



Open Arms Ministry

Reaching out to orphaned and abandoned children around the world.

June

Calendar

June

- 8 - Informational meeting for Dallas Mission trip
- 14 - Epworth Polo Match Fundraiser
- 18 - Open Arms Monthly Meeting, 7pm, Room 153
- 28 - Epworth Community Project
- 29 - Adoptive/foster family playgroup, 3-5pm, Calvary Mid Rivers indoor playground

July

- July 31 - August 3 - Mission trip to Buckner warehouse

The Collection Bin

Shoes - We need donations of brand new shoes, socks and shoelaces. Sizes are infant through adult and the shoes/socks can be any style. We will be collecting the shoes at all campuses during the month of July. This is an easy way for people to get involved!

Birthday Buddies - As a birthday buddy, you provide birthday gifts to a child in foster care who has an upcoming birthday. You could ask people to bring a gift an event (a meeting, a playgroup, a birthday party or backyard BBQ) to give to a foster child. Children could earn money this summer to provide a birthday gift as well. Be creative and have fun with this super easy project!

If interested, the Adrenaline Zone sponsors a Birthday Buddy Party. Adrenaline Zone will give you a \$10 discount and will donate 6 free games of laser tag to the foster child you choose. Friends coming to your party would bring gifts for the foster child and Adrenaline Zone takes the responsibility for delivering the gifts to the foster child you choose.

To choose a child or get more information about the Birthday Buddy program, go to <http://www.foster-adopt.org> and click on "For Donors/Volunteers. For reservations at Adrenaline

Zone, please call 636-940-7700 and make sure to let the event coordinator know that your party is a Birthday Buddy Party.

Why should you become a Birthday Buddy?

- 1.) There are over 5,000 children in foster care in the St. Louis area
- 2.) A foster child spends an average of 2 birthdays in care.
- 3.) The state of Missouri ranks 48 out of 50 states in foster care reimbursement rates. A recent study indicates that Missouri's reimbursement rate for foster parents falls far short of the actual costs of providing for foster children; foster parents use their own funds to pay the difference
- 4.) The average foster family has an annual income of \$21,000-\$30,000 per year.

Ways to Get Involved

- **WE NEED SOLEMATES** - Children around the world are looking for "Solemates" which are people like you who will provide shoes for them. Simply collect at least 12 pairs of new shoes. You can do it alone or with friends, family, or co-workers. Bring the shoes to Calvary during the month of July. We are challenging each of you to become a solemate to 12 orphaned children by providing them shoes!
- **INFORMATIONAL MEETING for DALLAS MISSION TRIP** will be held on Sunday, June 8th at 6:30pm in room 153. The trip is July 31-August 3rd in Mesquite, Texas, at the Buckner warehouse. We will be sorting shoes for orphans. This is a perfect mission trip for families with children of all ages. For further information contact Kim Smith at (636) 688-0166 or Jen Huff at (636) 614-1919.
- **TAKE DINNER TO ADOPTIVE FAMILY** - We need several volunteers to prepare and deliver dinner to the Michalskis upon returning from Russia the first week in June. Dates open are Sunday, June 8th and Wednesday, June 11th. Please contact Staci Maneage at jsmanceage@aol.com if you are interested.
- **EPWORTH POLO MATCH FUNDRAISER** - We need 20-30 people to help with this fundraiser on June 14th. Volunteers are needed to help with setup, shuttle crew, concession stands, games/rides, dinner tent, auction and cleanup. To sign up, go to www.calvarymidrivers.org, click on Serve, click Community Serving and see the list of times and jobs for this event. You may sign up on the website or email Danna Fowler at dlfowler6@yahoo.com. You must be 16 or older to help.
- **PAINTING DORM ROOMS** - On Saturday, June 28th, we will be assisting Epworth by painting dorm rooms. Please sign up on the Calvary website under Community Service projects, or contact Danna Fowler at dlfowler6@yahoo.com.

- **BABY BOTTLE CHANGE COLLECTION PROJECT MANAGER** - We need a project manager for this exciting project. The children at Calvary will be collecting change in baby bottles from June 22 until the end of August. All the change collected will be sent to help the Obregon, Mexico, orphanage. Please contact Kim Smith at rypasm@bigfoot.com if you are interested.
- **CELL PHONE COLLECTION PROJECT MANAGER** - Tasks include periodically collecting donated cell phones from two collection areas at Calvary and shipping to the company (free shipping). Please contact Kim Smith at rypasm@bigfoot.com if you are interested.

Mission Trips

FAMILY MISSION TRIP to the Buckner Warehouse in Dallas, Texas, July 31-August 3rd to help sort and pack shoes for orphans around the world. Call Jen Huff at (636) 614-1919 for further information.

BUCKNER MISSION TRIP to the Texas/Mexican border to deliver shoes to orphans. Two trips are scheduled: September 17th-21st and October 22nd-26th. For more info: itsyourmission.com/tripcalendar.shtml.

Congratulations...

Congratulations to ...

Brent & Chris Michalski on their adoption of their daughter, Masha from Russia.

Colleen & Matt on their adoption of their son, Owen from South Korea.

Tanya Poteet on her High School graduation from Christian High. Tanya was adopted from Russia three years ago by Sandy & Jeremy Poteet along with her two siblings. Tanya will be going to Ecuador in August to hand out shoeboxes to needy children for Operation Christmas Child. Her future plans are to stay in the mission field.

Prayer Requests

- **Portraits of Grace Photo Gallery** - Pray that God will use this project to help find forever families for St. Louis Foster children.
 - **Orphans around the world** - there are millions of children worldwide who have no one to take care of them.
 - **More churches' involvement in helping orphans** - Pray for revival in U.S. churches so that they will start obeying God's commandment and start taking action to help orphans.
 - **Chapman family** - please pray for the Steven Curtis Chapman family after the loss of their adoptive daughter Maria.
 - **Calvary Families in Waiting** - Several families are currently in the process of adopting children. Pray that paperwork is processed quickly and that waiting times are short.
 - **Local Foster families** - Please pray for several foster families and especially for the children as decisions are being made by the courts regarding each of their futures.
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