



02-12-07

Hello Champions!

Again, thank you for joining us in the effort to strengthen the relationship between Bethany Christian Services and your church through the Champions for Children Program! The kick off event went really well and I enjoyed meeting everyone. For those of you who could not attend, we were able to meet a birthmother and several adoptive parents, talk about the goals and objectives of the program and we also explored the impact of the Bethany Christian Services' Kalamazoo office in 2006. Our office has had a tremendous impact on the state of Michigan and the country and we hope to share these things with your congregation through Champions for Children.

Every Champion will have a different approach, and I hope to help you cater the Champions for Children program to your specific needs and the needs of your church. We will do everything possible to support you by providing informational resources, publications, and materials to disperse. In addition, we have staff members who are willing to speak to your congregation if you would like to have someone come to a service. Doing the little things like putting up a Bethany Christian Services poster, or inserting a blurb about an upcoming Bethany event in your bulletin or newsletter make all the difference in getting people interested in and passionate about adoption and foster care. Please see the attached page for the February update and ways you can get involved at Bethany.

We are really excited to get this program off the ground and in order to do so efficiently and with the utmost support from your church, I would like to schedule a meeting with you and your pastor at your convenience. I have emailed your identified church leader as noted on your information profile to inform them of the Champions for Children program and encourage their support of your role. If you could arrange a time (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays work the best for me) with your pastor (and/or other church leadership who may be interested or have some helpful ideas about where to go from here) as soon as possible I would really appreciate it.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. With your feedback (What you've found to be effective or ineffective, suggestions for future improvement, and ideas for ways for your church to partner with Bethany Christian Services) we hope to create a strong and lasting relationship, influencing positive change within your church and our organization.

Blessings,

Karman Hamlin
"Champions for Children" Program Coordinator
Bethany Christian Services
6687 Seeco Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-372-8800



The Champions for Children Connection

FEBRUARY 2007

- Thursday, February 15, 6:30-8:30pm
International Adoption Information Session
Bethany Christian Services Kalamazoo Branch
6687 Seeco Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
 - If someone you know is particularly interested in international adoption, please have them contact Mary Holtapp at 269-372-8800 to RSVP for this session.

- Tuesday, February 20 5:15-7:30pm
Rollerskating Party for Bethany Families
Rollerworld
7491 Stadium Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
 - Tuesday is the "Skate on Your Can" night for Loaves and Fishes, we will need **5-10 volunteers** to collect/hand out canned goods at the door, welcome people, help kids skate, and pass out pizza and pop. Please call/email Karman Hamlin if you are interested in helping (372-8800 or khamlin@bethany.org).

- Thursday, March 1, 6:30-8:30pm*
**Adoption Information Meeting:
International, Domestic, Older/Special Needs Adoption**
"The River" Church
1652 North M-40
Allegan, MI 49010
 - Please join the Bethany Christian Services offices of Holland and Kalamazoo as we bring together a panel of adoptive families to share their stories and professional staff to answer any questions. Unfortunately, childcare will not be provided, but refreshments will! Please RSVP at 800-226-7703.

* I have attached a flyer for this Adoption Information Meeting on March 1st. It will provide families interested in adoption with a more comprehensive view of the process. Please try to put this flyer up on a bulletin board or somewhere in your church. Thank you!!!