

# Annual Report to the Legislature 2022-2023

*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



# One Church One Child of Florida, Inc.

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## *Message from the President and Executive Director*

*One Church One Child of Florida is pleased to share the Annual Legislative Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This report provides a review of the status and successful operations of the Corporation. This last year, One Church One Child continued the best practice, grassroots approach of building partnerships with the faith community, increasing 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 One Church One Child of Florida Corporation is led by a volunteer Board of Directors who represent their respective regions and the state collectively in providing committed leadership to the Corporation along with dedicated Staff, other Community Volunteers, and University Interns.*

*Recognizing the on-going disparity and disproportionality of Black children being over represented in the child welfare system, One Church One Child continued to be actively involved and at the forefront of developing new partnerships and maintaining on-going partnerships with Black Churches.*

*Development of collaborative partnerships with these churches and other religious entities assists in increasing awareness and educating communities on the plight of children in foster care. Additionally, One Church One Child emphasizes the need, for resource families and individuals for children in foster care, to churches and other entities.*

*Contained in this Annual Report are some of the many outreach efforts utilized during the year to assist the Department of Children and Families and Community Based Care agencies in helping to increase the number of families and individuals coming forward to adopt, foster and/or mentor children. The report also identifies new churches recruited during the fiscal year to serve as community resources and assist with local efforts throughout the state.*

*This report is submitted with great appreciation and recognition of the many churches, individuals, communities, businesses, foundations, and governmental partners who work together in successful collaboration to help impact the lives of Florida's children who are in foster care and local families.*

*Sincerely,*

**Rev. Dr. Emmett Wiseman**  
**President**

**Dr. Arie C. 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*

## 2022-2023 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. 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 September 2013. 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 July 2019. 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. OCOF continues its partnership with the Department of Children and Families.

OCOC of Florida continues its work with the national One Church One Child and the Child Welfare League of America Faith Advisory Committee (CWLAFAAC). In partnership with these entities, OCOF 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 OCOF time tracking logs. Statewide statistics show that this year 4,824 volunteer hours were logged by advisory committee members, university interns, and other volunteers, while 2,444 volunteer hours were logged by state board members, for a total year-to-date of 7,268 volunteer hours. The total volunteer hours were valued at \$94,484. 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 2022-2023.

### *Community Awareness and Involvement Activities*

The One Church One Child State Board of Directors and Local Advisory Committees (LAC) continue 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 of the activities featured below were conducted in person. Based on where the various churches and communities are with respect to the on-going COVID-19 response, some activities 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 11,000 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 624 community events/sponsored activities this fiscal year.



- Since July 2022 One Church One Child has presented to over 128,095 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 13, 2022.
- Implementing the One Church One Child Annual State Crusade for Children in February 2023.
- Distributing resource packets to more than 550 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 3,500 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:**

**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 121 families for mentoring and permanent connections of children from foster care.**

**Data Source: One Church One Child Family Tracking Spreadsheets, SFY 2022-2023**

<b>One Church One Child of Florida Tracking Log State Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b>									
<b>Month</b>	<b>Partner Churches</b>	<b>A/F Family Referrals</b>	<b>Mentor Family Referrals</b>	<b>Support Activities</b>	<b>Board Hours</b>	<b>Community Support/ Interns</b>	<b>LAC</b>	<b>Community Events</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
July-22	7	8	10	1	130	---	96	65	7,079
Aug.-22	7	8	10	7	134	---	213	50	2,289
Sept.-22	7	8	10	3	273	---	280	54	9,494
Oct.-22	7	8	10	5	179	---	154	68	8,798
Nov.-22	7	8	10	2	188	---	170	48	45,044
Dec.-22	7	8	10	6	153	---	187	40	5,544
Jan.-23	7	8	10	6	159	578	141	46	9,397
Feb.-23	7	8	10	3	473	728	206	40	8,592
March-23	7	8	10	1	111	788	110	44	5,932
April-23	7	8	10	5	140	684	118	45	8,118
May-23	7	8	10	5	136	---	116	35	6,969
June-23	7	8	10	1	188	---	258	44	11,649
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>2,778</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>128,905</b>

***Development of Beneficial Program Activities***

One Church One Child expanded education and outreach efforts through implementation of An Annual State Crusade for Children, which included regional crusades, to ensure statewide coverage and greater partnership participation. The crusade is an education project that focuses on 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 additional resource churches, making a total of more than 1,194 resource churches (See page 10 for listing of new resource churches).**

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

The December 8, 2022, One Church One Child Board Meeting and Training included major discussions on the need to bring key stakeholders together statewide in taking a closer look at the situation of children and local families and include a biblical perspective in understanding and helping to address indicated needs of children and families in local communities across the state. 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 Education Forums and 12 Community Trainings statewide.

**\*\*Major Accomplishments:**

**Even in the post-pandemic environment, 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***

Though fundraising activities continued to be impacted by the pandemic conditions, donor contributions were realized in the amount of \$20,206. Donations of gifts for children were also received in the amount of \$7,675. For fiscal year 2022-2023, donations excluding state contract monies totaled \$27,881.

**\*\*Major Accomplishments:**

**Cash contributions, gifts, and other supports provided for children in foster care valued over \$27,881.**

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 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## APPENDICIES



- Appendix A**            **List of New Partner Churches Recruited in SFY 2022-2023**
- 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 2022-2023

#### Northwest Region

1. New Bethel AME Church, Monticello
2. Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Pensacola
3. New Birth Church, Quincy
4. Imitators of God Ministries, Tallahassee
5. The Word Church of Panama City, Panama City
6. Redeemed Christian Church of God, Tallahassee
7. Carriers of the Glory International Ministries, Tallahassee
8. New Hope International Outreach Ministries, Tallahassee
9. Royal Ladies Empowered Ministries, Inc., Tallahassee
10. New Beginning Christian Center, Tallahassee
11. No Chains and Freedom Ministries, Inc., Tallahassee
12. New Life Christian Center West, Panama City
13. Trinity Revival Church, Tallahassee
14. New Revelation Church of Christ, Quincy
15. Connection Church, Tallahassee
16. A Changing Church Intl, Tallahassee
17. New Harvest Christian Center, Tallahassee
18. Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church, Quincy
19. Shiloh Church of Christ Written in Heaven, Quincy
20. Life Changing Faith Church, Inc., Quincy
21. Centenary United Methodist Church, Quincy
22. Bear Creek Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Quincy
23. New St. Peter Apostolic Church, Quincy
24. Gathering God Harvest Outreach, Tallahassee
25. New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Pensacola
26. Agape Christian Fellowship Center, Quincy
27. Victory Chapel, Tallahassee
28. Antioch Temple Church of God in Christ, Panama City
29. Trinity Tabernacle Interdenominational, Quincy
30. New St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, Havana
31. Kingdome Connections Ministries, Inc., Quincy
32. House of Prayer Five-Fold Ministry, Tallahassee
33. The Open Door Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., Quincy

#### Northeast Region

1. New Life Power Ministries, Jacksonville
2. Mt. Lebanon, Jacksonville
3. Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
4. Royal Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
5. Rehoboth Jacksonville, Jacksonville
6. The Garden of Christ Ministries, Jacksonville
7. Armor of Faith Christian Center, Inc., Jacksonville
8. Rehoboth Apostolic Ministry, Jacksonville
9. St. Luke Holiness Church, Jacksonville
10. Greater Missionary Tabernacle Baptist Church, Jacksonville

11. Hephzibah Evangelistic Pentecostal, Jacksonville
12. Christ Church International, Jacksonville
13. New Life Community Church, Jacksonville
14. New Life Ministries, Jacksonville
15. Barrett Ministries, Jacksonville
16. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Jacksonville
17. Shady Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Jacksonville
18. God's House of Prayer, Jacksonville
19. Freedom Christian Fellowship Church, Jacksonville
20. New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Anthony
21. Real Life End Time Evangelistic Ministry Inc., Jacksonville
22. Godhead Family Fellowship, Jacksonville
23. Covenant Ministries International Church of God in Christ, Orange Park
24. Faith Lift Church, Jacksonville
25. Summerville Baptist Church, Jacksonville

### **SunCoast Region**

1. Collins-St. Mark AME Church, St. Petersburg
2. St. James AME Church Clearwater
3. Love First Christian Center, Riverview
4. Exciting Faith Alive, Tampa
5. Holy Outreach For Christ, Tampa
6. Jesus Saves Thru Faith Apostolic Church of God, Tampa
7. The Transformation Center Life Works, Tampa
8. Gulf Coast Community Church, St. Petersburg
9. Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, St. Petersburg
10. Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, St. Petersburg
11. Speak Life Church, Tampa

### **Central Region**

1. St. Paul AME Chapel, Apopka
2. The Powerhouse Christian Center, Eustis
3. Elim Baptist Church, Orlando
4. St. Lawrence AME Church, Eatonville
5. True Vision in Christ Church of the Living God, Inc., Orlando

### **Southeast Region**

1. Greater Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, West Park
2. Central Missionary Baptist Church, West Park
3. Greater St. Paul AME Church, Boynton Beach
4. The Immanuel Temple, Pembroke Pines

### **Southern Region**

1. St. Paul, Biberty City/Miami, Miami
2. OMG Ministries, Miami
3. Fredom Church Miami, Miami
4. Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
5. Greater New Macedonia Baptist Church, Miami
6. Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Miami

**Data Source: Monthly Activity Reports for Contract #LJ013 SFY 2022-2023**

**APPENDIX B**



***Board of Directors***

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

**APPENDIX C**



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Rev. Al Williams, Deputy Director

Paulette Glover, MSW, Family Coordination Specialist

Ora Way, MBA/HCM, Northeast Region Recruitment Coordinator

Dr. Kimberly Dickens, SunCoast Region Recruitment Coordinator

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

Shemeka Jones, Administrative Assistant