

Annual Report to the Legislature 2025-2026

*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

As we reflect on a highly productive year, the One Church One Child State Board of Directors is pleased to present the Corporation's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Legislative Report. The report includes an overview of the status and successful operations of the Corporation. 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 over represented 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.

Through continued development of effective, collaborative partnerships with churches and other religious entities, 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.

The report highlights various activities and events shepherded throughout the year that reflect outreach efforts across Florida.

We proudly submit and share this report with recognition and appreciation for the churches, individuals, communities, businesses, foundations and governmental partners who all willingly collaborated 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*

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, X, 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 down-sized 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 November 2018, and the Plant City staff member was hired in April 2026. 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 3,265 volunteer hours were logged by advisory committee members, university interns, and other volunteers, while 2,713 volunteer hours were logged by state board members, for a total year-to-date of 5,978 volunteer hours. The total volunteer hours were valued at \$77,714. 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 2025-2026.

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, X, Instagram, and YouTube.
- Distributing approximately 25,000 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 793 community events/sponsored activities this fiscal year.
- Since July 2025, One Church One Child has presented to over 128,922 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 23, 2025.
- Coordinating the 4th Annual One Church One Child State Crusade for Children in February 2026.
- Distributing resource packets to more than 1500 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 2100 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 the local churches and individual community members.

****Major Accomplishments:**

Although churches across the state and nation have experienced the impact of decreases in congregation attendance and notate said, their commitment to ministries remain, as evidenced by their responsiveness to diligent grassroots, outreach efforts. Through a grassroots approach, 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 2025-2026

One Church One Child of Florida Tracking Log State Fiscal Year 2025-2026									
Month	Partner Churches	A/F Family Referrals	Mentor Family Referrals	Support Activities	Board Hours	Community Support/ Interns	LAC	Community Events	Attendees
July-25	7	8	10	3	196	16	123	62	19,136
Aug.-25	7	8	10	9	154	-----	171	68	11,898
Sept.-25	7	8	10	6	258	6	286	55	8,508
Oct.-25	7	8	10	4	209	7	164	68	8,776
Nov.-25	7	8	10	5	250	-----	433	77	10,955
Dec.-25	7	8	10	12	192	-----	173	63	10,257
Jan.-26	7	8	10	6	219	-----	210	58	9,186
Feb.-26	7	8	10	5	260	-----	192	48	7,741
March 26	7	8	10	7	209	-----	253	55	12,024
April-26	7	8	10	8	194	-----	317	58	9,811
May-26	7	8	10	6	221	-----	222	72	10,453
June-26	7	8	10	7	351	-----	692	61	10,177
TOTAL	84	96	120	78	2,713	29	3236	793	128,922

Development of Beneficial Program Activities

The Board's program activities in FY 2025-2026 have continued to add focus on older children and the need to help make life connections for them, recognizing that not all youth aging out of foster care have successful transitions into adulthood self-sufficiency, but require additional support.

This determination by the board was made in part, based on information shared by partner agencies, during regional education forums, over time. Often, discussion included the need for more focus on older children and making life connections for them.

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 about older children and the need for communities to understand the implications of children aging out of care without connections continues.

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, though the Legacy Project. This Legacy

Project/Program, though still 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 youth 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 1,446 resource churches recruited to date (See page 11 for a list of the 84 resource churches recruited FY 2025-2026).

Summary of the Provision of Training and Technical Assistance

February 18-19, 2026 State Crusade for Children, held in Jacksonville, 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 and self-sufficiency.

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 \$28,253. Donations of gifts for children were also received in the amount of \$6,100 for the fiscal year 2025-2026, donations excluding state contract monies totaled \$34,353.

****Major Accomplishments:**

Cash contributions, gifts, and other supports provided for children in foster care valued at \$34,353.

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



“Finding at least
One Family in each
Church, to **Adopt,**
Foster or **Mentor**
One Child!”

- OCOC of Florida

- Appendix A** **List of New Partner Churches Recruited in SFY 2025-2026**

- 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 2025-2026

Northwest Region

1. Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Perry
2. Bear Creek Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Quincy
3. Well Spring of Life, Tallahassee
4. Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church, Freeport
5. St. Joseph African Methodist Episcopal Church, Chipley
6. Pope Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Marianna
7. Union Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church, Monticello
8. New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Monticello
9. New Life Christian Center, Port St. Joe
10. Faith, Hope and Love International, Quincy
11. Bethel Salone Church of God in Christ, Pensacola
12. Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, Havana
13. St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, Blountstown
14. Experience Church, Tallahassee
15. Deliverance Temple Outreach Ministries, Tallahassee
16. The Hide-Away Church, Tallahassee
17. Oasis Christian Center, Tallahassee
18. St. Luke Primitive Baptist Church, Midway
19. Old Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Midway
20. Spirit and Truth Christian Fellowship, Inc., Crawfordville
21. St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee
22. Welaunee Missionary Baptist Church, Lamont
23. Vision Generation Center, Tallahassee
24. Kingdom Word Ministries, Tallahassee
25. Baptist Bible Gate Ministry, Tallahassee
26. The Way Ministries, Inc., Tallahassee
27. Trinity UPC, Tallahassee

Northeast Region

1. Making Disciples Ministries, Jacksonville
2. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, St. Augustine
3. West St. Mark Baptist Church, Jacksonville
4. Mt. Herman Baptist Church, Jacksonville

5. The Heart of Jacksonville Church, Jacksonville
6. Deliverance Church of Our Lord Jesus, Jacksonville
7. Old Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Gainesville
8. Unity Baptist Church, Jacksonville
9. Unity Church 316, Jacksonville
10. Greater Bethany Baptist Church, Jacksonville
11. Livingway Christian Church, Jacksonville
12. Lannie Road Baptist Church, Jacksonville
13. Greater St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church, Inc., Jacksonville
14. West Friendship Baptist Church, Jacksonville
15. Abundant Life World Harvest, Jacksonville
16. Greater New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Gainesville
17. City of Hope Ministries, Jacksonville
18. New Horizons, Jacksonville
19. Fresh Start Ministries, Gainesville
20. Moving Forward Christian Fellowship, Jacksonville
21. First United Church, Jacksonville
22. Gardenview Baptist Church, Jacksonville
23. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
24. Mt. Ararat Missionary Baptist Church, Lake City
25. The Truth Church, Jacksonville
26. Mt. Moria House of God Saints in Christ, Jacksonville
27. First African Missionary Baptist Church, Green Cove Spring

SunCoast Region

1. Connection Pointe, Riverview
2. New St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tampa
3. The Way Church, Tampa
4. Allen Temple African Methodist Church, Tampa
5. Miracle Temple Church of God in Christ, Tampa
6. Simmons Loop Baptist Church, Riverview
7. The Apostle Foundation Church of Jesus Christ, Seffner
8. Nouvo Lavi Tabe'nak, Seffner
9. Las Pisadas Del Maestro: Footsteps of the Master, Pinellas Park
10. Vertical Church, Tampa
11. Emmanuel Tabernacle, Tampa
12. Moving-On-Up Ministries, Plant City

13.Champions Life Church, Ruskin

Central Region

1. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church, Micanopy
2. Mt. Pleasant Primitive Baptist Church, Ft. Meade
3. Faith Outreach Ministry, Apopka
4. National Tabernacle Church of the Living God, Orlando
5. Tangelo Baptist Church, Orlando
6. The Hope Church, Orlando
7. Step Out Ministries, Lakeland
8. Church of God Bibleway, Auburndale
9. New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Orlando
10. Born Again Ministry, Inc., Orlando
11. Greater Refuge Memorial Church, Orlando
12. GS Church, Davenport

Southern Region

1. Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Miami
2. St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, Miami
3. Greater New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Miami
4. Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, Miami Gardens

Southeast Region

1. The Life Shift Church, Port St.Lucie

Data Source: Monthly Activity Reports for Contract #LJ013 SFY 2025-2026

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



One Church One Child of Florida, Inc.

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Ora Way, MBA/HCM, Northeast Region Recruitment Coordinator
Denzel Singleton, SunCoast Region Recruitment Coordinator
Carolyn Lester, Volunteer, Southeast Region Part-time Recruitment Specialist
Latasha Collins, Administrative Assistant