

## **Faith Based Development Report :: FBCBAC meeting – 6/11/13**

### ***Role/Responsibilities of Faith Based Development:***

- Liason between DCF leadership, Lead Agency and Faith Based orgs
- Educate, create awareness, develop relationships between FB orgs and the child welfare system statewide
- Create onramps for FB engagement with DCF programs and initiatives; promote and develop initiatives in the faith communities
- Train DCF staff, lead agency professionals in Faith Based engagement
- Gather, develop, and create materials, methods, training, etc. that promotes partnerships between churches, FB orgs and ministries that will impact needy and vulnerable children and families with necessary services and care at the community level

### ***Upcoming Events and Initiatives:***

- **Wait No More Event** ; August 24, 2013; a one day rally to connect families seeking to adopt waiting kids in our system with DCF, Lead Agencies, and providers around the state. Leadership luncheon in preparation for the event will be on July 16; I've attached invites, informational sheets; for more info- Katie Overstreet: [katie.overstreet@fotf.org](mailto:katie.overstreet@fotf.org)
- **Project 111**; this is similar to the 'one church, one child' concept. Trying to launch a statewide effort to engage churches to see the possibility for impact and change if every church had at least one child as a part of their community; there is a launch for this effort in Highlands County on June 28<sup>th</sup> see <http://111project.org/florida/>
- **Faith Symposium** – rallying faith communities around our various initiatives, programs, efforts, ministries, etc. 11/6-7/2013 in Orlando, Florida
- **Christian Alliance for Orphans Florida Summit**: Nov. 8, 2013; an all day event to rally faith based organizations around the 'orphan' crisis in our backyard- the foster care/child welfare system in Florida. Speakers, breakouts, exhibitors all focusing on ways the faith community can work alongside government to meet the needs of folks on a community level. Host church: Northland- A Church Distributed, Longwood Florida.
- **Orphan Sunday** – an opportunity to rally churches around love, care, support and service to 'orphans' (<http://orphansunday.org/>) Nov. 3, 2013.

***Faith and Fostering- from Call to Care (Pilot Program)***

- See attached materials
- Recognizing the need to develop more systemic involvement of churches and ministries in the foster care system along the entire continuum of care for foster families, foster children, and biological parents
- Calling lead agencies and providers to work alongside faith communities at every step of the foster care system
- Educating faith communities re: the needs of children and families in the system
- Developing training, presentations, ministry toolkits, support group/small group strategies; job descriptions for leaders, etc.
- Piloted through Northland Church; Gretchen Kerr, member of FBCBAC

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions, comments, concerns, ways to get involved, or ways we can work together/network in your spheres of influence. Thanks!

Erik Braun  
Director of Faith Based Development  
Florida Department of Children and Families  
Office: (850) 717-4345  
Cell: (850) 228-5213  
Erik\_braun@dcf.state.fl.us