

Annual Report to the Legislature 2024-2025

*One Church One Child
of Florida Inc. - Since 1988*

OCOC of FL
Serving our children.

*Our VISION, Enabled by our MISSION,
Founded by our VALUES!*

A private, non-profit, faith-based organization that provides adoption related services and works in partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families and churches.



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Rev. Dr. Emmett Wiseman, President | Dr. Arie Sailor, Executive Director



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Letter from the President and Executive Director

Herein is the One Church One Child of Florida Annual Legislative Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. An overview of the status and successful operations of the Corporation is provided in the report. The fundamental operations of One Church One Child is a recognized, grassroots approach to outreach in building partnerships with the faith community, recruitment of individuals and families to adopt, foster and/or mentor children involved with the child welfare system and providing support to children and families in care and local communities.

The Board of Directors consists of recognized leaders from each of the six (6) regions, who willingly volunteer their time and attention to the work of the One Church One Child Corporation. These leaders are committed to the service they provide, along with dedicated staff and other Community Volunteers.

As with states across America, Florida, too, realizes on-going impact of disparity and disproportionality of Black children being overrepresented in the child welfare system. For that reason, the critical work of One Church One Child building partnerships with Black churches and engaging their assistance and support in reaching the communities remains a key element.

It is through the development of effective, collaborative partnerships with churches and other religious entities that greater inroads are made in increasing awareness and educating communities on the plight of children in foster care, and opportunities to help change the course of life for local children, through adoption, foster care, mentoring and other support activities.

Included in this report are highlights of the activities and events shepherded throughout the year that reflect outreach efforts across Florida.

We are pleased to submit and share this report with expressions of rich appreciation and gratitude for the churches, individuals, communities, businesses, foundations and governmental partners who all work together in collaborating for the good of children and families across Florida.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Emmett L. Wiseman
President

Dr. Arie Sailor
Executive Director/CEO

"Increasing permanency for Florida's children through prevention, intervention, adoption promotion, and support for families."

Vision

One Church One Child of Florida's vision is to be the premier leader in supporting permanency for minority children through prevention of maltreatment, intervention, adoption promotion and support for families.

Mission

Our mission is to partner with churches and the greater community to increase permanency for minority children through prevention, intervention, adoption promotion, and family support services.

Values

- *A holistic/faith approach*
- *Respect for the varied dimensions of individuals and families*
- *Recognition of the importance of relationships*
- *Empowerment of those we serve*
- *Partnerships and collaborations in communities*
- *Provision of high-quality, sufficient, consistent, integrated, timely and transparent services*

2024-2025 Achievements

The One Church One Child Corporation Act and its corporate mission cite the adoption of minority children as its primary goal. To that end, Board Members and staff continue to reach out to communities through pastors and churches to recruit families to adopt, foster or mentor children from foster care. The basic principle of the organization is to “find at least one family per church to adopt, foster, or mentor at least one child from foster care.”

Plans for the year included:

- **Resources** – Resources would be organized by determining regional adoption goals based on the number of children on the Explore Adoption website.
- **Referrals** – Families would be referred to Community Based Care (CBC) Lead Agencies or other child-placing agencies in Florida for adoptive/foster parent training prior to completion of an adoption home study or foster care licensing study.
- **Recruitment** - One Church One Child (OCOC) would recruit churches within regions by presenting OCOC’s case for support, explaining procedures and support tools, answering questions, and confirming participation with churches signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- **Publicity** – OCOC would help publicize the need for adoptive parents using flyers, monthly emails, radio, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Zoom, conference calls, and other media platforms.
- **Results** – OCOC would track and monitor all referrals of families with reports to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Community-Based Care Lead Agencies, in addition to completing a year-end report.

In planning, preparing, and implementing the goals for the year, the board members donated countless hours of time and effort, participating in board meetings, subcommittees, workgroups, and small session meetings.

One Church One Child was first implemented in the State of Illinois when the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, Greg Coler, and Deputy Secretary Gordon Johnson sought out Father George Clements to help them in addressing the disproportionate number of minority children lingering in foster care. In 1988, Greg Coler became Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families and implemented the successful minority adoption recruitment program in Florida. In 1990, the Florida Legislature passed the One Church One Child of Florida Corporation Act (section 409.1755, *Florida Statutes (F.S)*). This Act mandated OCOC to operationalize as a non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor. The program has a 23-member Board of Directors to carry out the intent of the law. Board members serve a minimum of a three-year term. The Board was appointed/reappointed July 8, 2015, by Governor Rick Scott. Currently all six (6) of the DCF

Regions have representation with 13 of the 23 members serving. With privatization of child welfare services, the One Church One Child Program was downsized including the number of board members appointed.

Summary of the Organization

One Church One Child operates out of a statewide headquarters located in Tallahassee and has satellite offices in Jacksonville (Northeast Region), Plant City (SunCoast Region), and West Palm Beach (Southeast Region).

The headquarters office includes a full-time Executive Director, Deputy Director, Family Coordination Specialist, Administrative Assistant, and volunteers. The Executive Director and Family Coordination Specialist were hired in January 2003; the Deputy Director was hired in October 2007; and the Administrative Assistant was hired in May 2025. The satellite offices in Jacksonville and Plant City include a Recruitment Coordinator at each site. The Jacksonville staff member was hired in September 2017, and the Plant City staff member was hired in January 2025. The West Palm Beach office is staffed by a part-time Volunteer Adoption Recruiter.

OCOC works in partnership with churches, local businesses, agencies, and such entities as Daniel Memorial, Inc., Chapters of Buffalo Soldiers in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, and Tampa, the Governor's Office on Adoption and Child Protection, local Heart Galleries, Florida A&M University (FAMU) and Florida State University Social Work Programs, FAMU School of Business and Industry Program, the Florida Coalition for Children, and other community-based care agencies. OCOC continues its partnership with the Department of Children and Families.

OCOC of Florida continues its work with the national One Church One Child. Through this partnership, OCOC has worked on initiatives to help increase the involvement of the faith community in child welfare services.

State Board Members, advisory committee members, and staff, in conjunction with members of the community, have been involved in efforts to recruit adoptive and foster families and mentors. Volunteers also have worked with the state board members to support local recruitment efforts, and those volunteer hours are captured on OCOC time tracking logs. Statewide statistics show that this year 3,214 volunteer hours were logged by advisory committee members, university interns, and other volunteers, while 2,473 volunteer hours were logged by state board members, for a total year-to-date of 5,687 volunteer hours. The total volunteer hours were valued at \$73,931. Volunteer hours were calculated from the number of hours State Board Members and Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Members

donated to One Church One Child through recruitment activities. The total dollar value was calculated by multiplying the total number of volunteer hours by the allowed \$13.00 an hour.

As indicated above, One Church One Child has experienced changes and transitions, over time, from a program of the Department of Children and Families to a licensed child placing agency, and currently a non-profit adoption/foster care recruitment organization. In fulfillment of this role, One Church One Child has implemented an innovative campaign to increase adoption/foster care resources and involve more churches in partnering to recruit families interested in adopting, fostering and/or mentoring. This report also highlights the agency's overall accomplishments for the state fiscal year 2024-2025.

Community Awareness and Involvement Activities

The One Church One Child State Board of Directors, Staff and Local Advisory Committees (LAC) continued to engage churches and communities in activities to heighten awareness and increase recruitment of potential adoptive and foster families and mentors. During this reporting period, some activities featured below were conducted in person, while others were conducted using virtual meeting platforms, conference calls, postal and electronic mailings, as well as various social media platforms.

- Meeting with local churches and pastors to invite them to partner with OCOC by highlighting the needs of children in foster care.
- Conducting presentations with congregations and community audiences to invite them to partner with OCOC by highlighting the needs of children in foster care.
- Advertising in various media markets to include radio stations, television stations through their community calendars, newspapers, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.
- Distributing approximately 20,000 brochures, posters, flyers, and partnership information packets.
- Showcasing One Church One Child presentations in virtual church conferences, conventions, congresses, associations, and alliance meetings.
- Participating as One Church One Child board members, local advisory committee members, and staff in approximately 637 community events/sponsored activities this fiscal year.
- Since July 2024 One Church One Child has presented to over 194,726 people at various events.

- Participating in National Foster Care Month in May, National Adoption Month in November, and National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, using electronic communications.
- Creating and broadcasting public service announcements to encourage individuals, communities, pastors, churches, and congregations to explore the adoption of a foster child.
- Participating in statewide observation of “One Church One Child Adoption Sunday” on November 24, 2024.
- Coordinating the 3rd Annual One Church One Child State Crusade for Children in February 2025.
- Distributing resource packets to more than 700 church congregations throughout the state of Florida, focusing attention on children waiting for adoption. These packets provided sample announcements to be read during services or published in bulletins in lobbies, libraries, and vestibules.
- Distributing resource information to more than 4,000 church congregations via email, focusing on the need for foster homes as part of the statewide recognition of foster care month.
- Coordinating the distribution of Christmas gifts for children in foster care in partnership with local churches and individual community members.

*****Major Accomplishments:***

With the lasting impact of COVID-19, some faith-based organizations continue to have modified access to their congregations; some are still not fully operational, some have closed down or combined services, some are using mixed approaches to hold services such as in-person and/or on line. However, OCOC accomplished the established goal of recruitment and referral of 96 families interested in adopting/fostering children from foster care, by reaching out and working with the churches based on their individual capacity to respond.

OCOC also accomplished the established goal of recruitment and referral of 120 families for mentoring and permanent connections of children from foster care.

**Data Source: One Church One Child Family Tracking Spreadsheets,
SFY 2024-2025**

One Church One Child of Florida Tracking Log State Fiscal Year 2024-2025									
Month	Partner Churches	A/F Family Referrals	Mentor Family Referrals	Support Activities	Board Hours	Community Support/ Interns	LAC	Community Events	Attendees
July-24	7	8	10	6	144	----	200	45	6,025
Aug.-24	7	8	10	7	194	----	345	48	6,341
Sept.-24	7	8	10	3	200	----	241	51	8,905
Oct.-24	7	8	10	4	171	28	160	55	8,572
Nov.-24	7	8	10	3	192	113	275	48	107,220
Dec.-24	7	8	10	4	228	86	248	61	8,329
Jan.-25	7	8	10	3	185	126	188	47	6,993
Feb.-25	7	8	10	3	334	79	402	52	7,494
March-25	7	8	10	5	214	----	97	65	8,937
April-25	7	8	10	5	213	----	139	55	7,526
May-25	7	8	10	5	161	15	147	57	8,022
June-25	7	8	10	6	237	----	325	53	10,362
TOTAL	84	96	120	54	2,473	447	2,767	637	194,726

Development of Beneficial Program Activities

The One Church One Child Annual State Crusade for Children implemented during the previous fiscal year was expanded to include focus on youth aging out of foster care, with no connections. This determination by the board was made in part, based on information shared by partner agencies, during regional education forums, over time. Often times, discussion included need for more focus on older children and making life connections for them. Also included was recognition that not all youth aging out of foster care have successful transitions into adulthood of self-sufficiency but need additional supports.

Understanding that One Church One Child has very limited staff resources to conduct the detailed level of work required to help address these concerns, the Board's initial strategies included adding special emphasis during the crusades on the situation of older children and the need for communities to understand the implications of children aging out of care without connections. Also included were board searching and discussion of ways to help, including development of housing with the support of churches and community members. This idea correlated with One Church One Child Founder's vision of One Church One Child playing a role regarding long-term issues of youth aging out without connections, including but not limited to housing, support and guidance to give help for a better future, through the Legacy Project. This Legacy Project/Program, though in developmental stage, has potential to be a part of the solution to help the state and local agencies in efforts to increase the number of older youths experiencing better self-sufficiency outcomes, by joining efforts to provide a temporary safety net and strong emotional support.

The crusade is an education project that gives attention to the current situation of children and families, the historical explanation and the way forward in successfully addressing needs through a more connected, unified, collaborative approach by all stakeholders.

*****Major Accomplishments:***

The community outreach events generated 84 resource churches, making a total of 1,362 resource churches recruited to date (See page 10 for a list of the 84 resource churches recruited FY 2024-2025).

Summary of the Provision of Training and Technical Assistance

The February 19-20, 2025, State Crusade for Children, held in Panama City, involved bringing together church leaders from across the state to lend greater attention and focus to the needs of youth in foster care, youth aging out of foster and opportunities for greater engagement and involvement in addressing the issues of permanency.

One Church One Child successfully conducted partnership training events for churches, community-based care organizations, and community members in each of the six Department of Children and Families regions, for a total of 12 Regional Education Forums and 12 Community Trainings statewide.

*****Major Accomplishments:***

Churches throughout the state are still responding to changes in the environment impacting their level of operations. However, OCOC continued to successfully build partnerships with CBCs and churches in each of the six DCF regions. These successful partnerships have resulted in OCOC accomplishing its annual goal of increasing permanency for children through increasing the number of families interested in adopting, fostering and/or mentoring and the number of churches getting involved as resources.

Summary of Fundraising Activities

Through fundraising activities, donor contributions were realized in the amount of \$17,620. Donations of gifts for children were also received in the amount of \$4,500 for the fiscal year 2024-2025, donations excluding state contract monies totaled \$22,120.

*****Major Accomplishments:***

Cash contributions, gifts, and other supports provided for children in foster care valued at \$22,120.

This report is submitted pursuant to section 409.1755(3)(b)5, F.S., which directs the One Church One Child of Florida, Inc. Corporation in conjunction with the Department of Children and Families (formerly the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services) to submit an annual report to the Legislature by September 1st of each year.

APPENDICIES



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|------------|---|
| Appendix A | List of New Partner Churches Recruited in SFY 2024-2025 |
| Appendix B | List of One Church One Child State Board of Directors |
| Appendix C | List of One Church One Child Staff |

APPENDIX A

Listing of New Partner Churches Recruited in SFY 2024-2025

Northwest Region

1. Life of Christ Church, Woodville
2. Mt. Zion CME Church, Quincy
3. St. Hebron AME Church, Quincy
4. New Birth of Tabernacle Praise, Tallahassee
5. Faith Eight Ministry Online, Tallahassee
6. Victory Thru Truth Ministries, Woodville
7. Destiny Praise and Worship Center, Inc., Quincy
8. St. John Missionary Baptist Church Arggle, DeFuniak Springs
9. New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee
10. Love's Door Ministries, Midway
11. Become Church, Blountstown
12. Temple Israel, Tallahassee
13. Daniel Verry Ministries, Tallahassee
14. Pilgrim Rest Primitive Baptist Church, Crawfordville
15. St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Tallahassee
16. Generation Revive Church, Inc., Tallahassee
17. The True Holiness Church of Love, Woodville
18. Greater Empowerment Temple, Tallahassee
19. New Bethlehem Baptist church, Tallahassee
20. New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Greenwood
21. New Bethel M. B. Church, Panama City
22. Life Way Church, Tallahassee
23. Quincy Community Church of God in Christ, Quincy
24. Carter's Temple First Born Church, Wewahitchka
25. Restoration Church of Christ, Tallahassee
26. Palm Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, Crestview
27. Little Rock Primitive Baptist Church, Molino
28. Pleasant Home Primitive Baptist Church, Pensacola

Northeast Region

1. Pentecostal Church of God in Christ, Jacksonville
2. Harvest Time Sanctuary Church of God, Jacksonville
3. First Titus Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
4. Remnant Royal Ministries, Jacksonville
5. Highway to Heaven, Jacksonville
6. Second Church Callahan, Callahan
7. Daytona Christian Center, South Daytona
8. Morning Glory Christian Fellowship, Jacksonville
9. Gardenview Baptist Church, Jacksonville
10. Garden City Methodist Church, Jacksonville
11. Christian Development Center, Jacksonville
12. Stay in Touch with God's Ministries, Jacksonville
13. St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
14. True Holiness Under God's Salvation, Jacksonville
15. New Creation Church, Jacksonville
16. Church of God Sanctuary of Praise, Jacksonville

17. Victory Christian Center, Lake Butler
18. First Christian Church, Lake Butler
19. First Baptist Church, Lake Butler
20. New Breed Christian Life Center, Jacksonville
21. Covered House Outreach Ministry, Jacksonville
22. Dominion Fellowship Church, Palm Coast
23. Truth in love Ministries, Jacksonville
24. Cross Road Christian Church, Jacksonville
25. Life House, Inc., Jacksonville
26. Pine Grove Baptist Church, Lake City
27. Green Cove Methodist, Green Cove
28. Mt. Calvary Assembly, Daytona Beach
29. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
30. O'Neil Memorial Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach
31. West Jacksonville Primitive Baptist Church, Jacksonville
32. Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Alachua
33. Evergreen Baptist Church, Lake City

SunCoast Region

1. New St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tampa
2. Hands of God Ministries, Tampa
3. The Purple Alter Encounter, Tampa
4. Disciples of Christ Christian Fellowship, Inc., Riverview
5. Truvine Missionary Baptist Church, Sarasota
6. CFGT, Palmetto
7. Mt. Moriah M. B. Church, Plant City
8. Mt. Enon Primitive Baptist Church, Plant City

Central Region

1. Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Lakeland
2. New Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando
3. St. John Baptist Church, Orlando

Southern Region

1. Little Rock Primitive Baptist Church, Opa Locka
2. Our Father's House of Prayer Church, Miami Gardens
3. New Harvest Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
4. Faith Community Baptist Church, Miami
5. Bethel Apostolic Temple, Miami
6. Temple of Faith "A Place of Purity", Miami
7. Brownsville Church of Christ, Miami
8. Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
9. Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Coconut Grove
10. Gospel Arena International Ministries of Miami, Miami
11. Greater New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Miami
12. Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist church, Goulds

Southeast Region – As a result of limited outreach, new church partners were not realized for the first time in the Southeast Region. However, families were recruited in the region via work with existing partner churches.

Data Source: Monthly Activity Reports for Contract #LJ013 SFY 2024-2025

APPENDIX B



Board of Directors

Evang. Dr. Emmett Wiseman, President/Treasurer Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Plant City SunCoast Region	Rev. Delwynn Williams Vice-President St. John Missionary Baptist Church Panama City Northwest Region
Rev. Beverly H. Lane, President Emerita Bethel A.M.E. Church Tampa SunCoast Region	Rev. Clifton Riley Bethel A.M.E. Church Pensacola Northwest Region
Elder Terrance Brisbane Higher Ground Church of God in Christ Jacksonville Northeast Region	Rev. Karl Anderson Upper Room Ministries COGIC Gainesville Northeast Region
Minister Paulette Napper Greater Works Ministries Winter Haven/Haines City Central Region	Mrs. Cora Perry Greater Antioch M. B. Church Riviera Beach Southeast Region
Rev. Luke Harrigan Grace Haitian Baptist Church Pembroke Pines Southeast Region	Rev. Dr. Marian Tucker Joy of Deliverance Church Vero Beach Southeast Region
Rev. Lee M. Sapp Shepherd's Heart A.M.E. Church Loxahatchee Southeast Region	Rev. Al Jackson Jr. New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Miami Southern Region
Mr. Admiral Henderson Bethel A.M.E. Church Department of Children and Families (retired), Tallahassee (At Large)	

APPENDIX C



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Staff

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Rev. Al Williams, Deputy Director

Paulette Glover, MSW, Family Coordination Specialist

Ora Way, MBA/HCM, Northeast Region Recruitment Coordinator

Karen Bowen, SunCoast Region Recruitment Coordinator

Carolyn Lester, Volunteer, Southeast Region Part-time Recruitment Specialist

Latasha Collins, Administrative Assistant