



The CALL

# 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

## Excellence-driven

Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:1

## Church-focused

Romans 12:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

## Relational

John 17:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Luke 9:48

## Accountable

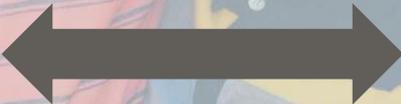
Luke 12:48; Deuteronomy 10:18

## 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**

**Recruit**

**Volunteers**



**Support**

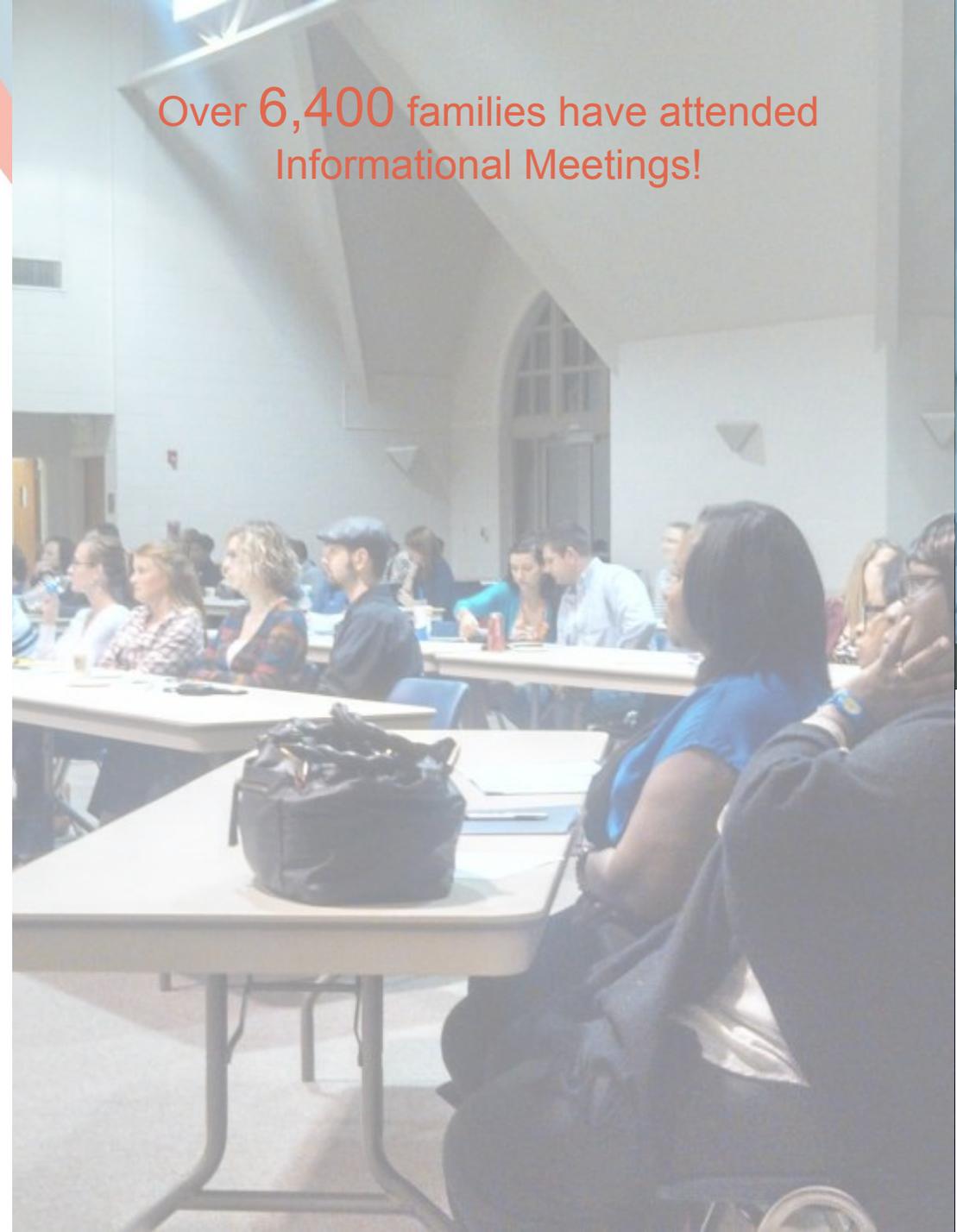
**Train**



# 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!



# 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

Over 800 local support events have been hosted since 2013!

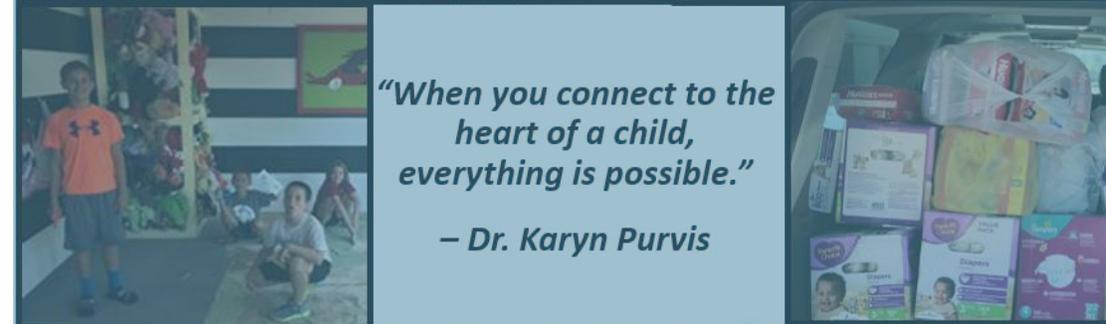


# Support

## 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.*



# 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

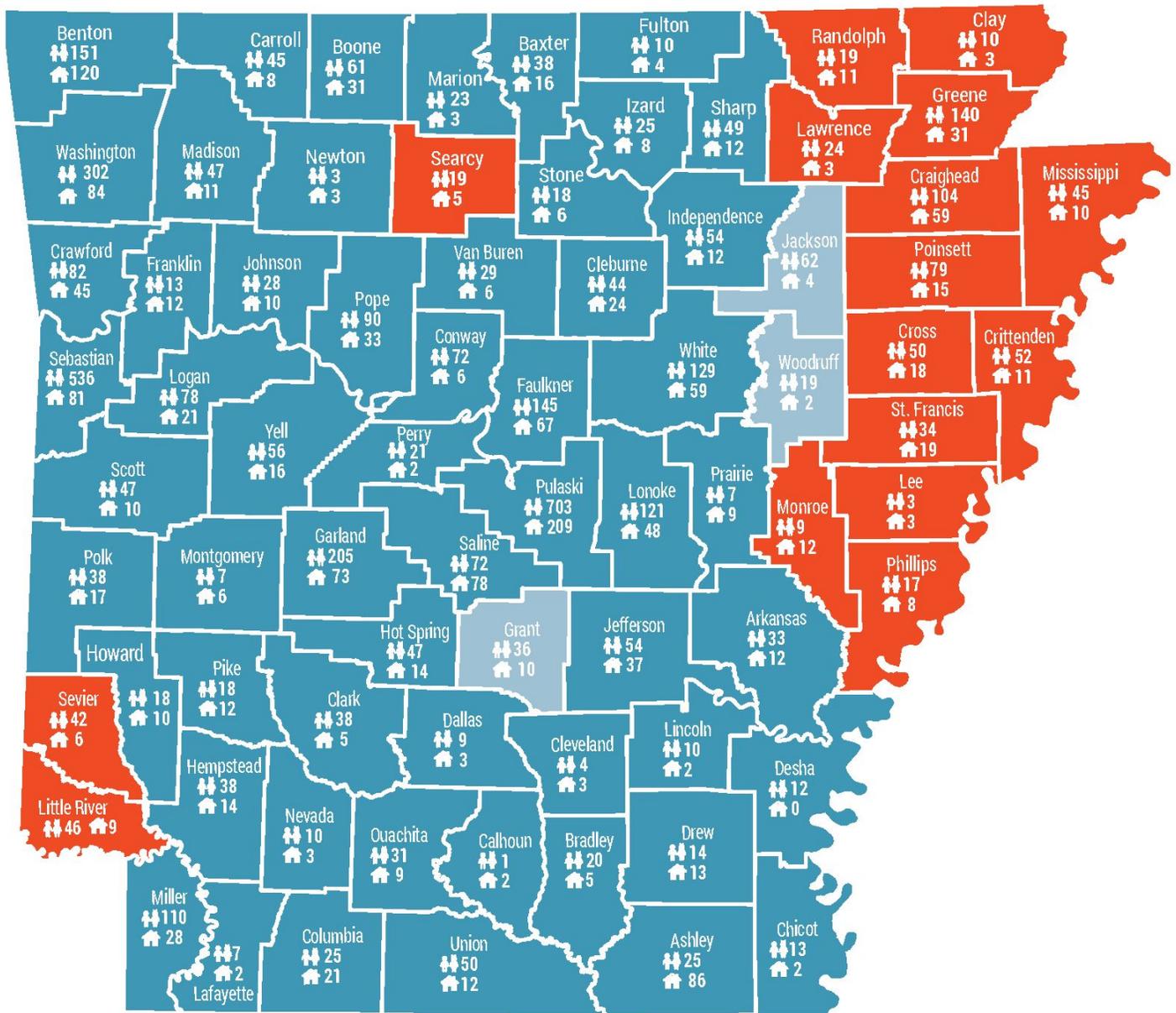
**1,980**

children adopted since 2012

**56**

counties





Active Counties
 
 # of Children
 

 # of Homes

There are 4,846 children currently in foster care in Arkansas (September 1, 2021 Data).

A photograph of a man and a young boy smiling together outdoors. The man is wearing a red and white striped polo shirt, and the boy is wearing a blue and white striped t-shirt. They are standing in a grassy area with trees and a fence in the background.

**~600**

**Foster families currently serving**



26,020  
children's lives  
impacted





ANSWER



SERVE



BECOME



CARE



[TheCALLinArkansas.org](http://TheCALLinArkansas.org)

A photograph of two young girls standing outdoors and smiling. The girl on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a white t-shirt under a dark denim vest. The girl on the right has dark curly hair and is wearing a light blue off-the-shoulder top. The background shows a blurred structure, possibly a bridge or industrial building. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter and a decorative curved border at the bottom consisting of a red inner line and a black outer line.

# Questions?

