Our History

Where is the Church in Foster Care?

Can government and the Church work together?

How can the Church stand in the Gap?
Vision
No Waiting Children

Mission
To educate, equip and encourage the Christian community to provide a future and a hope for children in foster care in Arkansas.
Who is The CALL?

- Faith Based organization
- Statewide scale – active in 56 of 75 counties
- Mobilizing the local church on behalf of local children in foster care and the families who care for them
- Mobilizing community support for DCFS
- Local PRIDE Training, support groups, and continuing education
- Support for foster and adoptive families
- 100% privately funded by individuals, churches, foundations and corporations
Core Values

Christ-centered
Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:1-2

Church-focused
Romans 12:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Accountable
Luke 12:48; Deuteronomy 10:18

Excellence-driven
Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:1

Relational

Service-oriented
John 13:14-15; Psalms 100:2; Matthew 20:26-28; 1 Peter 4:10
The CALL bridges the gap between DCFS and the local Church
The CALL & DCFS
Shared Values

• Recruiting more than enough healing foster families willing to care for waiting children and youth
• Support for foster and adoptive families
• Permanence – placement stability for children and youth in care
• Sibling relationships – placement of siblings in foster and adoptive homes together
• Reunification with family when safe and appropriate
Partnership with DCFS

• Unprecedented collaborative relationship between a state agency and faith based organization

• Memorandum of Understanding
  • not a contract provider
  • services provided to DCFS at no cost

• Well defined roles and responsibilities
  • The CALL – Recruit, Train and Support
  • DCFS – Certification & Placement
Central Office

DCFS Central Office
• Process /Procedure/ Policy
• Partnership Management
• Data
• Monthly Meetings
• Staff Training
• Foster/Adoptive Inquiry
• Background checks/Home Studies

The CALL Central Office
• Process /Procedure/ Policy
• Partnership Management
• Data
• Monthly meetings
• Staff/volunteer training
Local Office

DCFS Local Office
• Resource Worker
• Monthly Meetings
• Evaluate prospective families
• Review home studies
• Family approval
• Child placement

The CALL Local Office
• Family Support Coordinator
• Monthly meetings
• Recruit and train foster and adoptive families
• Prospective family inquires
• Support prospective families through certification process
• Foster/adoptive family support
The CALL’s Role
Mobilizing the Church in Arkansas to care for children and youth in foster care

Families
Support
Recruit
Train
Volunteers

THE CALL
Recruit

- Mobilize the Church
- Work with Pastors and Lay Leaders
- Recruit/Develop Church Advocates
- Host Recruitment Events
- Community Outreach
- Information Meetings

Over 6,400 families have attended Informational Meetings!
Train

- 2 Weekend Training Model
- Local training opportunities in church setting
- Convenient locations
- Qualified volunteer trainers trained by The CALL
- No cost to the families

Over 2,900 families have completed Foster/Adopt PRIDE training!
Over 800 local support events have been hosted since 2013!

Support

- Pre-certification
- Shepherd families through the process
- Help with paperwork and a timely process
- Answer questions and connect with resources
- Support in navigating the child welfare system
- Create a foundation of knowledge regarding trauma-informed care
Support

Post-certification
- Provide quality, trauma-informed continuing education opportunities
- Assist with creating a support system within the local church and community
- Rally the local church to provide wrap support for families
- Offer support events and networks
- The CALL Mall/Clothes closet for immediate physical needs

"The Church is uniquely equipped with a variety of giftings, callings and passions to effectively eliminate the foster care crisis in our country. - Jason Johnson.

“When you connect to the heart of a child, everything is possible.”
- Dr. Karyn Purvis
The Need: Arkansas

4,800 children in foster care
1,600 Open homes to care for them
5,900 local churches
Progress

2,745 families opened since 2007
1,980 children adopted since 2012
56 counties
There are 4,846 children currently in foster care in Arkansas (September 1, 2021 Data).
~600 Foster families currently serving
26,020 children’s lives impacted
Questions?