



ONE HEART

Family Ministries, Inc.

HOPE
for kids

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Hope for Kids

Finding Families for Foster kids

February 10, 2024

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Welcome Letter | 4 |
| Agenda | 5 |
| Speaker Biographies | 6-10 |
| Foster Care/Adoption Process..... | 11-12 |
| Training Overview | 12-13 |
| Organizational Chart State Contract Agencies..... | 14 |
| Frequently Asked Questions..... | 15-18 |
| Resource Family Supports..... | 19 |
| Next Steps | 20 |
| State of Missouri: City & County Adoption/Foster Care Agencies | 21-22 |
| Contracted Adoption/Foster Care Agencies | 23-26 |
| Support Organizations | 27-28 |
| Information for our Illinois Guests | 29-31 |
| TBRI/The Connected Child Resource..... | 32 |
| Notes..... | 33 |



ONE HEART Foster Care & Adoption

Greetings from One Heart Family Ministries,

We're glad you're here! Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Foster children in need of foster & adoptive families.

This event, ***Hope for Kids: Finding Families for foster kids*** brings together Missouri's state, county, faith-based, and adoption agency leaders. We are united in one goal: to find families for each and every one of Missouri's more than 14,000 children and youth in foster care. We welcome all of our Illinois guests and hope to find families for Illinois kids as well.

You and your family are who we've been hoping for! Thank you for your willingness to explore the role you might play in helping these waiting kids.

It is our goal that today you will be:

- Inspired by foster/adoptive families
- Educated about the kids needing foster families
- Informed about the next steps for exploring foster care & adoption
- Equipped to access relevant, supportive resources for you and your family

Please take time to look through this booklet to learn more about today's event and for resources in our area to help you along your journey.

***Hope for Kids:
Finding Families for foster kids***

Pastor Jason Johnson

God's Heart for foster care & adoption

Justin & Shamecka Nichols

Foster & Adoptive family

Kyle & Xantiana King

Foster family

Emily Nienhuis & Theresa Williams

The nuts & bolts of foster care &
adoption from foster care

Next Steps - Q & A

**Prayer and Closing Video –
“Say Yes”**

Speaker Biographies

Jason Johnson

Hi there! My name is Jason. I'm grateful you've stopped by the blog. I am a writer and speaker who encourages families and equips leaders in their foster care and adoption journeys so they can find the hope and support they need along the way. I hope this is a place you can find encouragement and inspiration no matter where you are on your own journey - whether just starting to consider it or already in the thick of it.

My beautiful wife, Emily and I met our senior year in college and were married just after graduating. We have four daughters and a long story...and anyone who's been in the world of foster care and adoption can relate to that...it's a long story! :)

After growing up in a ministry home in Dallas, TX I attended Texas A&M University (where Emily and I met...Gig 'Em!) and began working at a church during my time there. After graduating in 2002 I began my pastoral ministries studies at Dallas Theological Seminary while working in ministry.

In 2008, alongside a core team of people in the North Houston area, I had the privilege of planting and leading a church. It was here that many, including our family, became involved in foster care. The church then founded a non-profit committed to serving, supporting and equipping foster and adoptive families in the city of Houston.

In 2013, combined with 14 years of church-based ministry and leadership experience and our family's foster and adoptive journey, I began working for an organization helping church leaders implement structures and strategies of ministry within their churches and developing resources to encourage and support foster and adoptive parents along their journeys.

This ultimately led me to my current role as the Director of Church Mobilization and Engagement with Christian Alliance for Orphans. In my work I speak and teach at churches, conferences, forums and workshops on church-based ministry strategies and best practices as well as encouraging families that are in the trenches and those that are considering getting involved.

Much of my time is also spent coaching and consulting with church and organizational leadership teams around the country on how to start, lead and grow ministries within their church or build the most effective church engagement strategies within their organizations.

I am the author of ReFraming Foster Care (for families and support groups), Everyone Can Do Something (for church and ministry leaders), ALL IN Orphan Care (small group based study for those considering), Effectively Engaging Churches (for organizational leaders and advocates) and blog regularly here at Jason Johnson | Blog. I have a passion to equip churches and encourage leaders no matter where they are on their foster care and adoption journeys.

Emily and I and our four girls live in Texas and enjoy whatever it is we're doing, as long as it's together.

If you are a pastor, ministry leader, advocate, organizational non-profit leader, foster or adoptive family or potential foster or adoptive family, I would love to connect!

www.jasonjohnsonblog.com



Justin & Shamecka Nichols:

Becoming foster parents was not in our family's plan, and we looked forward to exploring life as our six boys transitioned from teenagers to adults. As you can imagine, our home is typically loud, busy, and full of opinions, with the occasional "Not Me" showing up to break things around the house. In 2019, God challenged us to become uncomfortable and used every ounce of our life experiences to confirm the pathway toward becoming Foster Parents.

Shamecka has a heart for children who have experienced trauma. While working in the public school system, she noticed the urgent need for children to have safe and loving homes. God began to soften her heart to become active in filling the void. As a Law Enforcement Officer, Justin encountered many stressful situations and was initially unwilling to bring foster children into the home. Through persistent prayer and positive experiences, Justin's heart began to soften toward opening our home and family to children in need. Over time, God made our calling to care for his children evident.

Our stomachs were full of butterflies as we embarked on the fostering journey. One Heart Ministries allowed the love of Christ to bring peace through this entire process. In STARS class, the instructors reminded us that the love of Jesus should drive us daily and the children placed in our homes are God's children. Over the last few years, our family has expanded from six children to 11, with five kids under seven and our three youngest being girls. Along this journey, God has consistently reminded us not to judge others but to focus on creating a loving environment that allows children to work through past experiences. In the end, we found that much of the work was within ourselves and perfected in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7.

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."



Kyle & Xantiana King:

We got married in 2013 and one thing led to another and we found ourselves at the end of 2021 without any children. Xanti brought up the idea of foster care and Kyle quickly got on board with the idea. We had the feeling going in that this was God's will for our lives and while we are hoping to adopt out of foster care, we knew at the very least that we would be able to show the love of Jesus to people. It was only four months after completing STARS that we had our first foster children in our home. We were blessed with a sister and brother sibling group, Tara and Matthew. After having them for seven months, and finally feeling like we had everything "figured out" with these two, we were asked to take on an emergency placement. It was a sibling group consisting of two girls and one boy and we said we'd take them for the weekend and see how it goes. That lasted 26 hours and then, for the betterment of all the children involved, the two girls were placed in a different foster home and the boy, Dimitri, remained with us. A month after that, Dimitri's baby sister, Daisy May, was born and came to our home straight from the hospital. So our house now consists of four kids under the age of four, and this makes life wonderful, stressful, and fulfilling. One Heart Ministries has been invaluable in our foster care journey. From the STARS class to helping us navigate the difficulties dealing with each child's case, they've been a constant and reliable help!



Emily Nienhuis:

Emily has had a passion for foster care and adoption since she was a young child. While growing up, Emily's parents were foster parents to over 40 children. Emily has two biological siblings and 4 adopted siblings.

In 2000, Emily became a foster parent herself. She has been a foster mom to 26 children. Emily has six daughters adopted through foster care. For the past 20 years Emily has worked for One Heart Family Ministries recruiting, assisting in training and supporting Christian families who are foster and adoptive families. Emily says, "The journey through foster care and adoption has not always been easy, but God has met my needs and my kids needs each and every step of the way. The blessings have greatly surpassed the challenges!"



Theresa Williams:

Theresa and her husband, Bruce have been married for almost 37 years. Their family began with 3 biological children and then God called them to bring more children into their home via foster care and adoption. Their family grew with the adoption of two sons in 2000 & 2004. They continued as foster parents for almost 10 years, caring for 22 children over this time. Each child's foster journey has been different. Some children returned to bio family, while two foster children were adopted into their forever families. God's plan has unfolded one day at a time.

In 2009, Theresa began working for One Heart. With just 2 employees at One Heart, the job is multifaceted. Theresa focuses on the operations of the ministry: maintaining databases, financials, marketing and donor management. Theresa says, "God has put on my heart to care for hurting children in our community and to love others as He loves."



Foster Care/Adoption Process:

We would like to thank you for your interest in helping families and children across Missouri & Illinois. We are pleased that you took the time to seek information on becoming part of the team of professionals who are dedicated to locating homes for children when they cannot safely remain in their own home. This team also strives to keep sibling groups together, reunify families, and support our foster and adoptive parent partners.

There are many reasons why people consider becoming a foster or adoptive parent. Whatever that reason may be, there is basic information that needs to be considered before starting the process. That information is included in this packet. The Children's Division and state contracted agencies are committed to locating and training couples and individuals who can provide stable, safe, caring, and skilled homes for children. Please take the time to read through the information in this packet and talk to any State licensed agency worker so that you can make an informed decision.

To be a Foster or Adoptive Parent, you must:

- Be at least 21 years of age;
- Complete a child abuse/neglect check and criminal record check;
- Be in good health, both physically and mentally;
- Have a stable income;
- Be willing to participate in and complete a free training and assessment process;
- Be part of a professional team willing to voice perspectives and concerns; and
- Be willing to partner with the child's family.

You can:

- Be with or without children;
- Be single or married; and
- Own or rent a home, apartment, condo, or other residence that meets the licensing standards.

Foster Care Overview:

Foster parents provide temporary care for children whose families are not able to care for them. Foster parents provide a safe and supportive home in which a child's emotional, physical, and social needs are met. Foster parents offer general guidance for growth and development to a child and their family, while supporting their relationships with kin and others who are important to the child. Throughout a child's stay, the foster parents will be expected to be an active member of a team that consists of children's service workers, the child and their family, the court and community members. The goal of this team is to meet the needs of the family in order to safely return the child home whenever possible.

Adoption Overview:

Adoptive families provide permanent, safe and stable homes for children. Adoption is the permanent, legal transfer of parental rights and responsibilities from a child's birth parents to the adoptive parents.

Many of the children, who wait to be adopted from child welfare programs have reached elementary school age, are children of color, are part of a sibling group, have special needs, and have lived in multiple out-of-home placements.

Training Overview:

The first step toward becoming a resource parent is the agency's assessment and training program. All resource parents are required to successfully complete MO C.A.R.E. training program. Adoptive parents continue with additional training. The MO C.A.R.E. program introduces prospective resource families to the rewards and challenges involved in caring for our most vulnerable children.

The MO C.A.R.E. program is important for even the most experienced parents because fostering and adopting is very different from parenting a biological child. Resource parents need to support the relationship of the child with his/her birth family and help the child manage feelings about being in foster care or the possibility of being adopted.

MO C.A.R.E. is the pre-service training program in Missouri
(Caregiver & Adoption Resource Education)

These training classes strive to prepare you to:

- Protect and nurture foster and adoptive children;
- Meet the children's developmental needs and address developmental delays;
- Support relationships between children and their families;
- Connect children with safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime; and
- Actively participate in a professional team.

MO C.A.R.E. also includes an in-home assessment consisting of at least four visits to your home by the Family Development Specialist. The specialist will discuss information with you about our agency and the children in our care as well as talk with you about your family. He or she will also look at your home environment for compliance with licensing requirements. Part of the assessment process is to help you make important decisions about whether or not fostering or adopting a child is right for you and your family.

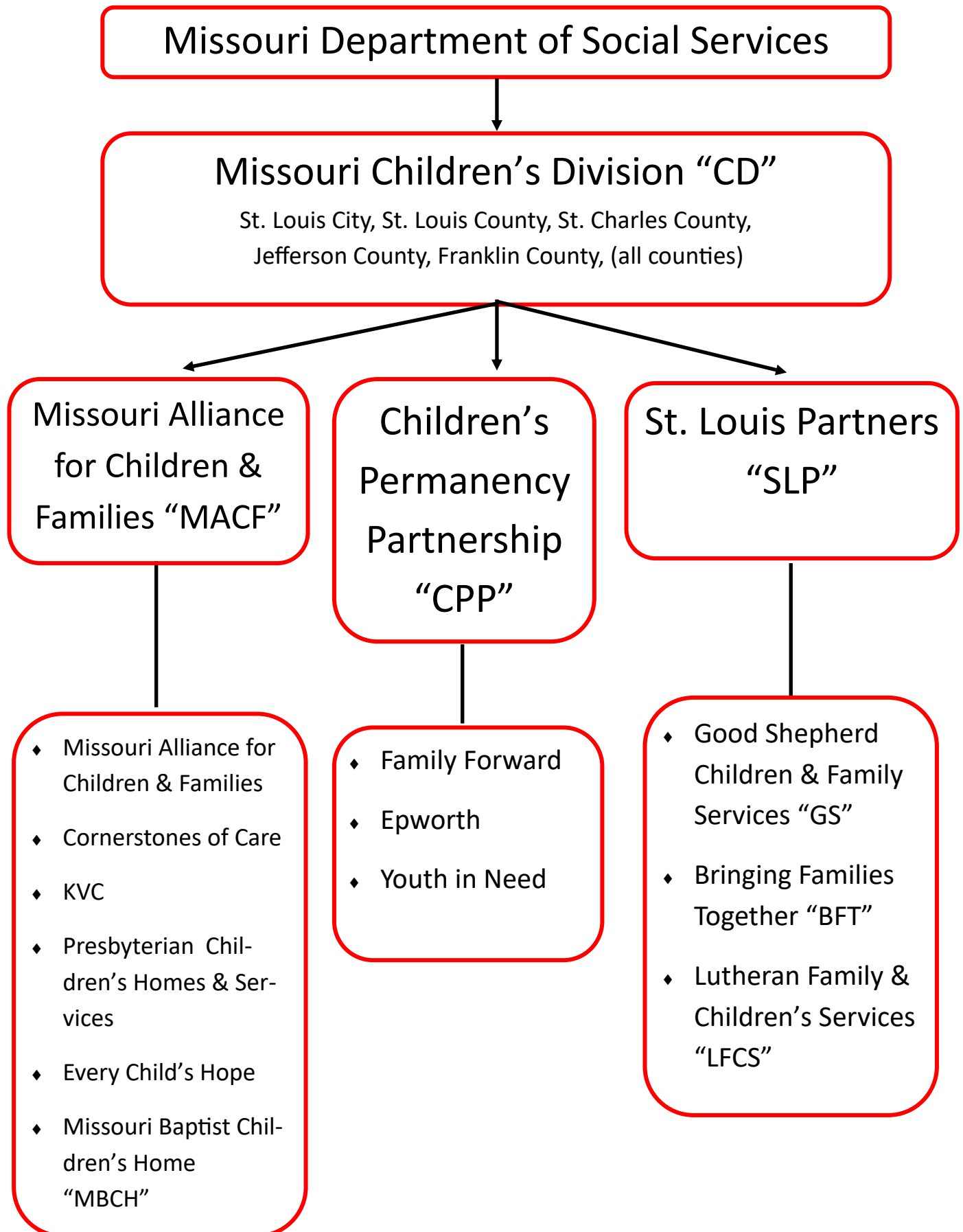
Additional training is required for prospective adoptive families.

MO A.R.C. is the Adoption training program in Missouri.
(Adoption Resource Curriculum)

These Adoption classes offer families the tools and information that they need to:

- Understand how adoptive families are different;
- Anticipate the effects of separation, loss, and grief in adoption;
- Understand the need to maintain optimal connection with those who matter to the child;
- Understand attachment and its importance in adoption;
- Anticipate challenges;
- Identify strategies for managing challenges as an adoptive family; and explore the lifelong commitment to a child that adoption requires.

Training sessions provide the opportunity to have questions answered, build relationships with other parents and agency staff, and determine whether your family has the ability and desire to meet the children's needs.



Foster Care and Adoption Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long will the whole process take?

A: There is no set answer for this actually. On an average, the process takes about 6 months to become a licensed foster/adoptive parent. There are several requirements such as training classes, paperwork, criminal and background checks completed, a home study completed and becoming licensed.

Q: What steps do I need to do to begin the process?

A: Contact One Heart or visit www.ohfm.org to complete an application. Return completed application to One Heart via email attachment, or regular mail. One Heart will then help match you with an agency to complete your home study while you attend the MO C.A.R.E. training with One Heart.

Q: Is there required training?

A: Yes. To be a foster or adoptive parent you must complete a 10 week training class that is called MO C.A.R.E. that is held one day per week in the evening. We also ask you to schedule and take CPR and First Aid. Instructions will be given to you during the home study process. We also ask Adoptive parents to take an additional 6 hours of training called MO A.R.C., which is adoptive training before you can have adoptive children in your home.

The MO C.A.R.E. training program is important for even the most experienced parents, because fostering and adopting is very different from parenting a child born to you. The MO C.A.R.E. program trains parents to skillfully guide children in their care.

MO C.A.R.E. is a free 30-hour training program that will prepare you to: Protect and nurture foster children; meet the children's developmental needs and address developmental delays; support relationships between children and their families; connect children with safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime; work as a member of a professional team; and make important decisions about whether or not fostering or adopting a child is right for you and your family.

The additional MO A.R.C. program is offered free of charge for prospective adoptive families. MO A.R.C. training offers families the tools and information that they need to: explain how adoptive families are in different; importance of separation, loss, and grief in adoption; understand attachment and its importance in adoption; anticipate challenges and be able to identify strategies for managing challenges as an adoptive family; and to explore the lifelong commitment to a child that adoption brings.

One Heart usually offers the MO C.A.R.E. classes 3 times a year. Typically we start a round in February, June, and September. We are the only ministry in St. Louis to teach MO C.A.R.E. with a Christian perspective incorporated into each class session.

Q: What happens if we miss one of the classes during the training process?

A: You are allowed to miss up to 2 classes but they will have to be made up. We will help you find a make-up class. We understand trips, business meetings, sickness, etc... are unavoidable.

Q: Do I need to have a big house to become a licensed parent?

A: No specific size house is required. You do need to have at least a twin size bed for every child that you wish to accept in your home once you have been licensed. You need to have enough bedrooms to accept children into your home. Children cannot sleep in the same room with you unless they are under age 2. You will need to review the physical and licensing standards with your Foster/Adoptive worker to make sure your home meets the required standards.

Q: I have biological children already. Can I be a foster/adoptive parent?

A: Yes. You have to meet licensing standards so you can only have a total of 6 children, 17 and under, in your home (requirement varies by agency) which includes foster/adoptive and biological. This limitation does not apply to adoptive families.

Q: If I am single, can I foster or adopt? If I am married, can I foster or adopt?

A: Yes. Many of our greatest foster and adoptive parents are single.

Q: What does it cost to adopt thru foster care?

A: It is free to adopt thru foster care. During the foster care process there is a monthly maintenance payment per child, daycare is paid for by the state for working parents and children are on Medicaid for their health insurance. After an adoption is finalized, the adoptive parents continue to receive a monthly maintenance payment, daycare assistance; children can stay on Medicaid, and the state pays for all your legal fees for the adoption finalization.

Q: Is there required paperwork?

A: Yes, there is a great deal of paperwork that is required of you. We ask you to get a physical on all members in the family, birth certificates, copy of auto insurance, driving records, pet vaccinations, marriage and divorce decrees, school references, employer references, questions about finances, W2's from the last year or current pay check stubs and more. You will also have to sign a great deal of paperwork at your initial visit, which takes about an hour with your worker. You will also have a questionnaire and application along with more required paperwork that you will turn in, in a timely manner.

Q: What is a home study and what is the process of completing it? How long does it take to be completed?

A: A home study is a required document that is all about you and your family. A license worker will ask you a great deal of questions about your history, marriage, family life, likes, dislikes and much more. Your worker will be asking these questions to assess you to make sure that this will be the right decision for you and your family. We need to make sure that you can effectively care for abused and neglected children. These questions will help your worker get familiar with you so they can write a document that can be presented to other agencies. This document will tell a story that will help the professional team find children that will be a good fit with your family.

Q: What is a licensing worker and when are they assigned to me?

A: A licensing worker is assigned to you once you are licensed. At times, you may get an assigned licensing worker assigned to you that will complete your home study. If that is not the same person, once you become a licensed family then you will have a licensing worker assigned to you. This worker will make sure that your home stays in licensing compliance with the state of Missouri. They will be the one calling you for placements of children in your home.

Q: When are children placed in our home? What is the process of getting the children?

A: Once your home study is completed and all of your required paperwork is collected, your information will be sent to Jefferson City so they can provide your agency and YOU an official license. Once you are, licensed you then are put on the list of families that can provide care to kids. Your licensing worker will contact you when they feel that they have children that will be a good fit with your family.

Q: How long do I have to decide if that placement will work for me?

A: Not long, most times you have a total of 30 minutes to decide. The workers calling to get placements have to the end of the day to get a placement made. Often there is not much information to go on, only faith.

Q: How long will a foster child be in our home?

A: The length of time a foster child is with you differs for every situation. When a child first comes into foster care, the social worker will ask the birth parent if there are any relatives that are interested in caring for this child. If so, a relative could get that child within a month or less after they come into foster care. If there are not any stable relatives, the child will remain in your home until the court decides that the child either can go home or be placed up for adoption. This generally takes 1-2 years. If a birthparent is very proactive to get their court recommendations completed, the child could go back home within a few months.

Again—each case is very different!

Q: How will taking in foster children affect our birth children?

A: If you approach fostering with the perspective that this is a ministry for our family and you include your children in the process, you will be amazed how wonderful the impact can be on your bio kids. Of course there will be sibling issues with sharing toys, mom and dad's time etc... but that would happen if you had another bio kid too. Talk to your kids while you are going through the licensing process to prepare them for the changes that may occur. We will talk more about this in the MO C.A.R.E. training.

Q: Can we take a foster child on vacation with us to another state?

A: Most likely yes, the courts will have to give you a court order to travel but that is easily done.

Q: Adoption, how do we get matched with a child/children in need of an adoptive family?

A: Your adoption worker will show you profiles of children in need of adoptive families. You can also help with this process by looking at adoptive websites to view profiles and then letting your licensing worker know about the profile and the caseworkers name and number that is assigned to the children that you are interested in. They will then talk to the caseworker and find out more information. They will let you know about the children and then if you are still interested they will fax over your home study to the caseworker. Once the caseworker has accepted the home study, they will schedule a staffing, which is a meeting that will be conducted by a professional team to determine the needs and strengths of the children. They will then determine what family will be the best fit for the children. After careful consideration, they will all make a decision. The process to be matched with children can take months, so this will be a time that you will have to have strong faith and a great deal of patience. Please note you have to have a life book ready if you want to be considered for children. In the adoption training we will discuss how to create a life book.

Q: If we want to adopt, can we look for children on the internet in other states and pursue adopting them?

A: We prefer that you look within Missouri for 6 months after you license is complete. If you have not had a child placed with you during that time, you can begin to look outside of Missouri. Things get complicated when you adopt from another state but it can be done.

Q: What is a life book? Do I have to complete one?

A: A life book is a photo album with about 20 pictures in it that tells the professional team about you and your family. This book will tell a story of you to the team so they will know you without you being there. This is a requirement so if you don't have your life book ready to submit you will not be considered for children. This book is designed for adoptive parents to share with the professional team once a staffing is scheduled for adoption. Once you are interested in a child or children and have decided that you want your home study to be sent because you are interested in specific children, when a staffing is scheduled the life book must be sent to the professional team. This is required to complete in your Spaulding training.

Q: Can the birth parents come back to claim a child after an adoption occurs?

A: After birth parents rights are terminated by the court, they do not have rights to come back and get that child, ever!

Q: If we are going to be moving to another state in the next year, can we still be licensed in Missouri and transfer everything to the new state?

A: No. If you plan to move out of state in the near future, you need to wait and be licensed to adopt in the state you will be moving to. Each state has a specific process to license foster and adoptive families.

Q: What is respite? How can I do this?

A: Respite is a wonderful help and we don't have as many respite providers as we would like. Respite is a term that we use to describe caring for children who live in foster homes but they are in need of a break. You as a respite provider will care for these children on a temporary basis. An example of this would be "Sally is living in a foster home and the foster family may need a break away from Sally-actually Sally may need a break away from the family as well". The foster family would call you and ask you if you can watch their children for the weekend or if they choose to go on vacation. You would then be their home away from home for a short time. You would not have these children permanently in your home but on an as needed basis. You are paid for this and you also develop quite a special bond with the children and families you will serve. You will be a positive role model who will be able to offer guidance and support for the children.

Resource Family Supports

Agency Support

It is our intent to support you in being as successful as possible. Some of the ways that we may support you include regular contact with agency staff, respite (as appropriate), ongoing training, professional development plan, support groups, child care, home visits, team meetings, phone consultation, and a formal process for sharing your concerns.

Medical Services

Medical and Dental insurance is provided to children in the state's custody. When a child in care needs counseling or therapeutic services, the state also provides for those services through a Medicaid provider. We will assist you in identifying a provider.

In-Service Trainings and Support Groups

The Children's Division, contracted agencies, and other community-based organizations offer continuing education and in-service training opportunities to enhance the skills and knowledge of foster parents. Each foster parent is required to complete fifteen (15) hours per year or thirty hours every two years of approved in-service training. Agency staff will assist you in locating the training opportunities. There are a number of local and statewide foster and adoptive parent support groups across the state. Parenting associations and agency coalitions are dedicated to supporting and advocating for foster and adoptive families.

Resource lending libraries are available to families across the state of Missouri. These libraries include titles pertaining to child development, attachment, family dynamics, and issues related to adoption of children with special needs.

Respite and Child Care

Respite may be provided to resource families when temporary care is needed for their foster or adoptive children. Respite care providers are certified by the state and the Children's Division or contracted agency may cover the costs of using these providers.

When child care is approved for children who are not school aged, resource parents can choose the child care facility for the child as long as it is state licensed/contracted.

Maintenance

Resource parents receive a monthly foster care reimbursement, which helps cover the cost related to caring for the children in their home. Typically, the costs are for the child's food, clothing, and personal needs. Foster care reimbursement amounts vary depending on the age of the child, the level of care being provided, and the training level of the foster parents.

In foster care, an infant allowance is paid for qualifying children between the ages of 0-2 to help with the additional costs of providing for the specific needs of infants, such as formula, diapers, special food, extra clothing and supplies. Each child in foster care is eligible for a clothing allowance to assist the resource parents with the expense of providing for the child's clothing needs.

Next Steps

Helpful Questions to ask Potential Licensing agencies

- What type of service is the agency most in need of? (i.e. foster care, adoption, respite)
- What age range of child(ren) is the agency recruiting foster and/or adoptive families for?
- What services does your agency provide that is unique to other agencies?
- Is your agency faith-based and if so, what does that mean?
- What jurisdictions does the agency cover (counties foster kids are coming from) and will the family receive placements from the agency if they live in a surrounding county?
- Approximately how many foster families is the licensing worker working with at a time?
- What is the typical timeframe in which the agency completes licensure to become a foster family?





Please email info@ohfm.org with additional questions.

Thank you again for your willingness to help Missouri & Illinois's Foster kids.

State of Missouri: St. Louis Region & County Adoption/Foster Care Agencies

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>St. Louis Region</p>  | <p>St. Louis City & County</p> <p>Contact Information: <i>Tonya Williams, BS</i> Family Development Specialist 314-340-7032 office 314-340-7777 fax tonya.williams@dss.mo.gov</p> <p>St Louis City Children's Division PO Box 771820 St Louis MO 63177</p> <p><i>Shivonne Goosby-Gaines, BA</i> Social Service Specialist 314-340-3472 office 314-340-4920 fax Shivonne.L.Goosby-Gaines@dss.mo.gov</p> |
| <p>St. Charles County</p>  | <p>Contact Information: <i>Ken Spellmeyer</i>, Licensing Supervisor <i>Susan Snyder</i> 3737 Harry S. Truman St. Charles, MO 63301 Phone: 636.940.3440 Susan Phone: 636.940.3395 Ken Susan.E.Snyder@dss.mo.gov Kenneth.Spellmeyer@dss.mo.gov</p> |

State of Missouri: City & County Adoption/Foster Care Agencies

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Jefferson County</p>  | <p>Contact Information: <i>Mike Emert</i> 10325 State Hwy 21, Suite 200 Hillsboro, MO 63050 Phone: 636.797.9618 Michael.a.emert@dss.mo.gov</p> |
| <p>Warren County</p>  | <p>Contact Information: <i>Ronna Witthaus</i> 513 West Booneslick Warrenton, MO 63383 Phone: 573.564.2258 ronna.a.witthaus@dss.mo.gov</p> |
| <p>Lincoln/Pike County</p>  | <p>Contact Information: <i>Bobbi Cross</i> P.O.Box 318 Troy, MO 63379 573-742-3229 office 573-324-2930 fax Bobbijene.cross@dss.mo.gov</p> |
| <p>Franklin, Gasconade & Osage County</p>  | <p>Contact Information: <i>VACANT</i> Phone: 636.584.6388 Main Line</p> |

Contracted Adoption/Foster Care Agencies



BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Contact Information:

Kim Brown Resource Director

7151 North Lindbergh Blvd

Hazelwood, MO 63042

Phone: 314-938-5704

Fax: 314-731-3906

KimB@BringingFamiliesTogether.com

www.BringingFamiliesTogether.com

Bringing Families Together (BFT), has over **20 years of service** in the St. Louis and surrounding region as a **certified Women's Business Enterprise**.

Bringing Families Together is a privately owned child-placing agency licensed with the State of Missouri and fully accredited. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of Missouri's children and families, while promoting safe, nurturing environments in which children can learn, grow and develop.

BFT provides a full range of foster care and adoptive services, including domestic, international and private adoption and guardianship services.

Service area: St. Louis area and surrounding counties; can provide services to a majority of the eastern portion of the state



Jennifer Humphrey, Lead Supervisor Resource Licensing and Adoption

Jennifer.Humphrey@familyforwardmo.org

314-602-9926

Abby Bell

Associate Supervisor Resource Licensing and Adoption

Abigail.Bell@familyforwardmo.org

314-397-5239

Pam Musgrave, Associate Supervisor Resource Licensing and Adoption

Pamela.Musgrave@familyforwardmo.org

314-728-0961

Children's Permanency Partnership (CPP)

is a consortium of three child welfare organizations, Epworth Children & Family Services, Family Forward and Youth in Need. CPP provides foster care case management and adoption services to 690 children and youth in the St. Louis metropolitan and surrounding areas.

Service Area: St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, Jefferson County and Washington County.

Children's Permanency Partnership

110 N. Elm Street

Saint Louis, MO 63119

314-534-9350 Office



A MINISTRY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Contact Information:

Stephanie Rickenberg, Foster Family Recruiter

Good Shepherd
Children & Family Services

Office: 314-854-5716

Fax: 314-854-5750

Email: srickenberg@gsstl.org

Website: www.goodshepherdstl.org

Good Shepherd Children & Family Services

works to keep the children in their care safe, help them heal, provide them the skills for self-care, and connect them with those who will provide support throughout their lives. Jesus Christ set forth the example of a good shepherd, one who watches over, cares for and guides those in need.

Good Shepherd's mission is to connect children with families and keep families connected. In response to this mission, the agency provides public foster and adoptive care services, private adoption services, mentoring services, expectant parent services, and residential services for teens including those with children of their own.

We recognize the great need for foster/ adoptive families and are committed to continuing an active role in engaging churches to care for the orphaned through *Fostering Faithful Families*.



Contact Information:

Sandy Frank, Supervisor
SFrank@kvc.org

Arlethia Ware Licensing & Placement Specialist
AWare@kvc.org

Jill Gardner Licensing & Placement Specialist
JGardner@kvc.org

KVC Missouri St. Louis/Webster Groves
330 North Gore Ave. St. Louis, MO 63119
(844) 424-3577

At **KVC Missouri**, we are focused on honoring individuality while working collaboratively in diverse and inclusive groups to ensure healthy childhoods and healthy communities throughout the communities we serve. KVC's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging is grounded in the diverse representation of the children, adults and families we serve. Currently, KVC licenses foster parents for both our Treatment Foster Care program, our more traditional foster children, and Relative placements. It is our top priority to help kids in our care experience the most normal lives possible. Fundamental to healthy, emotional development is a safe, stable, nurturing home. When a child leaves residential treatment, sometimes the child is not quite ready to handle the freedom, or connectedness, of living in a home setting. Treatment foster homes offer safe, stable, nurturing environments where a child is in the care of foster parents who have been specifically trained to continue the child's treatment program, as well as support and guide the child in reorienting to a family living situation. The child's stay in a community treatment home is relatively short-term and enables the child, who most likely has not lived in a family situation in a long time, the opportunity to receive 24-hour therapeutic treatment in a foster family setting.

Service area: State of Missouri

www.missouri.kvc.org



Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS)

began as an orphanage in 1868 and continues to serve children and families across the state of Missouri today.

Our Mission: Through Christ's Love, we empower children and families to overcome challenges today so they can build a better tomorrow.

Our Vision: Generations of children and families across Missouri are safer and stronger together.

Our Services: Parenting, Pregnancy, Adoption, Foster Care, Counseling, and Child Development programs.

Service Area: State of Missouri

Contact Information:

Jenny Thomas, Intake manager

9666 Olive Blvd. Suite 400
St. Louis, MO 63132

Direct Jenny: 314-754-2807

Main Intake Line: 314-754-2736

intake@lfcs.org

JennyT@lfcs.org

www.lfcsmo.org



Missouri Alliance for Children & Families (MACF)

is a private agency contracted with the State of Missouri to provide specialized foster care services for children throughout the state. We are also accredited and licensed. We provide STARS (foster parent) training, Spaulding (adoption) training, as well as specialized training for Level A and Level B homes. We support our youth, families and caregivers through our Family Search and Engagement and Trust-Based Relational Intervention programs .

Service Area:

Missouri Alliance For Children & Families Offices In: Jefferson City, St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield and Dexter

Contact Information:

Karie Scott-Roark M.Ed
Director of Resource Development
Missouri Alliance for Children and Families
PO Box 104265

Jefferson City, MO 65110

573-556-8090 Direct

573-680-0173 Main Line

www.ma-cf.org

KRoark@ma-cf.org



Contact Information:

Tiffany Crumer Family Resource Dev. Supervisor

11300 St. Charles Rock Rd.
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Phone: 314-739-6811 x1298
Fax: 314-739-6325

www.mbch.org

MBCH Children and Family Ministries (an affiliate of Missouri Baptist Children's Home) is a Christian agency that has been helping hurting kids and families in the St. Louis area since 1886.

For many years we have provided foster parenting classes at no cost to qualified parents at our Bridgeton location. Our experienced workers will assist you through the process of becoming licensed and prepare you for welcoming a child into your family. We maintain licensed homes as well and work with families throughout the time children are placed in their homes.

MBCH also offers a Treatment Family Care Program for children and adolescents in foster care with elevated needs. We offer specialized training and support for foster parents, and a per diem is paid allowing one parent to stay at home.

Service area: St. Louis City & County, Jefferson County, St. Charles County and Franklin County.



Presbyterian Children's Homes and ServicesSM

Contact Information:

Dawn Couser, MA, LPC

Regional Director – St. Louis Region

1220 N. Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63132

Office: (314) 549-8197
Fax: (314) 785-0181

Dawn.couser@pchas.org

www.pchas.org

Service area: State of Missouri

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) uses best practices to keep families intact, whenever possible, by helping families overcome challenges together. We recognize the great need for relative/kinship/foster/adoptive families and we collaborate with other agencies in the area to recruit and support such families. PCHAS has been helping struggling children and families of all faiths for more than 100 years. We offer therapeutic services in the community as well as transitional living group homes and apartments across the State of Missouri. In the St. Louis area, PCHAS' community-based services include foster care case management, medical case management for foster children, therapeutic mentoring, and in-home family therapy. PCHAS programs are family-centered, strength-focused and goal-driven. Our programs make a real difference in people's lives, whether they're struggling with poverty, mental illness, or a background of abuse or neglect. PCHAS is a nondenominational agency relying on Christian values to guide our mission in serving children and families in need.

Support Organizations



Contact Information:

Emily Nienhuis, Executive Director
Theresa Williams, Director Operations

13250 South Outer Forty Rd
 Town & Country MO 63017
 Phone: 314-250-6983

emilyn@ohfm.org
theresaw@ohfm.org

The mission of **One Heart Family**

Ministries is to recruit Christian parents for children in need of a foster or adoptive home. One Heart will assist in providing the necessary state training to become licensed foster and adoptive parents along with a Biblical foundation and perspective. One Heart also offers a network of support to their families after classes are completed and children join their family.

One Heart desires to help all children who have been abandoned, abused, neglected or orphaned so they may have a chance at a new life with a Christian family. One Heart teaches and encourages their families to love these children unconditionally and to help them through their pain and struggles by sharing Christ's love and giving them hope for the future.

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ohfm.org

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/oneheartfamilyministries>

Website: ohfm.org



Specialist Volunteer Engagement
 920 N. Vandeventer
 St. Louis, MO 63108
 p. 314-552-2774 DIRECT
 f. 314-533-2617 FAX
info@stlcasa.org
 Website: stlcasa.org

Service Populations: Children under the jurisdiction of St. Louis City and County Family Courts, 0 – 21 years old

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences who share a commitment to improving the lives of children in foster care. Volunteers complete an extensive background screening process and more than 30 hours of training. After successful completion of these preservice requirements, CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for children's best interests in the court and in the community.

CASA volunteers provide a stable, consistent adult presence in their lives. As a professional member of the child's team, CASAs get to know the child, gather information from those involved in the child's life and make informed recommendations to the court about what is best for the child. We ensure through the uncertainties; the child's voice is heard and their needs remain a priority.

CASA is a national movement operating 950 programs in 49 states. There are more than 93,000 volunteers throughout the country working on behalf of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. In FY21, CASA of St. Louis served 500 children through the dedicated advocacy of 225 volunteers.

Support Organizations



Tim Hite, Director
49 College Campus Dr.
Moscow Mills, MO 63362
Phone: 636-383-1349

tim@divinenest.com
divinenest.com

Divine Nest is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving foster, relative and adoptive families in Lincoln and St. Charles Counties. Our mission is to provide every child with the opportunity to have a safe and nurturing family by recruiting, equipping and supporting families for foster care and adoption. In the communities we serve, there are many challenges related to the child welfare system. As a result, we have three objectives: recruit safe and nurturing families for foster care and adoption, facilitate trauma informed training for foster and adoptive families, and provide programs like support groups, events, First Night Bags, etc. that effectively support foster and adoptive families.

Counties we serve: St. Charles, Lincoln, Pike



Cisely Beard

Sr. Program Director of General & Targeted Recruitment

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
1750 S. Brentwood Blvd., Ste. 210
St. Louis, MO 63144

o 800.FOSTER.3 ([314.367.8373](tel:314.367.8373))
ciselybeard@foster-adopt.org

The **Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition** is a non-profit agency, founded in 1985 with the support of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Our agency is dedicated to finding every child a place to call home. The Coalition consists of 38 member agencies, including the area's most-respected public and private agencies. Our staff includes foster/adoptive parents and child welfare professionals with a broad range of expertise.

We know that opening your heart and home to a child can be an overwhelming prospect. If you are thinking about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, we have services and support to help. Call us at 800.FOSTER.3 or visit our website, www.foster-adopt.org/future-parents/#inquire for more information.

Want to share your time and talents with a child in foster care, but are not able to make a full-time commitment? There are many volunteer opportunities you can learn about by either calling us at 800.FOSTER.3 or visiting our website, www.foster-adopt.org/volunteer/ for more information. You can be a part of creating forever families.

We serve the 7 following counties in MO:

St. Louis City, St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, Warren, Lincoln, Jefferson

We serve the 7 following counties in IL:

Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Clinton, Bond, Randolph, Washington

Information for our Illinois Guests

If you are joining us from across the border in Illinois, the contact information below should assist you in selecting an agency and starting the foster care/ adoption process in your state. The Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition can also help you in this process.

You can reach them at: 1-800.FOSTER.3



Contact Information:

Brittany Weatherby – Licensing Supervisor

bweatherby@hoyleton.org

618-688-4727

<https://hoyleton.org/get-involved/become-a-foster-parent/>

Service Area: Southern Illinois - Madison & St. Clair Counties



Contact Information:

Cristalle Turner

314-266-1498

cturner@therestorenetwork.org

Lead Director, The Restore Network

Since 1895, **Hoyleton Youth & Family Services** has grown to become one of Southern Illinois' leaders in providing emotional and mental health services for every stage of youth and family development. Restoring families, preparing young adults to make positive life decisions, helping parents and guardians be better parents, and providing wellness education are some of the ways we're working to build stronger communities.

The need for loving foster homes has never been greater, and our team is looking for parents that want to explore this opportunity. While there are challenges that come, the love a child shares far outweighs them. We look forward to starting a conversation with you soon.

The Restore Network is a community of God's people recruiting and supporting foster families while advocating for a better system for kids. We are committed to changing the culture of foster care so every child experiences healing. What do we do?

The short answer is ***a lot!***

But the basic idea is this:

We start by aiming to recruit more than enough foster families. As a family joins The Restore Network, we equip them with the trauma-informed training and tools they need to help children grow and heal, while maintaining balance in the home. Next, we work with agencies to match children with Restore Network families most likely to help them thrive, not just the nearest empty bed. Then, when a child is formally placed in a Restore home, our community launches into action with meals, clothes, beds, car seats, and ongoing advocacy, prayers, and support which continue as long as the child is there. Whether God is calling you to foster, volunteer, or to give financially— we each have a part to play in the transforming stories of pain and suffering to ones of healing and hope. To get involved, visit www.TheRestoreNetwork.org.



Contact Information:

Allison Heater

618-731-8813

Allison.Heater@caritasfamily.org

Family Finding & Recruitment Supervisor

Caritas Family Solutions

900 Royal Heights Rd., Suite 2150 | Belleville, IL, 62226

Caritas Family Solutions provides comprehensive domestic adoption services, home study and post placement services for International adoptions, birthparent counseling for those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, traditional and treatment foster care, the St. John Bosco Children's Center, individual, family and school counseling, senior employment services, and referral services throughout 42 counties in Southern Illinois.

There is an ongoing need for foster families willing to care for children birth to 18 years with return to home goals.

Are you interested in fostering a baby, sibling group, or teenager?

www.caritasfamilysolutions.org

Belleville: 900 Royal Heights Rd., Suite 2150 Belleville, IL, 62226

Alton: 111 E. 4th Street Suite 125 Alton, IL 62002

Highland: 1300 Mercantile Dr. Highland IL 62249

Glen carbon: 4517 SR 159 Suite 4 Glen Carbon, IL 62034



Contact Information:

Molly Skawski MSW

Statewide program manager for licensing, placement and family outreach

618-574-828

fosterinquiry@brightpoint.org

Brightpoint:

Foster Care services provide safe, secure and nurturing homes for children who have been separated from the care of their biological families. When families are unable to care for their children, Brightpoint works to find suitable homes for them with foster parents who can provide the appropriate care based on the children's individual needs.

Each year, Brightpoint provides Foster Care services to more than 1,000 children who need to be placed in foster homes because their biological families are in crisis and are unable to provide for them. There are many children who need loving homes. Unfortunately, there are more than 16,000 foster children throughout Illinois and not enough foster parents. You can make a difference in a child's life by opening your home and heart to a child who needs your loving care.

Interstate Compact on Placement of Children

The Compact is a uniform law enacted by all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands to assist in the placement of children from one state to another. Provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) ensure the same protection and services to children as if they had remained in their home state.

The Compact applies to:

- Children who are wards of the court and are being placed with a parent or relative when a parent or relative is not making the placement;
- Children who are entering foster care or a placement for the purpose of adoption;
- Children who are wards of the court for placement in a group home and/or residential treatment facility;
- Children who are to be placed in a group home and/or residential treatment facility by a legal guardian;
- Children who are placed by a legal guardian with a person outside of the third degree of relationship;
- Children who are adjudicated delinquents for placement in a group home and/or residential treatment facility.

ICPC provides the sending agency the opportunity to obtain home studies in the receiving state prior to placement of the child. The prospective receiving state ensures that the placement is not “contrary to the best interests of the child” and that all applicable laws and policies are followed before it approves the placement. ICPC guarantees the child’s legal and financial protection once the child moves to the receiving state. The sending agency receives the opportunity to obtain supervision and regular reports on the child’s adjustment and progress in the placement.

The sending agency is defined as a party state to the Compact, officer or employee, a subdivision of a party state, a court of a party state, a person, corporation, association, charitable agency or other entity which sends, brings, or causes to be sent or brought any child into another party state. Placement is defined as the arrangement for the care of a child in a family home, or boarding home, or group home and/or residential treatment facility. The Compact does not apply to placement of children into any institution caring for the mentally ill, mentally defective or epileptic, or any institution primarily educational in character, and/or any hospital or other medical facility.

Information taken from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/icpc.html>

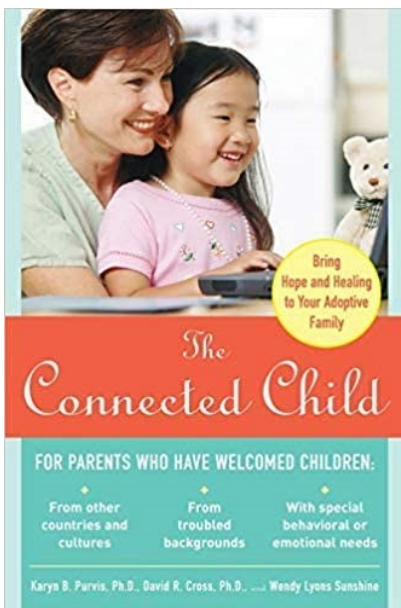
Trust-Based Relational Intervention®:

TBRI® is a holistic, attachment-based, and trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. Created by Drs. Karyn Purvis and David Cross of the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. While it is based on years of attachment, trauma, and neuroscience research, the intervention has grown out of hands-on work with children who have experienced trauma. Children from “hard places” have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and belief systems. While a variety of parenting strategies may be successful in typical circumstances, children from hard places need caregiving that meets their unique needs and addresses the whole child.

Hope for the Journey Conference ***Formerly the Empowered to Connect Conference***

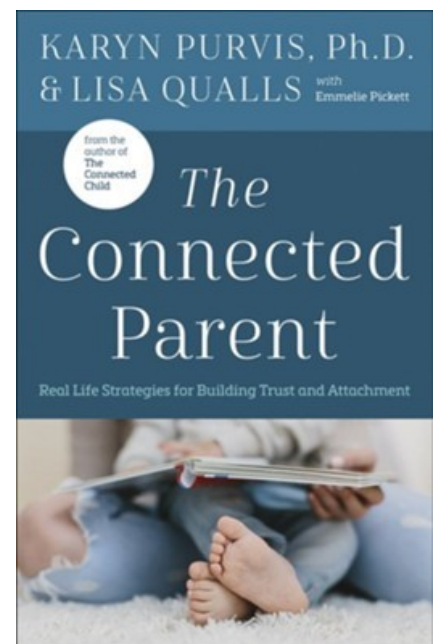
Building on the knowledge and experience gained over the past 10 years, Show Hope’s Hope for the Journey Conference will premiere on *Friday, April 5, 2024*.

The aim of this virtual event will be to shepherd parents and caregivers to a deeper understanding of their children’s needs. As more and more families have responded to meeting the needs of vulnerable children by adopting and



providing foster care, the demand for practical and proven resources and tools continues to grow. In alignment with Show Hope’s mission to care for orphans by engaging the Church and reducing barriers to adoption, our faith compels us and our experience informs us as we work to reimagine our conference. For more information visit www.showhope.org & www.ohfm.org

Recommended Reading:
The Connected Child &
The Connected Parent



Please scan QR code and complete follow-up info:



NOTES:



Bonhomme Presbyterian Church

Love God, Love People,
and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

One Heart Family Ministries would like to extend a special thanks to Bonhomme Presbyterian Church for assisting in this event-

Hope for kids - *Finding Families for foster kids.*

We would also like to thank all of our speakers for sharing their stories and encouraging testimonies with all of us today.

May God continue to bless all those in Missouri & Illinois laboring on behalf of children and youth in foster care.

Emily Nienhuis

Director

One Heart Family Ministries

emilyn@ohfm.org

www.ohfm.org

314-250-6983