

4-30-07



Hello Champions!

**Again, I would like to begin by welcoming our new Champions!** We now have 35 Champions representing 30 churches in the Kalamazoo area! The Champions for Children program is constantly growing and becoming stronger thanks to devoted volunteers like you! Please keep me updated on the work you are doing in your churches, and let me know how others are responding. Your feedback is extremely valuable in helping to make this program successful and beneficial for you and your churches. If I have not met with you and your pastor, please contact your church leaders and arrange a time with your pastor (and/or other church leaders who may be interested or have some helpful ideas about where to go from here) to meet as soon as possible. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays work the best for me though my schedule is somewhat flexible.

**For the month of April, I challenged you to volunteer for the Bethany Guild Geranium Sale or recruit teams and volunteers for the annual Bethany "Run for the Kid of It."** Geraniums will be delivered in the next few weeks and through the sale, the Bethany Guild hopes to raise about \$3,000 for Bethany Christian Services. We are still in need of volunteers and runners/walkers for our event, "Run for the Kid of It" on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. **Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and will be qualified to win a door prize.** PLEASE contact me as soon as possible if you are able to help or are interested in participating in this event which raises support and funds for our Kalamazoo office.

**This month you will be receiving complimentary materials from the national office in Grand Rapids with information about starting an adoption ministry.** Please take time to go over the free booklet and CD. This gift has been donated to all Champions for Children across the country and can inspire a new wave of adoptive and foster parents. If you have several families who have adopted or provided foster care in your church, starting a group that meets once a month to discuss the many issues that arise in these processes could be extremely helpful for these families and beneficial for your church as a whole. Consider showing the CD before a church service or sharing the information with your pastor and others in your church who have been touched by adoption, foster care, infertility or unplanned pregnancy.

**For the month of May, I would like to challenge you to advocate for foster care in honor of National Foster Care Month.** In April I sent you a flyer for the foster care celebration and informational panel on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00pm. Please consider attending and/or passing this information on to anyone who may be interested in becoming a foster parent. One of our biggest challenges at Bethany is having enough foster parents to care for and open their homes to the many Kalamazoo area children who enter the foster care system each day.

**Please see the attached page for the April Connection and 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  
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Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269-372-8800  
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# The Champions for Children Connection



## MAY 2007 CALENDAR

- **Saturday, May 5, 9:00am**  
*Run for the Kid of It*  
Spring Valley Park  
2600 Mt. Olivet Street Kalamazoo, Michigan
  - Please consider participating in or volunteering for this annual fundraising event. The event will include and support Bethany Christian Services' foster children and parents.
  
- **Monday, May 7, 4:30-8pm**  
*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.
  
- **Tuesday May 8, 1-3pm**  
**Thursday, May 17, 6:30-8:30pm**  
*International Adoption Information Session*  
Bethany Christian Services Kalamazoo Branch  
6687 Seeco Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49009
  - If you or someone you know is particularly interested in international adoption, please have them contact Mary Holtapp at 269-372-8800 to RSVP for a session.
  
- **Wednesday, May 9, 7:00-9:00pm**  
*Kalamazoo County Foster Care Celebration and Informational Panel*  
Greater Kalamazoo United Way  
709 S. Westnedge Kalamazoo, MI
  - If you or someone you know is interested in foster care, please attend this informational meeting which will feature a panel of guests whose lives have been touched by foster care.
  
- **Sunday, May 13**  
Mother's Day Holiday
  - Please pray for the 143,000,000 children awaiting adoption across the world, that they may find God's peace in a loving Christian home. Also, please pray for the millions of women who are faced with an unplanned pregnancy, that they may feel God's presence and choose life for their unborn child.

## MAY 2007 CHAMPION CHALLENGES

**CHAMPION CHALLENGE 1:** Contact me to participate in or volunteer for the "Run for the Kid of It," Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm.

- **Though I proposed this challenge for the month of April**, I have not had any responses and would like to repeat it. PLEASE contact me to sign up to help today!
- **Run for the Kid of It** is a 5K Run/Walk at Spring Valley Park (2600 Mt. Olivet Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan) held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm with proceeds going to Bethany families and children.
- **Volunteers** are needed to be stationed at various locations throughout the course to encourage and direct runners and walkers. Volunteers are also needed to help with registration and donate and/or serve food and drinks to participants. Those interested would need to arrive around 7:30 and may leave sometime between 11:00am and 12:00pm. There will also be post-race door prizes and t-shirts that will need to be distributed.
- **RECRUIT TEAMS** and rally support! The biggest key to success for the Run is recruiting people to be a part of it! If you or someone you know is interested in participating by walking or running please contact Marnee Michalski at 269-372-8800.
  - o The cost of the race, \$15.00 before Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and \$20.00 April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 5<sup>th</sup> includes refreshments and a t-shirt as well as the chance for a post-race door prize (all participants are eligible, and must be present to win).
  - o Packet pick-up and late registration will be available on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm-5:00pm at the Kalamazoo Bethany Christian Services office (6687 Seeco Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009) OR before the race from 7:30am-8:45am at Spring Valley Park.



## MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH!!!



**CHAMPION CHALLENGE 2:** Advocate for foster care by encouraging friends and family to attend the informational meeting on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00pm at the Greater Kalamazoo United Way.

- There are countless opportunities for you to change a lifetime for a child in foster care by sharing your heart, opening your home, and giving hope to children and teens who are in need of financial and emotional support.
- Spread the word about the Foster Care Celebration, featuring an informational panel comprised of guests throughout Kalamazoo County whose lives have been touched by foster care. For more information, contact Sarah Henry at 269-372-8800. Make a difference in the life of a child today!