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Open Arms Ministry

November 2010 Newsletter

ADOPTION/FOSTER EDUCATION & SUPPORT AT CALVARY

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING: will be held Wednesday, November 17th, at 7:00pm in Room 153 at the Mid Rivers Campus. Please join us if you have a heart for changing an orphan's or vulnerable child's life. It only takes one person to make a difference for one child. We desperately need volunteers like you!

OPEN ARMS ADOPTION/FOSTER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT MEETING: will be held on Friday, November 19th, from 7-8:30pm in room 130. The meeting's topic will be, "How to incorporate your child's heritage into the holidays." Free childcare is provided for ages birth-12 years old for those who RSVP their children by Tuesday, November 16th. You may RSVP by calling 636-939-4343, x1250. Please leave a message with the name and age of your children. If you have a change of plans or cannot come to the meeting, you will need to cancel your childcare reservations by 5pm on Thursday, November 18th, or be charged a fee of \$5 per child.

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF MO TRAINING SESSIONS: Each of the following training sessions counts as training toward license requirements. To register for any of these classes, call 314-968-2350, x223 or email educationandcounseling@chsmo.org.

Wednesdays, November 10th & 17th, 6-9pm: Building Strong Sibling Relationships

Tuesday, November 23rd, 6-9pm: Holiday Stress. Why do foster & adopted children have trouble at the holidays? Learn to Minimize the stress.

Wednesday, December 8th, 6-9pm: Providing Care for infants. Refresh your baby skills.

Tuesday, December 14th, 6-9pm: Using Humor in Parenting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SAMARITAN'S PURSE'S OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX COLLECTION will be held at all three Calvary Campuses starting on Sunday, October 31 through November 21st. Start collecting empty shoe boxes or purchase a \$1 plastic box and fill with supplies for children. Host a Christmas box decorating party and bring the decorative boxes to Calvary for others to fill. Ask your child's school if they could collect items for the boxes. Calvary's Middle School Ministry is going to do a service project in October with a goal of filling 200 empty boxes and can use help with donations. Informational brochures available now at the Open Arm's Ministry table or starting October 31st at the collection table at all three campuses.

MPACT and OCR Training: There will be a free training from MPACT, entitled "The Art of Effective Advocacy" and from OCR entitled "Rights under OCR as they Relate to IP's, 504's, ADA and Safe Schools Act. The two training sessions will be offered jointly on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, from 1-4:00pm or from 6-9:00pm at St. Louis ARC, 1177 North Warson Road, St. Louis, MO 63132. This training session is for families, individuals with disabilities, educators, administrators and the general public. Please call 1-877-349-3212 or visit www.ptimpact.org to register.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ORPHAN MINISTRY LEADER: Open Arms Ministry is in need of a person who either has a passion for making a difference in the lives of orphans or has passion to helping families adopt. If God is leading you to take a step out of that comfort zone and get involved with a ministry that is truly making a huge difference in the lives of adoptive/foster families and orphans, please contact Kim Smith at 636-939-4343 x1250. These volunteer positions only require a couple hours of week of your time.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING NEEDED: We are in need of infant/children's Fall & Winter clothing, baby equipment, gift cards, etc. to be used for those Calvary families in our Safe Families Program. If you have any items to donate, please contact Kim Smith at 636-939-4343 x1250.

PRAY FOR:

Waiting families:

Amy & Rob Anderson (domestic adoption);
Joseph & Michelle Clevenger (foster adoption).
Bo & Brian Taylor (Philippines adoption);
Tina & Greg Squires (Philippines adoption);
Tricia & James Siebert (domestic adoption);
Amy & Eric Soar (China adoption);
Sharon & Paul Young (finalizing private adoption);
Charlotte & Al Lockhart (foster adoption); and
Cheri & Filipe (foster adoption).

Foster families:

Tracie Johnson
Monica Bembry
Paul & Jan Wilkin
Joseph & Michelle Clevenger

If you are adopting or plan on fostering or know of anyone within Calvary that is not on our list, please let our ministry know so that we can add the family to this list, and lift them up in prayer.

Open Arms Ministry Team Leaders:

Chris Michalski - Leader for Adoption Ministry
Brian Taylor - Leader for Orphan Ministry
LeaAnn Grimshaw & Christy Kaufman - Leaders for Foster Ministry

For in You, the orphan finds mercy. Hosea 14: 3c, NASB

Kim Smith

Director of Open Arms Ministries



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