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Open Arms Ministry - September 2010 Newsletter

ADOPTION/FOSTER EDUCATION & SUPPORT AT CALVARY

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING: will be held Wednesday, September 15th, at 7:00pm in room 151. 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 need volunteers like you!

OPEN ARMS ADOPTION/FOSTER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT MEETING: will be held on Friday, October 24th, from 7-8:30pm. We will have a special guest speaker, Marney Cullen, from the West Campus. Marney was adopted when she was 5. She is a parent mentor with IMPACT, an advocacy group that has been extremely helpful. As a parent mentor, she helps families navigate the educational special needs process to help children achieve success in school. Please RSVP if you plan on attending the meeting. Free childcare is provided for ages birth-12 years old for those who RSVP their children by Tuesday, September 21st. 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, September 23rd, or be charged a fee of \$5 per child.

HEATHER FORBES' BEYOND CONSEQUENCES CLASS: This free class will teach you a love-based approach to helping children with behavioral issues and is taught by two certified trainers. Many adoptive families have testified that this approach has done wonders with their children. Our first class to be held in October is completely filled, but we are offering a second class starting on Wednesday, January 5th, from 6-8pm for six consecutive Wednesday evenings. Childcare will be provided. Space is very limited, so please sign up quickly if you are interested in taking this class. To RSVP, call 636-939-4343, x1250.

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.

Tuesday, September 14th, 6-9pm: Introduction to Attachment Disorders and Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)

Saturday, September 25th, 9am-3pm: Ready, Set, Fly! Training focuses on the unique issues involved with preparing adolescents to live on their own.

Tuesday, September 28th, 6-9pm: Impact of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development

Thursdays, October 7th & 14th, 6-9pm: Respite Provider Training

Wednesdays, October 13th & 20th, 6-9 pm: Understanding the Effects of Sexual Abuse

Tuesday, October 26th, 6-9pm: African American Hair & Skin Care

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

MISSION TRIP TO MALAWI, AFRICA: Have you ever dreamed of going to Africa to work with orphans? Here is your chance! Attend the first informational meeting on Sunday, September 19th, at 12noon in room 114/116 (children's wing) to hear about the upcoming Calvary mission trip in June 2011. We will be working with Save Orphans Ministry in southern Malawi.

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 22nd. 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.

PORTRAITS OF GRACE: will be shown at Calvary for one week at each campus starting September 29th and running through October 20th. This gallery is photos of St. Louis foster children available for adoption. Please invite friends and neighbors to come see it.

OPEN ARMS PLAYGROUP: will be on Saturday, October 16th, from 3-5pm, at Calvary's indoor playground.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ORPHAN MINISTRY LEADER: Open Arms Ministry is in need of a person who has a passion for making a difference in the lives of orphans to fill the position of Orphan Ministry Leader. The other position we need to fill is a third leader for our Adoption Ministry with a person who has a passion for adoption. 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.

SAFE HOMES NEEDED TO CARE FOR CHILDREN: If you have a extra bed to offer to a child for a few weeks or a few months then come find out more about Open Arms' newest program called "Safe Families for Children." This is a transformational alternative to foster care that makes the homes of local Christians and their church community the center of care. This model now serves more than 1,000 youth in the Chicago area each year, and is now being replicated by Christian Alliance for Orphans organizations and churches in seven states. This program gives kids a safe place to stay while mom and dad get back on their feet through help from Bethany Christian Services. For more information, contact Open Arms at 636-939-4343 x1250 or Kristina Duce at Bethany Christian Services at 314-452-6547 or KDuce@Bethany.org.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING MINISTRY LEADER: We are in need of someone to help start collecting and storing children's clothing and equipment to be used for those Calvary families in our Safe Families Program. If you are interested in starting this ministry, please contact Kim Smith at 636-939-4343 x1250.

HELP AN ADOPTIVE FAMILY: One of our former Calvary adoptive families, the Angels, have entered a radio station contest to win a free benefit concert to help provide the needed therapy and support for their adoptive daughter, Jessa. They are also hoping to help other adoptive families like them. Please go to YOUTUBE at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_-hY8Vt-BA and watch their video (60 seconds). The more hits they get, the more votes they get towards winning the contest.

PRAY FOR:

Waiting families:

Amy & Rob Anderson (domestic adoption);
Joseph & Michelle Clevenger (foster adoption).
Bo & Brian Taylor (Phillippines 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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