

One Church, One Child of Florida, Inc.

111 West Madison Street, Claude Pepper Building, Room 806
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850/414-5620

“Summary on the Status of the Corporation”

Annual Report to the Legislature

Fiscal Year 2005-2006

September 1, 2006



Jeb Bush, Governor
Lucy D. Hadi, Secretary
Patricia A. Badland, Acting Director
Office of Family Safety



Rev. Beverly Lane, President
Rev. Eustace Douglas, Vice-President
Arie Collins Sailor, Executive Director

**One Church, One Child of Florida, Inc.
Summary on the Status of the Corporation
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

Agency Statement of Faith: "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

A. Summary of Organization

One Church, One Child of Florida (OCOC) aggressively advocates on behalf of children in the state's foster care system in need of permanent homes.

In 1990, the Legislature passed the One Church, One Child Corporation Act, s. 409.1755, F.S., under the sponsorship of Senator Carrie Meek and Representative Bill Clark. This action placed the program into state law and mandated its operation as a non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor. To carry out the intent and provisions of s. 409.1755(3)(b)5, F.S., the program currently has a 31-member Board of Directors, which includes two members from each Department of Children and Families district, four from the region and one member-at-large. Board members serve a minimum 3-year term. The current board was appointed/reappointed by Governor Bush in April 2005.

Since 2003, One Church, One Child of Florida Corporation has operated statewide as a 501(c)3 non-profit, licensed child placing agency, in response to legislative mandate to privatize child welfare services.

In Fiscal Year 2005-2006 OCOC operated an office in Tallahassee which serves as the state headquarters. As a result of legislative funding this fiscal year, OCOC was able to support recruitment efforts through adding staff in District 2 (Tallahassee) and District 9 (West Palm Beach). Due to changes with the local district funding, the OCOC office in Orlando serving Orange, Osceola, Brevard and Seminole counties was minimized in November 2005.

Staff in the headquarters office include an Executive Director, Program Manager, Public Information/Community Coordinator, Staff Assistant and volunteers. The District 2 (Tallahassee, co-located with Headquarters) includes an OCOC Specialist/Coordinator, a part-time Recruiter/Trainer and local volunteers. The District 9 (West Palm Beach) Office includes an

OCOC Specialist/Coordinator, a part-time Recruiter/Trainer and local volunteers.

OCOC works in partnership with churches, local businesses, agencies and entities such as AARP, AmeriCorps, Daniel Memorial, Florida A&M University, Florida State University, Florida Coalition for Children, Florida Baptist Children's Home, Children's Home Society and other Community Based Care Agencies and continues its partnership with the Department of Children and Families.

State Board Members, advisory committee members and staff, in conjunction with members of the community, are involved in efforts to recruit adoptive and foster families.

State Board Members donated space in Districts 1, 3, 4, 13, 11, and 15. Volunteers are working with the state board members to support recruitment efforts locally. This year advisory committee members and other volunteers logged over 4,435 volunteer hours and state board members logged over 1,520 hours of volunteer time; for a total year-to-date of 5,955 volunteer hours.

B. Community Awareness and Involvement Activities

The One Church, One Child State Board Members and local advisory committee members continue to engage churches and communities by keeping the program's mission as the focal point. The Covenants of Participation process was continued in churches to heighten awareness and increase recruitment of potential adoptive and foster families. Successful activities included:

- Meeting with local churches and pastors inviting them to partner with OCOC as Covenant Churches. Musical Benefit Programs were held for OCOC to recruit churches not involved with OCOC. Presentations are made before congregations and community audiences.
- Advertising in various media including radio stations, television stations through their community calendar, programs and newspapers.
- Distributing posters, flyers and partnership information packets throughout the local area.
- Setting up One Church, One Child Information Booths at various community activities, such as, Local Community Awareness Day, Church Conventions and Conferences, Vacation Bible School, Family Day, Annual Legislative Day, Homecoming Activities, Annual Fair, Market Day, etc.

- Continuing with the “Adoption Crusade Campaign” to promote community awareness of the children in foster care in need of adoptive homes.
- Observing National Foster Care Month in May and National Adoption Month in November with local recruitment efforts.
- Observing “One Church, One Child Sunday” November 20, 2005. Distributing thousands, of the OCOC Sunday Proclamation signed by the Governor, to churches across the state focusing attention on children waiting for adoption.

***Major Accomplishments:**

OCOC Major Accomplishments since July 1, 2005 to date:

Eighteen (18) approved adoptive families

Six (6) children visiting approved families

Eight (8) additional families trained and in approval process

*Data source for statistics taken from OCOC Monthly Activity Reporting documents July 2005 – June 2006.

C. Development of Beneficial Program Activities, Major Accomplishments:

OCOC has also continued work with the new Godparent Program which provides an opportunity for youth (in long-term foster care who generally age out of care) to become part of an extended family network where they have a chance to experience the positive influence of a broader system of people. Because the Godparent relationship is currently recognized by churches and diverse communities as a respected and viable connection, there continues to be foundational support for this program in the OCOC network. Godparenting uses families who volunteer to provide a life-long link to a child.

Major accomplishments:

OCOC is now recommending and supporting the extension of the Godparent Program to include foster parents who have significantly strong ties to children being adopted by other families to help strengthen the adoption transition for these children.

D. Summary of the Provision of Training and Technical Assistance Activities

OCOC held statewide meetings and Recruitment and Volunteer trainings January 2006 in Panama City and June 2006 in West Palm Beach. The training and technical assistance was open to community organizations including social services agencies, churches, foster and adoptive families, public and private agency staff.

OCOC held 17 Orientations for families interested in adopting or providing foster care service and provided 7 (30-hour) Parent Preparation Classes for parents interested in adopting or fostering.

Major Accomplishment:

1. Approximately 30 leaders and members of the local community participated in the June 2006 Recruitment and Volunteer Training which focused on strategies to successfully work to help move children to permanency.
2. Graduated 50 individuals from the 30-hour parent preparation training.

E. Summary of Fund Raising Activities

Fundraising activities have included adoption recruitment crusades, individual fund raisers, grant writing to state and/or private foundations and private contributors. To date funds raised excluding state monies total \$39,270.00.

This report is submitted pursuant to s. 409.1755(3)(b)5., Florida Statutes, which directs the One Church, One Child of Florida, 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 1, each year.

NOTICE OF FILING

Reporting Agency:	Department of Children and Families
Recipient Agency:	GOVERNOR, SENATE PRESIDENT, HOUSE SPEAKER, MINORITY LEADERS
Subject:	Evaluation of the Model Comprehensive Residential services Programs and Comprehensive Residential Group Care Services State Fiscal Year 2004-2005.
Report Due Date:	09/01/06
Statutory Requirement:	s. 409.1755(3)(b) 5, F.S.
Abstract:	<p>One Church, One Child of Florida aggressively advocates on behalf of children in the state's foster care systems that are in need of permanent homes. Recruitment, training and study of prospective adoptive families characterize this advocacy effort.</p> <p>The legislation for this program is presented in one statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• s. 409.1755(3)(b) 5, F. S. This Legislation provides for the establishment of the One Church, One Child Corporation Act. This action placed the program into state law and mandated its operation as a non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor. <p>To carry out the intent and provisions of s. 409.1755(3)(b)5., F.S., the program currently has a 31 member Board of Directors, which includes two members from each Department of Children and Families district/zone, four from the region and one member-at-large. Board members serve a minimum 3-year term. Governor Bush appointed the current Board in April 2005.</p> <p>Since 2003, One Church, One Child Corporation of Florida has operated statewide as a 501(c)3 non-profit, licensed child-placing agency, in response to legislative mandate to privatize child welfare services.</p> <p>This evaluation is comprised of four sections: an evaluation of community awareness and involvement activities, development of beneficial program activities, provision of training and technical assistance activities and fund raising activities.</p> <p>The report provides information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality Performance• Outcome Measure Attainment• Cost Efficiency <p>Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting:</p> <p>Dept. of Children and Families Child Welfare/Community-Based Care Program 1317 Winewood Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700 Attn: Josette P. Marquess (850) 922-6234, email josette_marquess@dcf.state.fl.us</p>

