and a family for every child. The children available for adoption through our agency come from all age groups and ethnicities. We are dedicated to helping each child find their unique forever family.

Service Area: State of Texas

Helpful Organizations & Ministries

Chosen Ones Adoptive and Foster Family Ministry, Gateway Church	
 <p>Chosen Ones Foster and Adoptive Family Ministry</p>	<p>Chosen Ones is an Adoptive and Foster Family ministry dedicated to people who are connected in some way or another by the common bond of fostering and/or adoption. For some the connection is because they are considering foster care or adoption. For others it is because they have started down the path of adoption and are looking for help, support, and encouragement, or because they have been touched by the miracle of adoption and have discovered that a community such as this is always helpful and often necessary. Chosen Ones seeks to encourage and inform those who are called to adoption and foster care. Chosen Ones is a place to connect with other parents to discuss the joys and challenges adoptive and foster families face. Chosen Ones offers quality, objective information regarding adoption and foster care. We also seek to provide educational resources, valuable training opportunities and a loving community for families along their journey. We also offer prayer, friendship and collective wisdom and insight from those who have already traveled the path.</p>
<p>Contact Information: Randy & Vickie Akins, Executive Directors 13204 Elmhurst Dr. Keller, TX 76244 (817) 800-3917 randy@mychosenones.org www.mychosenones.org</p>	<p>Service Area: State of Texas</p>

Embrace, Rhea's Mill Baptist Church



Contact Information:

Bruce Kendrick, Director of Outreach

PO Box 908

Prosper, TX 75078

(214) 354-9667

(214) 354-6776

Fax: (972) 837-1229

bruce@embracetexas.org

<http://embracetexas.org/>

Embrace is the church reclaiming the care of orphans and waiting children. As a ministry of Rhea's Mill Baptist Church in McKinney, TX, we currently host two support groups for moms and dads in Collin County and a quarterly respite program for foster, adoptive and kinship families. Throughout each year, we develop seminars and workshops for continued education and training for families on topics like RAD, play therapy, infertility, etc. Each spring, we host training with a faith-based agency to help recruit and encourage more families to foster and adopt. Most importantly, we help other local churches across the country develop orphan care ministries of their own. So whether you are a family interested in foster care or adoption, an individual looking for a place to volunteer, or a church leader ready to ignite your church in the movement of God's people, Embrace is here to provide the resources and support you need.

Service Area: North Texas

Family Life, Covenant Church



Contact Information:

Paul & Diane Anderson/Richard & Melissa Devor, Life Team Leaders

2517 Kings Gate Dr.

Carrollton, TX 75006

(972) 417-9662

(469) 362-9635

paul.diane@verizon.net

reddevor@hotmail.com

We are two passionate couples who have adopted children that have a heart to help find homes for the orphaned and unwanted children of world. We both have in-home support groups that meet monthly to help support those who have already adopted and those wishing to adopt. Paul and Diane have two children they adopted internationally while Richard and Melissa are fostering to adopt two children here in the North Texas Region. Our mission is to help connect children with their forever families and then support and pray for those who will start, have started or are on this lifelong adoption journey.

Our Motto:

"Finding and connecting forever families"

Service Area: North Texas

Focus on the Family



Contact Information:

www.iCareAboutOrphans.org
orphancare@family.org

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.

Our awareness and recruiting efforts are complemented by desperately needed post-placement resources for adoptive families 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.

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.

HISchild, Christ Chapel Bible Church



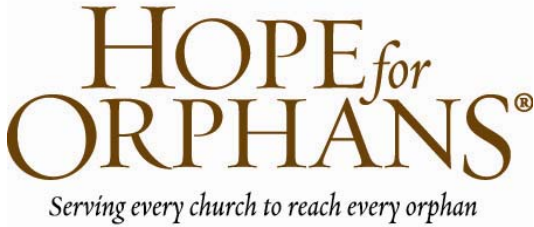

Contact Information:

Kevin Harris
3740 Birchman Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 903-1593
HISchild@christchapelbc.org
www.ccbcfamily.org

The "HISchild" orphan care ministry at Christ Chapel exists to motivate and unite the church body to live out God's mandate to care for the orphan. We believe that hearts will be transformed as people learn about God's heart for the fatherless and, as hearts are changed, the entire church body will benefit and deepen in their individual and corporate relationships with God. Our ultimate goal is for the entire church body to be engaged in caring for orphans in varying ways so that orphans around the globe are able to experience the love of Christ, and know Jesus as Savior.

Our objectives include: education about God's mandate; awareness of opportunities for orphan care; participation in those opportunities; and providing community for those who are actively serving the orphan, whether through orphan care, foster care or adoption.

Service Area: Greater Fort Worth area

<p>Hope for Orphans, a ministry of FamilyLife</p>	
	<p>Hope for Orphans believes that the local church is God's answer for the orphan crisis. Because of this, we build tools that passionate followers of Christ can use to mobilize their church on behalf of the orphan. We want to connect you with excellent resources and trusted organizations that will serve your church in reaching the orphan. For more information, visit HopeForOrphans.org.</p>
<p>Contact Information: <i>Shane McBride</i> 2001 W. Plano Parkway Plano, TX 75075 (972) 941-4432 (972) 832-9789 Fax: (972) 941-4432 smcbride@hopefororphans.org www.hopefororphans.org</p>	<p>Service Area: National</p>
<p>HUGS (Hearts United in God's Sanctuary), Freedom Life Church</p>	
	<p>We are a foster/adopt/orphan ministry that provides support to foster families and domestic and international adoptive families. Our purpose is to meet the needs of these parents and families in whatever way we can – whether through support groups, fundraisers, child care, etc.</p> <p>Service Area: Carrollton, Plano, North Dallas, Frisco, Farmer's Branch, The Colony, Upper North Dallas County, Denton County, Collin County.</p>
<p>Contact Information: <i>Michael Gallops</i> 2435 E Hebron Parkway Carrollton, TX 75010 (469) 628-7926 (469) 628-4302 Fax: (866) 537-3510 gallops@mendedfences.com www.freedomlifedfw.com/ministries/outreach/orphan-ministry/</p>	

Lake Pointe Adoption & Orphan Ministry



LAKE POINTE
ADOPTION & ORPHAN
MINISTRY

Contact Information:

Andrew Steele, Ministry Leader
701 Interstate 30
Rockwall, TX 75087
(469) 698-2200, x2647
adoptionministry@lakepointe.org
www.lpcadoption.org

Our ministry is involved in adoption, foster care and orphan ministry. Many of our ministry families have done foster care and/or adopted and they desire to encourage other families. We also host events and speakers to inform families about adoption and foster topics. The ministry provides families with honest and relevant information about adoption and foster care.

Our Adoption Ministry provides an adoption grant fund to help cover some of the financial burden of adoption. We have mentor families that offer support and prayer for the adoptive family. We have an Adoption 101 Hot Topics class to help families in their adoption journey, and we have an Adoption 201 Hot Topics class to help post-adoption families.

Our Foster Care Ministry accepts God's command to look after orphans and widows in their distress. We have foster and adoption support groups and training classes and we are developing a Adoption/Foster Support Team and a supply and clothes pantry. We offer support and encouragement to foster families and grieve the losses and celebrate the victories.

Service Area: Rockwall, Dallas and Collin Counties and surrounding areas

Tapestry, Irving Bible Church



Contact Information:

Michael Monroe, Ministry Leader
2435 Kinwest Pkwy
Irving, TX 75063
(972) 315-9628
(469) 569-9361
tapestry@irvingbible.org
www.tapestryministry.org

Tapestry is an encouraging and supportive community for adoptive and foster families and those considering adoption or foster care. Tapestry serves adoptive and foster families, as well as those who are considering or in the process of adopting or becoming licensed to foster, by connecting, encouraging and informing them as they each travel their unique adoption or foster care journey. This takes place through large group educational events, family fun activities, an annual conference, mentoring, adoption financial assistance and a wide range of small groups that meet virtually every week of the year. In addition, Tapestry offers support to adult adoptees and to birthmothers. Tapestry also has various outreach efforts focused on serving children in foster care, and Tapestry is an available resource for other local churches wanting to start and grow their own adoption and foster care ministry. At Tapestry, we believe that God is doing something truly remarkable among us as He forms families and transforms lives through the miracle of adoption.

Service Area: State of Texas

Tapestry, Watermark Community Church



W A T E R M A R K
C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

Contact Information:

Wes Butler/David Leventhal
7540 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75251
(214) 361-2275
tapestry@watermark.org
www.watermark.org/ministries/care-cont/tapestry-adoption-foster-care/

Tapestry is Watermark Community Church's adoption and foster care ministry. We serve families who are engaged or interested in adoption or foster care as well as those families who have been touched by the biblical call to care for orphans in their distress (James 1:27). Our heart is to connect, encourage and support those with an interest in adoption, foster care or orphan care. Tapestry also wants to serve as a resource for those at Watermark and throughout the community who are interested in knowing more about God's heart for the orphan.

Service Area: Dallas/Fort Worth

Next Steps

Each of the adoption agencies and ministries listed in this attendee guide has specifically identified the next step for an interested family to take as you explore your role in meeting the needs of a waiting child.

Please utilize the information on the following pages of 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
- Find out 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 it 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.

For more information on any of the orientations, trainings, or other events listed on the pages that follow, please contact the agency hosting the particular event. Thank you again for your willingness to help Texas' waiting kids!

November 2010

A World for Children

-Thursday, Nov. 18 – Orientation for Foster Parent Applicants, 6:30-8:30pm

ACH Child and Family Services

-Tuesday, Nov. 16 – Joint Informational Meeting, 6:30pm

-Tuesday, Nov. 16 – Learning Lunch, 11:45am-1pm

Arrow Child and Family Ministries

-Class location varies. Please call to RSVP for any classes you would like to attend and to obtain location information. 817-695-5857

-Tuesday, Nov. 16 – AFI #1 Orientation, 6-9pm

-Thursday, Nov. 18 – AFI #2 Child Development, 6-9pm

-Monday, Nov. 29 – AFI #6 Behavior Modification, 6-9pm

Buckner Children & Family Services

-Thursday, Nov. 18 – Information Meeting, 7pm

Covenant Kids

-Pre-Service Training at Watermark Community Church (Tapestry)

-Tuesday, Nov. 30 – Behavior Management Introduction I, 6-9pm

-Pre-Service Training at Covenant Kids Arlington

-Tuesday, Nov. 30 – Behavior Management Introduction I, 6-9pm

Gladney Center for Adoption

-We schedule information meetings with families on an individual basis.

HUGS

-Sunday, Nov. 14 – Monthly Meeting, 6pm @ Freedom Life Church

Kids First, Inc.

-Schedule one on one orientations, at the convenience of the family

Kornerstone

-Monday, Nov. 15 – Medication Training, 6-8pm

One Church One Child

-Tuesday, Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Luncheon, 11am-1pm @ Morningside UMC

Refuge House, Inc.

-Sunday, Nov. 14 – Sama, 1-10pm

-Monday, Nov. 15 – Sama, 6-10pm

-Tuesday, Nov. 16 – Psych Meds, 6-8pm

TB Test, 8-8:15pm

CPR/First Aid, 8:15-10pm

November 2010

Texas Baptist Home

- Sunday, Nov. 14 – Orientation/Information Meeting, 5:30-7pm, Shiloh Road Baptist Church
- Tuesday, Nov. 16 – Orientation, 6-7pm

Texas DFPS

- For information regarding Region 3 Foster/Adopt information meetings, visit www.dfps.state.tx.us and click on foster/adoption, then "How to Become a Foster/Adopt Parent"

Therapeutic Family Life

- Wednesday, Nov. 17 – Child and Adolescent Development, 8am-3pm
- Thursday, Nov. 18 – TYC and Foster Care Rules, 8am-4pm

December 2010

A World for Children

- Thursday, Dec. 16 – Orientation for Foster Parent Applicants, 6:30-8:30pm

ACH Child and Family Services

- Monday, Dec. 13 – Meet and Greet, 6pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 14 – Learning Lunch, 11:45am-1pm

Arrow Child and Family Ministries

- Class location varies. Please call to RSVP for any classes you would like to attend and to obtain location information. 817-665-8880
- Thursday, Dec. 2 – AFI #1 Orientation, 6-9pm
- Friday, Dec. 3 – Medication, 6-9pm
- Saturday, Dec. 4 – AFI #2 Child Development, 9am-5pm
AFI #3 Communication
AFI #4 Separation, Loss & Grief
- Thursday, Dec. 9 – CPR/First Aid, \$35/person, MUST RSVP! 6:30-9:30pm
- Friday, Dec. 10 – AFI #5 Sexual Abuse, 6-9 pm
- Saturday, Dec. 11 – AFI #6 Behavior Modification, 9am-5pm
AFI #7 Strengthening Family Relationships
AFI #8 Standards and Docs
- Saturday, Dec. 18 – BCMT, Class limit 12, MUST RSVP! 9am-5pm

Buckner Children & Family Services

- Thursday, Dec. 16 – Information Meeting, 7pm

Covenant Kids

-Pre-Service Training at Watermark Community Church (Tapestry)

- Thursday, Dec. 2 – Behavior Management Introduction II, 6-9pm
- Saturday, Dec. 4 – Behavior Management Parenting Strategies & Intervention, 9am-5pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 7 – Behavior Management Risk Management, 6-9pm
- Thursday, Dec. 9 – Adoption Training, 6-9pm
- Saturday, Dec. 11 – Psychotropic Medications, 1-3:30pm
CPR/First Aid, 3:30-6pm
SBS/SIDS, 6-7pm
Cultural Diversity, 7-9pm

-Pre-Service Training at Covenant Kids Arlington

- Thursday, Dec. 2 – Behavior Management Introduction II, 6-9pm
- Saturday, Dec. 4 – Behavior Management Parenting Strategies & Intervention, 9am-5pm
- Sunday, Dec. 5 – Psychotropic Medications, 1-3:30pm
CPR/First Aid, 3:30-6pm
SBS/SIDS, 6-7pm
Cultural Diversity, 7-9pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 7 – Behavior Management Risk Management, 6-9pm
- Thursday, Dec. 9 – Adoption Training, 6-9pm

December 2010

Gladney Center for Adoption

-We schedule information meetings with families on an individual basis.

HUGS

-Sunday, Dec. 12 – Monthly Meeting, 6pm @ Freedom Life Church

Kids First, Inc.

-Schedule one on one orientations, at the convenience of the family

Kornerstone

-Saturday, Dec. 11 – Children's Christmas Party, 12-3pm

Refuge House, Inc.

-Friday, Dec. 3 – Orientation, 6-8pm

-Saturday, Dec. 4 – PRIDE, 8am-8pm

-Sunday, Dec. 5 – Sama, 1-10pm

-Monday, Dec. 6 – Sama, 6-10pm

-Tuesday, Dec. 7 – Psych Meds, 6-8pm

TB Test, 8-8:15pm

CPR/First Aid, 8:15-10pm

Texas Baptist Home

-Tuesday, Dec. 14 – Orientation, 6-7pm

Texas DFPS

-For information regarding Region 3 Foster/Adopt information meetings, visit www.dfps.state.tx.us and click on foster/adoption, then "How to Become a Foster/Adopt Parent"

January 2011

A World for Children

-Thursday, Jan. 27 – Orientation for Foster Parent Applicants, 6:30-8:30pm

Gladney Center for Adoption

-We schedule information meetings with families on an individual basis.

-Thursday, Jan. 27 – Training

-Friday, Jan. 28 – Training

-Saturday, Jan. 29 - Training

HUGS

-Sunday, Jan. 9 – Monthly Meeting, 6pm @ Freedom Life Church

Kids First, Inc.

-Schedule one on one orientations, at the convenience of the family

Kornerstone

-Saturday, Jan. 8 – Pre-Service Training: PRIDE 1, 9am-5:30pm

-Monday, Jan. 10 – Medication Training, 6-8pm

-Tuesday, Jan. 11 – Preventative Management of Aggressive Behavior, 6-10pm

-Saturday, Jan. 15 – Pre-Service Training: PRIDE 2, 9am-5:30pm

-Monday, Jan. 17 – Infant/Child CPR & First Aid, 6-9pm

-Tuesday, Jan. 18 – Behavior Intervention, 6-10pm

-Saturday, Jan. 22 – Region 3 Expo & Information Meeting for Prospective Adopt/Foster Parents, 10am-2pm

Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

-Thursday, Jan. 13 - #1 Pre-Service

-Thursday, Jan. 20 - #1 Pre-Service: PRIDE #1

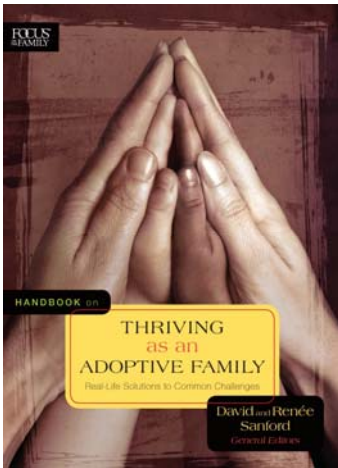
-Saturday, Jan. 22 – Medication, Medication Storage, Blood borne Pathogens, Infant Toddler/SIDS

-Thursday, Jan. 27 - #1 Pre-Service: PRIDE #2

Texas DFPS

-For information regarding Region 3 Foster/Adopt information meetings, visit www.dfps.state.tx.us and click on foster/adoption, then "How to Become a Foster/Adopt Parent"

Focus on the Family Support Resources

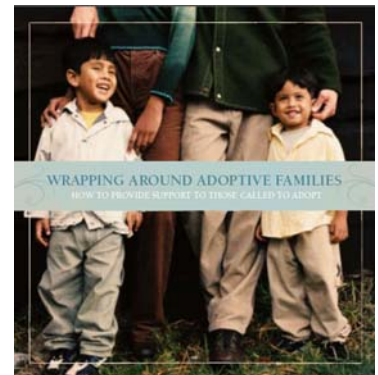


Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family

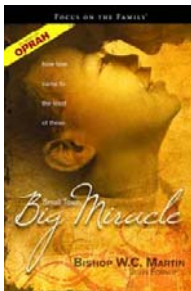
Adoption is a high calling from God, and the Christian home is primary soil for planting seeds of faith. But how will post-adoption challenges affect this growth? Many families do not feel adequately prepared for unexpected challenges like a child who has been adopted fighting with his new siblings,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

Special Thanks to...



Wait No More Interest Form
Your Passport to Initiating the Process of Adopting from Foster Care*

Date	First Name(s)	Last Name
Physical Address		
Address:		City:
County:		Zip:
Mailing Address (If different)		
Address:		City:
County:		Zip:
Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		Work Phone 2:
Cell Phone:		Cell Phone 2:
Email:		Email 2:
Best way and time of day to reach you:		
Are you interested in a particular child? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, give the child's name: If no, what type of child would be of interest to you?		
Are you open to a sibling group? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Number of children desired: Age range you are interested in: Race/ethnicity: Gender Preferred: <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Either		
Please list the agency you prefer to work with: <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> No Preference</div>		

In order for us to best serve you, please **do one of the following**:

- Drop this form into one of the receptacles before you leave today
- Fax it to 719-548-5947
- Mail it to Focus on the Family Attn: Katie Porter Colorado Springs 80995

*Initiation of the Process will be followed by several steps including, but not limited to, attending an orientation and submitting an official application. Please see the agency of your choice for additional information and thank you for initiating the process of adoption from foster care.

Please note: Your personal information will not be shared. It will only be used to contact you regarding adoption from foster care.