



## OPEN ARMS Vision Statement

*No Michigan child will wait for an adoptive family!*

Thousands of children in Michigan are living without a permanent mom and dad. These children are waiting and hoping for loving families to step forward and adopt them...to be there for them. Bethany Christian Services is answering God's call to help these children by motivating the Body of Christ to demonstrate their faith by caring for these children. We approach each child with the conviction that every life is a promise.

Bethany's seven offices across Michigan have entered into partnerships with local churches through Project Open Arms, a new faith-based community initiative. Project Open Arms specifically identifies older children in Michigan who need a permanent family, promotes adoption recruitment activities within the church body, and recruits adoptive families for Michigan's waiting children.

The mission of Project Open Arms is to increase the number of families entering the child welfare continuum as adoption advocates, recruiters, and adoptive families. By specifically promoting older children and their needs through community church partnerships, we will increase the availability of Christian adoptive families for waiting children. With God's blessings, *there will be no child waiting for adoption in the state of Michigan.*

Project Open Arms seeks to meet the following goals through partnership with the Body of Christ by:

- Increasing church and community awareness of the need for adoptive families.
- Promoting and recruiting families for specific children who are waiting to be adopted.
- Promoting and conducting informational meetings, trainings, church bulletin announcements, adoption events, and small group discussions to encourage interested families, individuals, and groups within the church congregation.
- Identifying and training willing church staff and church members to assist in recruitment strategies within their churches.
- Identifying prospective adoptive families within the church and introducing them to specific children who are available for adoption.
- Supporting families who are considering adoption by providing information, advocacy, reassurance, liaison work, resources, and validation.
- Assisting in the recruitment of additional community churches to participate in Project Open Arms.



*Religion that God our Father  
accepts as pure and faultless is this:  
to look after orphans and widows  
in their distress and to keep oneself  
from being polluted by the world.*

James 1:27 NIV

Bethany Christian Services has more than 60 years of Christ-centered experience in providing and strengthening families for children. Bethany is recognized for its excellence for working in partnership with the Christian community and in cooperation with public and private agencies.