

# Annual Report to the Legislature 2023-2024

*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*

*The One Church One Child of Florida Annual Legislative Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is contained herein. The report includes an overview of the status and successful operations of the Corporation. One Church One Child has remained committed to the best practice, grassroots approach of building partnerships with the faith community, in efforts to increase outreach and 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 volunteer Board of Directors leading One Church One Child include representatives from each of the six (6) regions across the state. These distinguished leaders provide committed service, along with dedicated Staff, other Community Volunteers, and University Interns.*

*Florida, as with other states across the nation, continues to experience the impact of disparity and disproportionality of Black children being over represented in the child welfare system. To that end, One Church One Child works diligently to partner with Black churches and engage their assistance and support in reaching the communities.*

*It is through such 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.*

*This report highlights many 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*

## *2023-2024 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. Photos of available children with brief information on the children and related information would be shared with local media and with participating churches.
- **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.

### *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 April 2024. 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 August 2023. 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 3,722 volunteer hours were logged by advisory committee members, university interns, and other volunteers, while 2,259 volunteer hours were logged by state board members, for a total year-to-date of 5,981 volunteer hours. The total volunteer hours were valued at \$77,753. 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 2023-2024.

### ***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 12,000 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 732 community events/sponsored activities this fiscal year.
- Since July 2023 One Church One Child has presented to over 157,303 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 12, 2023.
- Coordinating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual One Church One Child State Crusade for Children in February 2024.
- Distributing resource packets to more than 650 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 3,800 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:***

**Although faith-based organizations continue to have modified access to their congregations, OCOC accomplished the established goal of recruitment and referral of 96 families interested in adopting/fostering children from foster care.**

**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 2023-2024**

One Church One Child of Florida Tracking Log State Fiscal Year 2023-2024									
Month	Partner Churches	A/F Family Referrals	Mentor Family Referrals	Support Activities	Board Hours	Community Support/ Interns	LAC	Community Events	Attendees
July-23	7	8	10	2	137	----	189	58	7,480
Aug.-23	7	8	10	4	145	----	131	45	7,620
Sept.-23	7	8	10	5	218	1	175	66	7,438
Oct.-23	7	8	10	8	214	148	291	76	10,867
Nov.-23	7	8	10	4	217	146	405	47	9,251
Dec.-23	7	8	10	2	173	40	134	48	8,739
Jan.-24	7	8	10	2	176	124	91	55	46,737
Feb.-24	7	8	10	1	294	376	408	57	16,656
March-24	7	8	10	1	172	264	151	68	8,580
April-24	7	8	10	1	179	227	120	52	17,556
May-24	7	8	10	1	175	----	133	56	6,468
June-24	7	8	10	1	159	----	168	72	9,911
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>157,303</b>

### *Development of Beneficial Program Activities*

The One Church One Child Annual State Crusade for Children implemented during the last fiscal year was expanded to include focus on youth aging out of foster care, with no connections. 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 more than 1,278 resource churches recruited to date (See page 10 for a list of the 84 resource churches recruited FY 2023-2024).**

### *Summary of the Provision of Training and Technical Assistance*

The February 21-23, 2024 State Crusade for Children, held in Winter Haven, 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 care 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:***

**Though churches throughout the state are still responding to changes in the environment impacting their level of operations, 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***

Donor contributions through fundraising activities were realized in the amount of \$20,701. Donations of gifts for children were also received in the amount of \$11,940 for the fiscal year 2023-2024, donations excluding state contract monies totaled \$32,641.

***\*\*Major Accomplishments:***

**Cash contributions, gifts, and other supports provided for children in foster care valued over \$32,641.**

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 to submit an annual report to the Legislature by September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## APPENDICIES



Appendix A	List of New Partner Churches Recruited in SFY 2023-2024
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 2023-2024**

#### **Northwest Region**

1. Evelenor Missionary Baptist Church, Crestview
2. St. Mary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Mt. Pleasant
3. Shiloh Church of Christ Written In heaven, Inc., Quincy
4. Downtown Community Church, Tallahassee
5. Impact Church, Tallahassee
6. Greater Empowerment International Ministries, Tallahassee
7. Second Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, Quincy
8. Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Pensacola
9. Justified Incarcerated Ministries, Cantonment
10. Little Salem Primitive Baptist Church, Crawfordville
11. Cathedral of Faith Ministries, Tallahassee
12. St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, Quincy
13. Greater Galilee Baptist Church, Midway
14. United Church of Tallahassee, Tallahassee
15. Holy Jerusalem Church of God, Tallahassee
16. Salt and Light Covenant Church, Tallahassee
17. Tribe Tallahassee, Tallahassee
18. New Destiny Christian Church, Quincy
19. Advent Episcopal Church, Tallahassee
20. East Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee
21. Free to Worship Church, Midway
22. Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee, Tallahassee
23. Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Monticello
24. New Life Nazarene Church, Tallahassee
25. Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, Pensacola
26. Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church, Milton
27. New Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, Havana
28. St. Paul United Methodist Church, Tallahassee

#### **Northeast Region**

1. Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Jacksonville
2. New Life Evangelistic Center, Inc., Jacksonville
3. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Madison
4. New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville
5. Shalom Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
6. New Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, DeLeon Springs
7. The Mercy Evangelistic Outreach, Jacksonville
8. Jearlyn Ministries, Bunnell
9. Dropping Seeds Ministry, Jacksonville
10. Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church, Gainesville
11. Greater Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, Ocala
12. Harvest Time Christian Fellowship, Jacksonville
13. New Birth Community Church, Jacksonville
14. We're For Jesus House of Prayer, Jacksonville
15. We're For Jesus House of Prayer – Lenox, Jacksonville
16. In the Name of Jesus Ministry, Orange Park
17. The Hospital Church, Jacksonville
18. Mt Calvary Baptist Church of Palm Coast, Palm Coast



19. Passage Family Church, Gainesville
20. Trinity United Missionary Baptist Church, Hawthorne
21. Second Baptist Church, Callahan
22. First Chronicles Community Church, Jacksonville
23. Solid Rock Church of God by Faith, Yulee
24. Church of God by Faith, Inc., Jacksonville Beach
25. Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Jacksonville
26. New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, White Springs
27. Greater New Mount Zion Primitive Baptist church, Daytona Beach
28. Mount Saini Christian Assembly, Jacksonville
29. New Life Fellowship Church, Jacksonville
30. Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Daytona Beach

### **SunCoast Region**

1. Transcending Ministries, Tampa
2. Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa
3. New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, St. Petersburg
4. True Life Community Church, Tampa
5. El Bethel Church, Tampa

### **Central Region**

1. Christian Fellowship Church, Sanford
2. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Eatonville
3. New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Orlando
4. Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Lakeland
5. Elim Ministries, Orlando
6. House of God Church Apopka, Apopka
7. Love Thy Neighbor Church of the Living God, Orlando
8. First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Apopka
9. New Life Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando
10. Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Dundee
11. Friendship Primitive Baptist Church, Cocoa
12. Open Door True Holiness Church, Winter Haven
13. Parkview Christian Life Center, Inc., Haines City

### **Southeast Region**

1. Chosen Vessels of JESUS Christ Ministries, Hallandale
2. Fivefold Global Traveling Network Ministries, Lauderhill
3. Holy Temple Holiness Church of Deliverance, Lauderhill

### **Southern Region**

1. Greater New Hope Primitive Baptist church, Miami
2. St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
3. Northdale Assembly Christian Center, Miami
4. Glory Temple Ministries/Possibilities Church, Miami
5. Transformation Ministries, Miami

**Data Source: Monthly Activity Reports for Contract #LJ013 SFY 2023-2024**

## APPENDIX B



### *Board of Directors*

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

Dr. Arie Sailor, MSW, Th.D., Executive Director

Rev. Al Williams, Deputy Director

Paulette Glover, MSW, Family Coordination Specialist

Ora Way, MBA/HCM, Northeast Region Recruitment Coordinator

Akyiah Phillips, SunCoast Region Recruitment Coordinator

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

Rashonda Crawford, Administrative Assistant