

7-14-08



## Hello Champions!

**Summer and Ice Cream Go Together!** Bethany Christian Services Ice Cream Social will be held on Monday, August 18 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Please come, enjoy the fellowship, meet Bethany staff and adoptive families and eat some ice cream! **Volunteers** are needed for supervision of the various activities and scooping ice cream. Donations of school supplies and cookies are needed for the event and are another way you can volunteer. We will have a bounce house, caterpillar crawl, fish pond and more. Call 269-372-8800 and let Betsy Ulbrich know you want to volunteer for this awesome event.

**Open Arms Ministry** is an exciting new initiative to bring awareness to the churches of children needing adoptive homes here in Michigan. Be on the lookout for the first OPEN ARMS Newsletter coming to you in the next few weeks. I will also be contacting you and your church individually on how your church can be a part of finding a forever home for a Michigan child.

**Golf Open!** The Bethany Christian Services Golf Committee has started meeting for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Open on Tuesday September 9, 2008. If you have ideas for sponsors for this event, be sure to contact me. We are really hoping to get some new partners—Individual Golfers and Corporate Sponsors to join with us to raise funds to serve Bethany children from this event.

**Respite Days:** We are still looking to create several respite days this year for our foster parents to provide them with a break from parenting for a few hours. This is a much needed service for the caregivers of these children. Please give me call if you are interested so we can get them scheduled. I will begin calling churches that indicated interest or have provided respite in the past.

**Foster and Adoption Meetings:** Foster Care Orientation meetings are scheduled the first Monday of every month. The next meeting will be August 4 from 4:30 to 8:00 PM. International adoptive families will have an orientation meeting on August 21 6:30-8:30 PM. Also coming September 29 from 6-8:30, Flowers and Brains, Elephants and Dancing; a training for all adoptive and foster families to learn about the brain functioning and trauma reactions. All meetings are at the Bethany office in Kalamazoo. To reserve your place for any of these meetings, please call the office at 372-8800.

Please keep praying for the work being done in HIS name at Bethany Christian Services. Thank you!

Karen Renzema

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