

Wait No More®



Finding Families for
Texas' Waiting Kids



Next Steps

Today: 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
- **Fill out and turn in the green initiation form**
- Obtain any relevant paperwork
- Find out their orientation and training schedule

If you are planning to further explore adoption, please fill out the green initiation 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.

In the Future: 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.

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!

Next Steps:

- Continue to pray about how God will use you and His specific plan for your family
- Tell someone you trust about how God is leading you and the steps you are taking
- If you have not heard from an agency after three weeks, contact the agency you listed on your initiation form or Focus on the Family
- Be proactive about any paperwork, training or requirements

Tips on How to Choose an Adoption Agency¹

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 Texas. 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 challenges.

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 (some good questions to ask)

- 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, then talk to the director.

¹ Adapted from Colorado Department of Human Services/Division of Child Welfare "Tips for Selecting An Adoption Agency"

Agency Overview



Arrow Child and Family Ministries

Service area: greater Houston area, including Harris, Montgomery, Galveston and Brazoria Counties and outlying areas.

Arrow Child and Family Ministries is a non-profit human service organization. We were founded in 1992 by Mark Tennant, a former foster child. We are a Christian ministry, and we are a licensed child placing agency contracted with the State of Texas to serve children in state custody through foster care and adoptive placements. We partner with local churches and the community to recruit and support foster and adopt families. We provide clinical, Biblically based training and pre-service training classes for potential foster/adoptive families.

Contact Information:

Andrea Pellerin—Program Director
2929 FM 2920 Road
Spring, TX 77388
Phone: 281.210.1500, 281.210.1555; Fax: 281.210.1569

Email: andrea.pellerin@arrow.org
Website: www.arrow.org

Notes: _____



Buckner Children and Family Services

Service Area: Houston, Beaumont and Lufkin areas

Buckner Foster Care and Adoption is part of Buckner Children and Family Services, a Christian organization with a commitment to provide safe and loving home environments for at-risk children and orphans. Our team of professional counselors and social workers build personal relationships and offer emotional support to each and every family. We have years of experience working with children and families and are committed to helping find loving homes for children in our community.

Contact Information:

Sara Richards—Foster Home Developer Coordinator
9055 Manion Drive
Beaumont, TX 77706
Phone: 409.866.0976 x350230, 409.679.4332; Fax: 409.866.8190

Email: srichards@buckner.org
Website: www.beafamily.org

Notes: _____



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese-Houston

Service area: Harris and surrounding counties

At Catholic Charities, foster care has been part of our work from our very beginning in 1943. We are experienced, and we help children in desperate situations find hope and stability.

Catholic Charities' Foster Care Services recognizes that every child is a gift of God and that his or her needs are best met in a nurturing environment. Our foster care program provides for the temporary placement of infants and children in stable foster families. Foster parents play a critical role in providing a substitute family for the children by providing food, clothing and shelter, as well as love, protection, guidance and discipline in a spiritual environment.

Contact Information:

Raj Kendrick—Program Director
2900 Louisiana Street
Houston, TX 77006
Phone: 713.874.6530, 713.874.6751; Fax: 713.874.6785

Email: rkendrick@catholiccharities.org
Website: www.catholiccharities.org

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DePelchin Children's Center

Service area: Region 6—Harris and the 12 surrounding counties

DePelchin Children's Center offers programs and service through two main divisions: Child Welfare and Behavioral Health Care. Within those divisions, programs are arranged to provide a continuum of care that supports DePelchin's mission. DePelchin's foster care services provides care for more than 400 children and 250 licensed foster homes that provide both basic and therapeutic care. Through its adoption program, DePelchin supports families and individuals wanting to adopt children who are in the care of Child Protective Services and need a permanent, loving home. In an effort to strengthen and preserve families, DePelchin offers a range of post-adoption services, including individual and group counseling, adoption support groups, parent education resources and 24-hour crisis intervention. The Behavioral Health division provides counseling services, psychological testing and child and adolescent psychiatry.

Contact Information:

DeJuana Jernigan—Director
4950 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77007
Phone: 713.802.3887, 281.402.3887; Fax: 713.802.6387

Email: djernigan@depelchin.org
Website: www.depelchin.org

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The Gladney Center for Adoption

Service area: State of Texas

The Gladney Center is a 125-year-old adoption agency committed to finding loving, permanent families for children needing an adoptive family. We work with birth parents, adoptive families and adoptive persons. We offer pre-adoption and post-adoption services.

Contact Information:

Tanya Houk
6300 John Ryan
Fort Worth, TX 76132
Phone: 817.922.6078, 817.692.8497; Fax: 817.922.6066

Email: tanya.houk@gladney.org
Website: www.adoptionsbygladney.com

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Homes4Good

Service area: Houston and surrounding areas, Bryan/ College Station and surrounding areas, Waco and surrounding area

Homes4Good recruits and verifies families and individuals who have a calling to be a forever family for a waiting child. Additionally, we seek families and individuals who have a calling as a crusader in the effort to assist us in finding a "forever family" for every waiting child.

We are a child-placing agency that will guide you through the process of becoming an adoptive or foster parent. Once a child is placed in your home, we continue to provide help and support services to make the placement a success. You will always have a team of professionals supporting everyone in your family.

Contact Information:

Cynthia Young—Director of Adoption Services
1915 N Frazier, Suite 103
Conroe, TX 77301
Phone: 936.756.3003, 281.788.3417; Fax: 713.583.9002

Email: cyoung@homes4good.org
Website: <http://homes4good.org>

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Safe Haven Community Services

Service area: Great Houston area, including Galveston

Safe Haven Community Services is an agency focused on permanency through foster care and adoption for children who have suffered abuse, neglect and abandonment. Safe Haven is seeking couples and individuals who are dedicated to permanency for at-risk children by providing a safe, stable and nurturing environment. Families receive support services such as therapeutic training, 24 hour crisis intervention, parent support groups, in-home case management visits, and individual and family therapy.

Contact Information:

Brandi Nichols—Adoption and Family Development Specialist

7324 SW Freeway, Suite 835

Email: bnichols@safehavencommunityservices.org

Houston, TX 77074

Website: www.safehavencommunityservices.org

Phone: 713.988.7233, 281.685.7692; Fax: 713.541.1884

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Spaulding for Children

Spaulding for Children's mission is to provide children in need of a loving home with the joy of having one.

A not-for-profit organization with a 31-year history, Spaulding for Children is dedicated to building and sustaining strong, nurturing families for children who have endured abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Our vision is to be the premier provider of adoption, foster care and related services in Texas. Because of Spaulding for Children, there could be a loving family for every child who needs one. The agency is recognized for its innovative programs and leadership in collaborative initiatives.

Contact Information:

Angela Harden

Email: aharden@spauldingforchildren.org

8582 Katy Freeway, Suite 100

Website: www.spauldingforchildren.org

Houston, TX 77095

Phone: 713.681.6991

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Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Service area: Houston and surrounding areas

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services administers a program called CHILD "Congregations Helping in Love and Dedication". The program is designed to recruit Foster and/or Adoptive parents through the Faith-Based community and train and license them. We ask for the support of churches and ministries to assist us in these efforts by allowing us to recruit and train at their

facilities and providing support for their families after the training and the foster and/or adoptive process is completed.

Contact Information:

Karen Moore

1919 North Loop West, Suite 320

Houston, TX 77008

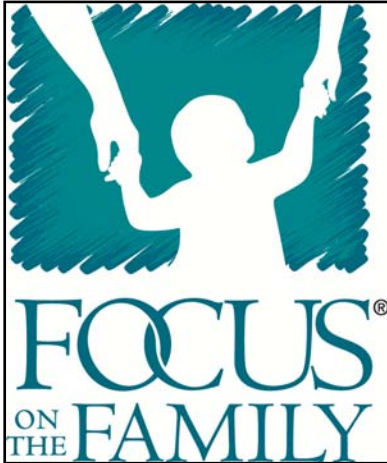
Phone: 713.293.1822, 832.594.0799; Fax: 713.928.7621

Email: karen.moore@dfps.state.tx.us

Website: www.dfps.state.tx.us

Notes

Ministry Overview



Focus on the Family

Service area: National

Focus on the Family is a donor-supported Christian ministry committed to helping families thrive. 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.

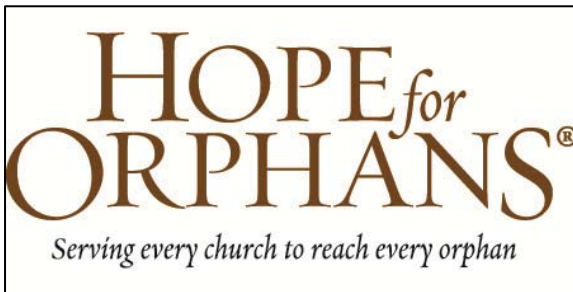
And while not every family is called to adopt, we believe everyone can play a role through prayer support, mentoring, giving, or mobilizing the church.

Contact Information:

Email: orphancare@family.org

Website: www.iCareAboutOrphans.org

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Hope for Orphans, a ministry of FamilyLife

Service area: National

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.

Contact Information:

2001 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 3442

Plano, TX 75075

Phone: (972) 941-4431; Fax: (972) 941-4432

Email: hopefororphans@hopefororphans.org

Website: www.hopefororphans.org

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Houston NW Church Foster Connect Ministry

Service area: North Houston area

HNW's Foster Connect is all about connecting. First and foremost, we desire to see people connect with the Gospel. But we feel compelled by scripture to minister to the fatherless in particular. We desire to connect with foster care agencies around Houston and through them connect to foster families and minister to the individual child in the midst of their distress (James 1:27). Through the ministry of adoption, foster care and going on mission trips, our desire is to support, encourage and come alongside families and individuals as they seek how God is asking them to care for the fatherless.

Foster Connect desires to reach the fatherless for the kingdom of God and to extend God's glory into our community and world. Our vision is simple. It is bigger than just foster care ministry. It is designed to care for the orphan and to be with them in their distress. Why? God's Word is clear about the role of a church caring for the fatherless and abandoned. We believe that our purpose is to equip you (the church) in: SEEING the need, KNOWING your role, ACTING now for the child.

Contact Information:

Matt Tipton—Pastor for Worship
19911 SH 249
Houston, TX 77070
Phone: 281.469.3389 x134; Fax: 281.469.8469

Email: mattt@hnw.org
Website: hnw.org/fosterconnectministry

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Legacy685—The Adoption, Foster & Orphan Care Ministry of Houston's First Baptist Church

Service area: Greater Houston area

We serve adoptive & foster families as well as families considering adoption or foster care. Through educational classes and events, our desire is to equip parents with the tools and resources needed in providing deep connections with the children that God has placed in their home.

Our desire is to connect with others and provide community, encourage them in their adoption or foster journey and to equip them with Godly principles of parenting kids from hard places.

Contact Information:

Steve Klein—Ministry Leader
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024
Phone: 713.206.4076, 713.957.5861

Email: kleinfam6@gmail.com
Website: houstonsfirst.org/find-help/adoption-foster-orphan-care/

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Springing Hope—Trinity Lutheran Church

Service area: Spring, TX

We are the adoption support ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Klein, Texas. We have seminars for interested families twice a year and monthly education opportunities for post adoption support.

Contact Information:

Gennie Busse
5522 Cobble Lane
Spring, TX 77379
Phone: 832.248.2871

Email: busseg2000@yahoo.com

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St. Luke's United Methodist Church—Adoption Ministry

Service area: Houston and surrounding areas

St. Luke's believes every child deserves a forever family. In addition, we believe that the church is called by God to encourage families to adopt and support adoptive families. We currently offer a monthly adoption support group, Adoption Discovery Classes 3-4 times per year, host PRIDE classes for local agencies 4 times per year, and offer a prayer vigil for the months of November and May (adoption and foster care awareness months). We've held one "Spotlight on Adoption" Sunday event and plan to offer another in the next few years.

Contact Information:

Amy Bezecny & Alice King
PO Box 22013
Houston, TX 77227
Phone: 713.622.5710, 713.542.8986; Fax: 713.622.2612

Email: abezecny@stlukesmethodist.org;
aking@stlukesmethodist.org
Website: www.stlukesmethodist.org

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Texas Heart Gallery

Service area: Region 6—Brazoria, Matagorda, Austin, Colorado, Montgomery, Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston, Waller, Liberty, Wharton and Walker counties

The Heart Gallery was founded by the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) in 2001 as a way to help children in foster care who are waiting for adoptive families step from the shadows into the light. Stirring portraits, which reveal the children's amazing spirits and individuality, have helped many of them find loving homes.

Since then, thanks to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers around the country and the generosity of many individuals and organizations, the Heart Gallery has grown exponentially, expanding to dozens of states and cities. More importantly, interest in adopting children in foster care was raised to an amazing level around the country.

Texas has embraced the Heart Gallery project. Many community volunteers and child placing agency partners have come forward to assist DFPS to promote adoption and promote the adoption of individual children.

The professional portraits taken of the children are very special memories for both the children and the volunteers. The Heart Gallery portraits are exhibited at local galleries or other prominent places in the community. Photographs in the Heart Galleries are for viewing only and may not be downloaded, used, or published without the express permission of DFPS and the photographers who took them.

Contact Information:

Karen Moore—FAD Supervisor
2525 Murworth
Houston, TX 77054
Phone: 713.293.1822, 713.394.4208; Fax: 512.276.3021

Email: karen.moore@dfps.state.tx.us
Website: www.adoptchildren.org/

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May 2013

Agencies:

Arrow Child and Family Services

- BCMT I & II—Saturday, May 4, 9am-5pm, Arrow
- AFI #1 Orientation—Tuesday, May 7, 6:30-9:30pm, Woodlands UMC
- AFI #1 & #2 Orientation/Child Development—Saturday, May 11, 9:30am-3:30pm, Woodlands UMC
- Meds Class—Monday, May 13, 10-11am or 6-7pm, Arrow
- AFI #3 Communication—Tuesday, May 14, 6:30-9:30pm, Woodlands UMC
- AFI #4 Separation, Loss & Grief—Thursday, May 16, 6:30-9:30pm, Woodlands UMC
- AFI #5 & #6 Child Sexual Abuse/Behavior Modification—Saturday, May 18, 9:30am-3:30pm, Woodland UMC
- CPR/First Aid—Monday, May 20, 6-10pm, Arrow
- AFI #7 Strengthening Family Relationships—Tuesday, May 21, 6:30-9:30pm, Woodlands UMC
- AFI #8 Standards & Documentation—Thursday, May 23, 6:30-9:30pm, Woodlands UMC
- Support Group—Thursday, May 23, 6:30-8:30pm, Arrow
- BCMT I & II—Saturday, May 25, 9am-5pm, Arrow
- BCMT I—Tuesday, May 28, 6-10pm, Arrow
- BCMT II—Thursday, May 30, 6-10pm, Arrow

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese-Houston

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome—Tuesday, May 28, 10am-12pm, Catholic Charities
- CPR/FA—Tuesday, May 28, 6-9pm, Catholic Charities

DePelchin Children's Center

- Region 6 Joint CPA Orientation—Monday, May 6, 6pm
- Orientation—Monday, May 13, 10am
- Orientation—Monday, May 20, 6pm
- Orientation—Tuesday, May 28, 10am
- Orientation—Tuesday, May 28, 6pm

Homes4Good

- Orientation—Thursday, May 2, 6-7pm
- Grief, Loss, Attachment & Supporting Family Relationships—Monday, May 6, 6-7:30pm
- Documentation/Medication—Monday, May 6, 7:30-9pm
- Brain Development/SIDS/Shaken Baby—Wednesday, May 8, 6-7:30pm
- Child Development & Self Esteem—Wednesday, May 8, 7:30-9pm
- Cultural Diversity & Sensitivity—Monday, May 13, 6-7:30pm
- Roles of a Caregiver/Ethics—Monday, May 13, 7:30-9pm
- Sexual Abuse/Reporting Procedures—Wednesday, May 15, 6-7:30pm
- Emergency Behavior Intervention/Discipline—Saturday, May 18, 9am-5:30pm

May 2013

Safe Haven Community Services

- Parenting Class 4—Thursday, May 2, 10am-12:30pm, SW Houston Office
- Parenting Class 4—Saturday, May 4, 10am-12:30pm, NW Houston Office
- New Foster Parent Orientation—Monday, May 6, 6-8pm, Both Houston Offices
- Advanced TIP Mandatory—Saturday, May 11, 10am-1pm, NW Houston Office
- Advanced TIP Mandatory—Thursday, May 16, 10am-1pm, SW Houston Office
- PRIDE/Transportation Day 1—Tuesday, May 21, 9am-5pm, SW Houston Office
- CPR & First-Aid—Wednesday, May 22, 6-8pm, SW Houston Office
- PRIDE/Trauma Training Day 2—Thursday, May 23, 9am-5pm, SW Houston Office
- PAPH—Saturday, May 25, 9am-5pm, Both Houston Offices
- Medication Management—Tuesday, May 28, 6-9pm, SW Houston Office
- CPR & First-Aid—Wednesday, May 29, 6-8pm, NW Houston Office

Spaulding for Children

- Orientation—Wednesday, May 1
- Orientation—Wednesday, May 15

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

- Information Meeting—Tuesday, May 2, 6:30-8:30pm, Rosenberg, TX
- Information Meeting—Wednesday, May 8, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston, TX
- Information Meeting—Wednesday, May 15, 6:30-8:30pm, Texas City, TX
- PRIDE for Region 6—May 18 to June 8, Brookshear, TX

Ministries:

Springing Hope—Trinity Lutheran Church

- Parent Education Small Group—Sunday, May 5, 4-6pm
- Mom's and Miracles—Friday, May 17, 9-11am

St. Luke's United Methodist Church—Adoption Ministry

- Adoption Support Group—Wednesday, May 1, 6-7:30pm
- Adoption Discover Class—contact Alice King for info aking@stlukemethodist.org

June 2013

Agencies:

Arrow Child and Family Services

- AFI #1 Orientation—Tuesday, June 4, 6:30-9:30pm, Arrow
- AFI #2 Child Development—Thursday, June 6, 6:30-9:30pm, Arrow
- AFI #3 & #4 Communication/Separation, Loss & Grief—Saturday, June 8, 9:30am-3:30pm
- Meds Class—Monday, June 10, 10-11am or 6-7pm, Arrow
- AFI #5 Child Sexual Abuse—Tuesday, June 11, 6:30-9:30pm, Arrow
- AFI #6 Behavior Modification—Thursday, June 13, 6:30-9:30pm, Arrow
- AFI #7 & #8 Strengthening Family Relationships/Standards & Documentation—Saturday, June 15, 9:30am-3:30pm, Arrow
- CPR/First Aid—Monday, June 17, 6-10pm, Arrow
- Support Group—Thursday, June 20, 6:30-8:30pm, Arrow
- BCMT I & II—Saturday, June 22, 9am-5pm, Arrow
- BCMT I—Tuesday, June 25, 6-10pm, Arrow
- BCMT II—Thursday, June 27, 6-10pm, Arrow

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese-Houston

- CPI—Thursday, June 6, 5-9pm, Catholic Charities
- Licensing and Minimum Standards Disaster Planning—Tuesday, June 25, 6-8pm, Catholic Charities
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder—Tuesday, June 25, 6-8pm, Catholic Charities

DePelchin Children's Center

- Orientation—Monday, June 3, 6pm
- Orientation—Monday, June 10, 10am
- Orientation—Monday, June 17, 6pm
- Orientation—Tuesday, June 25, 10am
- Orientation—Tuesday, June 25, 6pm

Homes4Good

- Orientation—Thursday, June 5, 6-7pm
- Documentation/Medication—Saturday June 8, 9-10:30am
- Brain Development/SIDS/Shaken Baby—Saturday, June 8, 10:30am-12pm
- Grief, Loss, Attachment & Supporting Family Relationships—Saturday, June 8, 12:30-2pm
- Sexual Abuse/Reporting Procedures—Saturday, June 8, 2-3:30pm
- FFF—Thursday, June 13, 6-8pm
- Child Development & Self Esteem—Saturday, June 15, 9-10:30am
- Cultural Diversity & Sensitivity—Saturday, June 15, 10:30am-12pm
- Roles of a Caregiver/Ethics—Saturday, June 15, 12-1:30pm
- Emergency Behavior Intervention/Discipline—Saturday, June 22, 9am-5:30pm

June 2013

Safe Haven Community Services

- PRIDE/Transportation Day 1—Saturday, June 1, 9am-5pm, NW Houston Office
- New Foster Parent Orientation—Monday, June 3, 6-8pm, Both Houston Offices
- Foster Parent Support Group—Thursday, June 6, 12:30-1:30pm, SW Houston Office
- Foster Parent Support Group—Saturday, June 8, 12:30-1:30pm, NW Houston Office
- Adoption Info Meeting—Friday, June 14, 11am-1pm, SW Houston Office
- PRIDE/Trauma Training Day 2—Saturday, June 15, 9am-5pm, NW Houston Office
- CPR & First-Aid—Wednesday, June 19, 6-8pm, NW Houston Office
- PAPH—Saturday, June 22, 9am-5pm, Both Houston Offices
- Medication Management—Tuesday, June 25, 6-9pm, NW Houston Office
- CPR & First-Aid—Wednesday, June 26, 6-8pm, SW Houston Office

Spaulding for Children

- Orientation—Wednesday, June 5
- Orientation—Wednesday, June 19

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

- PRIDE for Region 6—June 3 to July 22, Harris County
- Information Meeting—Wednesday, June 12, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston, TX
- Information Meeting—Wednesday, June 19, 6:30-8:30pm, Pearland, TX
- Information Meeting—Wednesday, June 26, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston, TX

Ministries:

Springing Hope—Trinity Lutheran Church

- Parent Education Small Group—Sunday, June 2, 4-6pm
- Mom's and Miracles—Friday, June 21, 9-11am

St. Luke's United Methodist Church—Adoption Ministry

- Adoption Support Group—Wednesday, June 5, 6-7:30pm
- Adoption Discover Class—contact Alice King for info aking@stlukesmethodist.org

July 2013

Agencies:

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese-Houston

- Trauma Informed Training—Tuesday, July 30, 10am-1pm, Catholic Charities

DePelchin Children's Center

- Orientation—Monday, July 1, 6pm
- Orientation—Monday, July 8, 10am
- Orientation—Monday, July 15, 6pm
- Orientation—Tuesday, July 23, 10am
- Orientation—Tuesday, July 23, 6pm

Homes4Good

- Orientation—Wednesday, July 3, 6-7pm
- Grief, Loss, Attachment & Supporting Family Relationships—Monday, July 8, 6-7:30pm
- Documentation/Medication—Monday, July 8, 7:30-9pm
- Brain Development/SIDS/Shaken Baby—Wednesday, July 10, 6-7:30pm
- Child Development & Self Esteem—Wednesday, July 10, 7:30-9pm
- FFF—Thursday, July 11, 6-8pm
- Cultural Diversity & Sensitivity—Monday, July 15, 6-7:30pm
- Roles of a Caregiver/Ethics—Monday, July 15, 7:30-9pm
- Sexual Abuse/Reporting Procedures—Wednesday, July 17, 6-7:30pm
- Emergency Behavior Intervention/Discipline—Saturday, July 20, 9am-5:30pm

Safe Haven Community Services

- New Foster Parent Orientation—Monday, July 1, 6-8pm, Both Houston Offices
- PRIDE/Transportation Day 1—Tuesday, July 23, 9am-5pm, SW Houston Office
- CPR & First-Aid—Wednesday, July 24, 6-8pm, SW Houston Office
- PRIDE/Trauma Training Day 2—Thursday, July 25, 9am-5pm, SW Houston Office
- PAPH—Saturday, July 27, 9am-5pm, Both Houston Offices
- Medication Management—Tuesday, July 30, 6-9pm, SW Houston Office
- CPR & First-Aid—Wednesday, July 31, 6-8pm, NW Houston Office

Spaulding for Children

- Orientation—Wednesday, July 3
- Orientation—Wednesday, July 17

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

- PRIDE for Region 6—July 6 to July 27, Harris County
- Information Meeting—Wednesday, July 10, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston, TX
- Information Meeting—Thursday, July 18, 6:30-8:30pm, Conroe, TX
- Information Meeting—Wednesday, July 24, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston, TX

Ministries:

Springing Hope—Trinity Lutheran Church

- Parent Education Small Group—Sunday, July 7, 4-6pm
- Mom's and Miracles—Friday, July 19, 9-11am

St. Luke's United Methodist Church—Adoption Ministry

- Adoption Support Group—Wednesday, July 3, 6-7:30pm
- Adoption Discover Class—contact Alice King for info aking@stlukesmethodist.org

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. There is no charge to attend a foster/adopt information meeting in your area, and you do not have to make a reservation. The foster care and adoption information meetings are open to the public. (If working with a private agency, please check about necessary RSVPs)

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 Adapted from http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Get_Started/steps.asp

Common Myths About Adoption³

Myth: There are no orphans in the United States.

Reality: There are 104,000 children in U.S. foster care who are legally free and currently waiting for an adoptive home.

Myth: It's easier and faster to adopt internationally than from U.S. foster care.

Reality: New regulations governing international adoptions have made adoption from other countries more challenging for U.S. citizens. In most cases, it takes roughly a year to adopt a child from the U.S. foster care system. The average time it took to complete an international adoption in 2011 ranged from 79 days to almost two years.

In addition, most adoptions from U.S. foster care are free and any minimal costs associated with them are often reimbursable. For international adoptions in 2010, service providers charged anywhere between \$0 to \$64,357, with half charging less than \$26,559.

Myth: You have to have a lot of money and own a house to adopt from foster care.

Reality: You don't need to own your own home, be wealthy, have children already, or be a stay-at-home parent to adopt. Most adoptions from U.S. foster care are free and any minimal costs associated with them are often reimbursable. In addition, there are many different types of post-adoption resources, such as medical assistance and financial adoption assistance, based on the special needs of a child to help support and sustain adoptions from the U.S. foster care system.

Myth: All children in foster care have special needs and require special education.

Reality: Many children in foster care are regular children who unfortunately had to be removed from their families due to abuse or neglect. The term "special needs" simply refers to children who qualify for adoption assistance due to specific factors or conditions such as:

- Being an older child
- Having a particular racial or ethnic background
- Being part of a sibling group needing to be placed together as one unit
- Medical conditions
- Physical, mental or emotional handicaps

Myth: You're not allowed to adopt children you foster.

Reality: While slightly more than half of all children who enter foster care return to their birth families, there are still thousands of children who cannot return home. Of the 51,000 children in foster care adopted last year, 54 percent were adopted by their foster parents.

Myth: Only married couples with a stay-at-home parent can adopt children from foster care.

Reality: In most instances, a person's marital status, age or income do not automatically disqualify them from eligibility to adopt. You don't need to own your own home, have children already, be young, wealthy or a stay-at-home parent.

Myth: Each child has to have a room of their own.

Reality: Each child needs a bed of their own, not a room of their own. In addition, children of the opposite sex may share a room if they are under an age specified by the State (usually around 6 years old). In some instances, there may be child-to-square-foot requirements or behavioral concerns that will prevent children from being able to share a room.

3 All information adapted from <http://www.adoptuskids.org/for-families/how-to-adopt/common-myths-about-adoption>

Myth: You can't adopt if you're in the military.

Reality: Military families stationed overseas and within the U.S. are eligible to adopt children from the U.S. foster care system.

Myth: You have to be of child-bearing age to adopt.

Reality: Experienced parents and empty-nesters are encouraged to adopt. In most instances, you're eligible to adopt regardless of age, income or marital status.

Myth: Adopting or fostering a child who's been removed from the care of their birth parents is dangerous.

Reality: Children in foster care are regular children who, through no fault of their own, had to be removed from their families due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. As for a child in foster care having continued contact with their birth family, it will vary depending on the specifics of the case and the placement being considered for the child.

For adoptive placements, very few birth parents reappear after their parental rights have been legally terminated. In the instance where children have continued relationships with birth relatives, it's because the arrangement will be beneficial, safe and healthy for all involved.

For foster care placements, most children placed in your home will have regular, court-ordered visits with their birth parents. This is an important part of the reunification process and you play an important role by working with the child's caseworker to decide the location and time of the visits. The court decides whether the visits will be supervised.

Myth: Sibling relationships don't matter.

Reality: Placing siblings together is almost always the best thing for them after being separated from their birth parents. It helps provide continuity and protects them from suffering additional loss.

Myth: You can't adopt a child or sibling group from another state.

Reality: There are 104,000 children in U.S. foster care awaiting adoption. Families adopt children from outside their state every single month. Sometimes these adoptions can take a little longer because of the process involved with moving a child from one state to another. However, the wait is worth it in the end.

If you're considering adopting outside your state, please see the information on the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children on page 20.

Myth: You have to be perfect to adopt a child from foster care.

Reality: You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of children in foster care who would be happy to be part of your family. To a child in foster care, waiting to be adopted can feel like waiting for a miracle. You could be that miracle.

Myth: A birth parent or another relative can take an adopted child back.

Reality: Adoptions of children from U.S. foster care are legally binding agreements that do not occur until the rights of all parents have been legally terminated by a court of law. It's very rare that an adoption is challenged in court by a child's birth relative. More than 98 percent of legally completed adoptions remain intact.

Ten Questions for Parents Preparing to Adopt or Foster⁴

We believe it is critically important that parents who are preparing to adopt or foster a child must be honest and realistic about the journey and the challenges that lie ahead. Just as Jesus in Luke 14 challenged those who would follow him to “count the cost,” so too parents who respond to God’s call to adopt or foster must be willing to count the cost of the adoption journey and prepare to “lay down their lives” to love their child and help him or her become all that God intends.



The following questions are designed to help parents (and parents-to-be) begin to honestly assess the journey ahead...and what it will require. We encourage you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider these questions. They are not meant to scare you or in any way discourage you from continuing on this amazing path. Instead, our desire is simply that these questions will point you toward the hope and help that you need to form a strong and lasting connection with your child as you faithfully follow God’s call in your life.

1. Are you willing to acknowledge and fully embrace your child’s history, including that which you know and that which you will likely never know?
2. Are you willing to accept that your child has been affected by his/her history, possibly in profound ways, and as a result that you will need to parent your child in a way that exhibits true compassion and promotes connection and healing?
3. Are you willing to parent differently than how you were parented, how you have parented in the past, or how your friends parent their children? Are you willing to “un-learn” certain parenting strategies and approaches that may not be effective with your child, even if you have used these strategies and approaches successfully with your other children in the past?
4. Are you willing to educate yourself, your parents, family and friends on an ongoing basis in order to promote understanding of your child’s needs and how best to meet those needs?
5. Are you willing to be misunderstood, criticized and even judged by others who do not understand your child’s history, the impacts of that history and how you have been called to love and connect with your child in order to help him/her heal and become all that God intends?
6. Are you prepared to advocate for your child’s needs, including at school, church, in extracurricular settings and otherwise, in order to create predictability and promote environments that enable your child to feel safe and allow him/her to succeed?
7. Are you willing to sacrifice your own convenience, expectations and desires in order to connect with your child and help him/her heal, even if that process is measured in years, not months?
8. Are you willing to fully embrace your child’s holistic needs, including his/her physical, emotional, relational and spiritual needs?
9. Are you willing to seek ongoing support and maintain long-term connections with others who understand your journey and the challenges that you face? Are you willing to intentionally seek and accept help when you encounter challenges with your child that you are not equipped to adequately deal with?

10. Are you willing to acknowledge that you as a parent bring a great deal to the equation when it comes to how your child will attach and connect? Are you willing to honestly examine (on an ongoing basis) your motivations and expectations relating to your adoption journey? Are you willing to look at your own past (including your past losses and trauma, both big and small) and consider how your past may impact your interactions with your child? Are you willing to consistently examine your role as parent as you experience challenges and difficulties along the journey?

As you read through the above questions, you may have concluded that some of the questions didn't apply to you and your situation. That may be the case to some extent, as every adoption and foster care experience is unique. However, we encourage you to spend some time reading and talking with other experienced adoptive and foster parents about what you should realistically expect as you travel this journey. We find that parents sometimes start with less than accurate assumptions about how the adoption or foster care journey will unfold, and as a result they are more likely to form unrealistic expectations. We believe that these questions are helpful and instructive for all parents considering or pursuing adoption and foster care, and we hope that as you work through them they will lead you toward greater insight and understanding.

COMING TO HOUSTON

EMPOWERED *To Connect* CONFERENCE

Equipping families, churches and professionals to bring hope and healing to adopted and foster children.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Karyn Purvis
Director of TCU Institute of Child Development



Michael & Amy Monroe
Leaders of Tapestry - Adoption and Foster Care ministry



Dan & Terri Coley
Show Hope founding board members and adoption advocates

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www.showhope.org/connect

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CEU credits available for professionals.

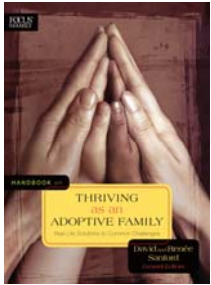
In association with:



Focus on the Family Support Resources

Wait No More

Kelly and John Rosati never expected to adopt four children from the U.S. foster care system. But God's plan for them turned out to be even more extraordinary than they could have planned. Follow Kelly and John in their amazing journey through the child welfare system. You'll be inspired by the story of how God brought their family together, and challenged by their honest and revealing look at the desperate need of children still waiting for families. The Rosati's story is one of hope amid challenges, beauty from ashes, and faith that sustains. It's a beautiful picture of what family truly looks like.

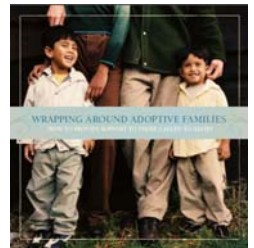


Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family

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.



Attachment in Adoption

The parenting of children from hard places can be a challenge for many adoptive parents - but there is hope for even the most complex situations. "Attachment in Adoption" gives adoptive and foster parents in-depth insights into why their child may have difficulty adapting to life in a new family - and gives them hope for success.

Other Resources



The Connected Child



Finding Home



Castaway Kid



Small Town, Big Miracle

To download *Created to Connect – A Christian's Guide to The Connected Child* or to view helpful videos and articles for adoptive and foster families, visit www.empoweredtoconnect.org.

Counseling for Families in Need

Our staff is trained to help answer your specific questions, provide resources and pray with adoptive families. Families seeking someone to talk with can call 1-800-A-Family (232-6459) or contact our counseling help line directly for a consultation at 1-855-771-HELP.

Special Thanks to...



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

And the Greater Houston Alliance for Orphans

TOGETHER FOR THEM

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

Date	First Name(s)	Last Name
Address		
Address:		City & State:
County:		Zip:
Home Phone:		
Cell Phone:		
Email:		
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: Erin Eberspacher 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.