

6-25-07



Hello Champions!

Thank you to those of you who have sent in your assessment surveys. If you have not already, please take five minutes to fill out the assessment survey on the 4th page of this document. Please be sure to include any comments and/or suggestions for the future and know how truly valuable your feedback is in helping your church, the Champions for Children program, and Bethany Christian Services. Please encourage your church leadership to visit our website, www.bethany.org/kalamazoo, and contact me with times, if we have not already met, when you and your pastor are available to discuss the needs of your church and the direction this program can take.

For the month of June, I challenged you to spread the word about the “Adoption Discovery Night.” We had 18 families attend, many of whom mentioned that they heard about the event through their churches! Thank you so much for your help; it was a wonderful evening for all! We hope to have several families attend our orientation meetings and inquire for further information about the processes of adoption and foster care as a result.

For the month of July, I would like to challenge you to volunteer to help out with the Bethany Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 21st at the Bethany office from 4:30-7:00pm. Having all of our Champions involved would really help make this event a success. There are several different ways to be involved – from face painting to baking - and we would really appreciate your help. Please see below for further information and **please** choose to participate in at least one of the Champion challenges, as every little bit helps.

In addition, I would like to challenge you to recruit teams for our 5th annual Southwest Michigan Bethany Golf Outing at Thornapple Creek Golf Club on September 11th, 2007. This event brings individuals, community partners, board members, staff, and volunteers together for a day of fun to raise awareness and funds for Bethany’s ministry. Proceeds directly support our efforts to find loving homes for children in need. Please see below for further information and/or check out the website at <http://www.bethany.org/A55798/bethanyWWW.nsf/0/B92AEEA08DEB0873852572FB004DC180>.

Please see the attached page for the July Connection, Champion Challenges for this month, and the assessment questionnaire. If each Champion participates monthly in some way, doing something, we are able to reach over 30 churches with the message that millions of children are in need and they have both a responsibility and an opportunity to help! As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. With your feedback 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
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269-372-8800
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The Champions for Children Connection

JULY 2007 CALENDAR



○ **Monday, July 2**

4:30-8:00pm

Older/Special Needs Adoption Orientation – General Information Session

Bethany Christian Services Kalamazoo Branch
6687 Seeco Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49009

- If you or someone you know is particularly interested in older/special needs adoption, please have them contact Angela Mitchell at 269-372-8800 to RSVP for this session.

○ **Wednesday, July 4**

Independence Day Holiday

- Please pray for the millions of orphans across the world who have never known the freedoms we are granted in this country. Please pray for our nation's leaders, that they might advocate for the needs of children and families in need.
- In honor of Independence Day, challenge your church to take action in finding homes for the 530,000 children in the U.S. foster care system and the 143 million orphans worldwide.

JULY 2007 CHAMPION CHALLENGES

CHAMPION CHALLENGE:

Help brighten the lives of Bethany Christian Services' foster children by serving as a volunteer at our Ice Cream Social, planned for Wednesday, August 21st from 4:30-7:00pm at the Bethany office (6687 Seeco Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49009)!



1. Please consider volunteering in some capacity whether it be through:

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|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Helping with registration | e. Helping with music |
| b. Serving the ice cream | f. Supervising a bounce house e. |
| c. Helping with decorations/prizes | g. Face painting |
| d. Running a game station | h. <u>Baking desserts</u> (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. – please deliver by 5:00pm on Monday, August 18 th at the Bethany office) |

CHAMPION CHALLENGE:



Make an announcement about our 5th annual Golf Outing coming up September 11th at Thornapple Creek Golf Club (6415 West F. Avenue Kalamazoo, MI 49009). The entry fee is \$150 per player or pay for 3, get the 4th player free. This includes 18 holes of golf, cart, use of practice range, box lunch, door prize, and dinner. Registration is due by Friday, August 31, 2007 and sponsorship packages are available. For additional information, contact Jody at 269-372-8800 or swmgolf@bethany.org.

We hope to have 30 teams for this event, at least 5 of whom to be composed of Champions and/or Champion church members. Please help us reach our goal by spreading the word early.

<http://www.bethany.org/A55798/bethanyWWW.nsf/0/B92AEEA08DEB0873852572FB004DC180>.

ASSESSMENT SURVEY
Champions for Children 2007

Name: _____ Church: _____

Months as a Champion for Children: _____ Hours contributed to the program: _____

On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being completely agree and 1 being completely disagree; please rate yourself and your church below:

- _____ I understand the mission and values of Bethany Christian Services.
- _____ I have been able to complete the Champion Challenges with ease.
- _____ Monthly emails are clear and helpful.
- _____ I feel supported knowing that help is available if I have questions or need more information.
- _____ My church understands the mission and values of Bethany Christian Services.
- _____ My church is supportive of Bethany and the Champions for Children program in both financial and non-materialistic means.
- _____ My church acknowledges the need for additional Christian adoptive and foster care homes, and is committed to finding homes for waiting children.
- _____ My church has resources available and the necessary materials about adoption, foster care, infertility, and unplanned pregnancy.
- _____ My church is aware of informational sessions and other opportunities to obtain further information about Bethany Christian Services.
- _____ My church is aware of ways to volunteer and specific ways to help.
- _____ More families are now considering adoption and foster care than before.
- _____ The Champions for Children program has been helpful in my church in providing resources and awareness about issues including adoption, foster care, infertility, and unplanned pregnancies.

What have you found to be effective in spreading the word and getting church members in tune with what's going on at Bethany? What has been ineffective?

Do you have any suggestions for future improvements or better ways to connect with your church? What additional resources would be helpful in making the Champions for Children program more effective in or beneficial for your church?

Do you have any ideas for ways that you would like to see Bethany partner with your church? Are there any projects of which you would like us to be a part or help?

Additional Comments:
