



Support. Education. Local Events.
for Adoptive Families



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NEW!

**Further Education
& Tuition Resources**

NEW!

**FREE Webinar:
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& Counties Served**

The PARC newsletter is published quarterly. Please direct questions and comments to parcnewsletter@bethany.org

Bethany Christian Services is a nonprofit, private social services agency with more than 115 offices located in 36 states. In addition, Bethany offers social services to children and families in 15 countries.



BETHANY.
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

www.bethany.org

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what's the next stage?

Spring can be a busy time of the year, particularly for parents of high school students. Spring is a time when you and your teen may be considering what's next? This quarter's newsletter features outstanding resources for families of students finishing high school. Since we realize not all children are college-bound, we included independent living resources as well.

For those who aren't yet in this stage of life, we have included some other great resources including a self-care webinar and information about the Adoption Tax Credit.

No matter where you and your child are on this journey, know that your local Post-Adoption Resource Center is here for you. Whatever your need, please reach out to us. Check out our exciting events, particularly during spring break. See you soon!



Region 4 is expanding into Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties!

New groups will be forming soon in the South Haven and Marcellus areas!
Watch our PARC Facebook page for more details!



www.facebook.com/PARCRegion4



REGION 4 WESTERN MICHIGAN

For more information and to RSVP for events in Region 4, please contact Sherri at **616.710.5120** or sirwin@bethany.org, unless otherwise noted



Allegan County

Friday Night at the Point (Adoption and Foster Care Group)

WHEN: Third Friday of every month; 6:00–8:00 p.m.

WHERE: 1st Congregational Church,
323 Cutler St, Allegan

RSVP required

Adoptive Parent Breakfast

WHEN: March 16, April 20, May 18; 9:00–10:00 a.m.

WHERE: The Trestle Stop, 3366 M-40, Hamilton

RSVP required.

Berrien County

Saving Our Sanity Adoptive Parent Group

WHEN: March 19, April 16, May 21, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Stevensville Seventh Day Adventist Church,
6657 Stevensville Baroda Rd, Stevensville

RSVP to Kimberly at kinman@bethany.org or 616.307.9936.

Kent County

Adoptive Parent Group

WHEN: March 26, April 30, May 21; 10:00–11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Bethany Christian Services,
901 Eastern Ave NE, Grand Rapids

RSVP required.

Adoptive Mom's Night Out

WHEN: March 24, April 20, May 19; 6:30–8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Locations vary, check Facebook for details.

Parents Connect: A Play Group for Adoptive Parents and Children

WHEN: March 10, April 14, May 12; 10:00–11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Catch Air, 2978 28th Street, Grand Rapids

Socks required; RSVP required.

TRAINING: Advanced Trauma Informed Parenting

WHEN: April 1, 15, 29; 6:00–9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Bethany Christian Services,
901 Eastern Ave, Grand Rapids, Door G

Learn effective techniques for parenting children who have suffered from abuse, neglect, and trauma. Presented by Kim Poplaski, Project Open Arms/MARE Recruitment Specialist. Dinner and childcare provided; RSVP required.

Muskegon County

Play Group for Foster/Adoptive Parents and Their Children

WHEN: March 19, April 23, May 12; 4:00–5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kangaroo Palace,
3524 Green Street, Norton Shores

A signed waiver, clean socks, and RSVP required.

Kids Belong Parents Connect

WHEN: Every Monday, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lake Harbor United Methodist Church,
4861 S Henry St, Muskegon

Childcare provided, RSVP required.

Kids Belong Parents Connect

WHEN: Second & Fourth Wednesday
of every month, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Forest Park Covenant Church;
3815 Henry Street, Muskegon

Childcare/Kids Club available through the
church for ages 0 to 6th grade.

Adoptive Parent Luncheon

WHEN: March 12, April 16, May 14,
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Panera Bread,
1710 East Sherman Blvd, Muskegon

RSVP required.

Family Fun Night at Norton Pines Athletic Club in Muskegon County

WHEN: April 24, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

WHERE: 1350 Judson Rd, Spring Lake

Socialize, relax, energize, and renew your spirit.
Pool, gym, and rock wall available. Bring a swim
suit, towel, and athletic shoes. RSVP required.

Ottawa County

Family Fun Night at the Holland Aquatic Center in Ottawa County

WHEN: March 28, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

WHERE: 550 Maple Ave, Holland

Private Party for PARC families! Come enjoy the indoor
pool, spa, therapy pool and Splash Zone with slides and
water toys. Bring a swimsuit and towel. RSVP required.

Adoptive Parent Luncheon

WHEN: March 19, April 23, May 21,
11:30 am–1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Panera Bread,
3067 W Shore Dr, Holland

RSVP required.

Mosaic Play Group for Foster/Adoptive Parents

WHEN: First and third Wednesday of
every month, 10:00 a.m.–Noon

WHERE: Ridge Point Church, Door E

Foster/Adoptive Moms Retreat

WHEN: March 4, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Into the Woods,
7178 Butternut Dr, West Olive

Enjoy a day of relaxation with other foster and adoptive
parents. Guest speaker Stephanie Grant, PhD, will present
on attachment and child development. RSVP required.

Working with your adoptive family:

Support of a PARC specialist
in your home

24-hour crisis availability

Short-term emergency intervention

Family-centered plan

List of supportive
regional resources

Connecting you with community services:

Liaison for adoptive families
to other service providers

One-on-one assistance
accessing services

Comprehensive resource guide

Getting you the information you need:

Daily phone access

Timely responses with information

Connection to resources

Supporting your family:

Monthly group experiences

Quarterly training

Sharing even more:

PARC website with recommended
books/articles on adoption

List of community resources

Calendar of adoptive parents'
events and trainings

Adoptive family newsletter

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK AND FIND:

MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
FOR CHILDREN & PARENTS

SEMINARS • WEBINARS • ARTICLES

ADOPTION RELATED INFORMATION

PARC IS EXPANDING INTO BERRIEN, CASS, AND VAN BUREN COUNTIES!

New groups will be forming soon in the South Haven and Marcellus areas!

Watch our PARC Facebook page for more details!



www.facebook.com/PARCRegion4

REGION 3 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

For more information and to RSVP for events in Region 3, please call **231.924.3390**

Big Rapids

Adoption and Foster Care Connect Groups

WHEN: March 9, April 13, May 11, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, 407 Perry Ave, Big Rapids
Childcare is provided with an RSVP.

Gladwin

Adoption and Foster Care Connect Groups

WHEN: March 16, April 20, May 18, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Assembly Church of God, 3400 Buzzell Rd, Gladwin
Childcare is provided with an RSVP.

Fremont

Adoption and Foster Care Connect Groups

WHEN: March 10, April 14, May 12, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

WHERE: First Baptist Church of Fremont, 51 West Oak St, Fremont
Childcare is provided with an RSVP.

Ludington

Adoption and Foster Care Connect Groups

WHEN: March 17, April 21, May 19, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Ludington Library, 217 E Ludington Ave, Ludington
Childcare is provided with an RSVP.

SPRING BREAK EVENTS

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS!

Double JJ Waterpark

WHEN: April 3 (Time TBA)

WHERE: Double JJ Resort, 5900 Water Road, Rothbury

Frederick Meijer Gardens Annual Butterfly Exhibition

WHEN: April 8 (Time TBA)

WHERE: Frederick Meijer Gardens, 1000 East Beltline Ave, Grand Rapids

Flick's Family Film Fest FREE MOVIES AT CELEBRATION CINEMA

WHEN: TBA

WHERE: Celebration Cinema, 4935 East Pickard, Mt. Pleasant

REGION 2 NORTHERN MICHIGAN

For more information and to RSVP for events in Region 2, please contact Kijrsten at **231.590.8644** or **kboeve@bethany.org**

Charlevoix County

Adoption & Foster Care Support Groups

WHEN: 2nd Wednesday of every month, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Charlevoix Community Reformed Church, 100 Oak St
Family dinner begins at 5:00 p.m.
Group begins at 6:00 p.m.
Childcare provided with an RSVP

Benzie County

Grandparents Raising Grandkids Group

WHEN: Third Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: SonLife Wesleyan Church, 51 N. Benzie Blvd, Beulah
Childcare provided with an RSVP

Emmet County

Foster and Adoptive Parent Support Group

WHEN: Second Tuesday of every month, 5:45–7:15 p.m.

WHERE: Charlevoix-Emmet County DHS, 2229 Summit Park Dr, Petoskey

Earn one hour of education credit for your foster care license. Snacks and childcare provided. RSVP Required

Mom's Night Out

WHEN: May 29, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Applebee's, 1980 S. U.S. Hwy 131, Petoskey
Dinner is on us, drinks are on you. Games, door prizes, and fabulous conversation!
RSVP required by May 27.

Grand Traverse County

Networking Nights Adult Meeting & Teen Activity

WHEN: 2nd Thursday of every month, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Faith Reformed Church, 1139 E Front St, Traverse City
Childcare and light dinner provided.
All foster and adoptive families welcome!
RSVP required.

Beyond the Book: Book Club for Foster and Adoptive Parents

Book: *Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child: Making Sense of the Past*, by Betsy Keefer and Jayne Schooler
WHEN: Last Tuesday of every month, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

March 31: Chapters 1–5

April 28: Chapters 6–10

May 26: Chapters 11–15

WHERE: Horizon Books, 243 Front St, Traverse City

All foster and adoptive parents welcome! RSVP required by March 30. Mention the "Beyond the Book" book club at purchase and receive a \$10 Horizon Books gift card and 10% Horizon discount when purchasing the book. If the cost of the book is a barrier, we may be able to help.

Parents' Night Out

WHEN: Watch Facebook for details!

WHERE: West Side Community Church, 4975 E Traverse Hwy, Cedar
Enjoy a child-free evening out. We will provide dinner and a fun-filled evening for your kids. All foster and adoptive families welcome! RSVP required.

Parental Controls: Computer Parenting with Purpose

WHEN: March 24, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Woodmere-Traverse Area District Library, Thirlby Room

Do you worry about the content your children might be viewing on the internet? Are programs like Facebook, Snapchat, and Twitter a mystery to you? Join computer expert Calen Waldie as he shares his knowledge on navigating the internet and discusses steps you can take to keep your children safe. RSVP required by March 19th. Space is limited.

Is lack of childcare keeping you from coming to one of our events?

Please let us know, we may be able to help.

Parenting with Purpose

WHEN: April 20, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Bethany Christian Services, 1055 Carriage Hill Dr, Ste 2, Traverse City

Join adoptive mom and seasoned foster parent, Jodie Annis, for helpful hints on parenting children with various behavioral needs. All foster and adoptive parents welcome! RSVP required by April 16.

Paint Your Art Out: Mom's Night Out

With Professional Artist, Natalie Bebee

WHEN: May 5, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Foiled Hair Lounge, 140 E Front St (Upper Level), Traverse City

In celebration of Mother's Day, join other adoptive moms to create your own work of art. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks provided. Space is limited; RSVP required by April 28.

Traverse City Coast Guard Unit Tour

WHEN: April 14, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

WHERE: 1175 Airport Access, Traverse City

Meet the "Guardians of the Great Lakes" at their Traverse City base. RSVP required by April 29.

Kalkaska County

Pool Time Fun at the Kaliseum

WHEN: April 1, 1:30–3:00 p.m.

WHERE: 1900 Fairgrounds Rd, Kalkaska

Enjoy lap and leisure pools, waterslides, spa jets, rain umbrellas, play fountains, and more. All foster and adoptive families welcome! RSVP required by March 25.

Ogemaw County

Mom's Night Out

WHEN: March 27, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Applebee's, 2992 Cook Rd, West Branch

Dinner is on us, drinks are on you. Games, door prizes, and fabulous conversation!
RSVP required by March 25.

Parent-Led Foster, Adoption, and Kinship Support Group

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church, 3480 W M-76, West Branch
Childcare provided with RSVP.



www.facebook.com/PostAdoptionResourceCenterCentralMichigan



www.facebook.com/PostAdoptionResourceCenterOfNorthernMI

further education & tuition



TUITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

TIP is an incentive program that encourages eligible students to complete high school by providing tuition assistance for the first two years of college and beyond. Medicaid eligibility history must be met in order to qualify.

www.michigan.gov/documents/FactSheetTIP_161201_7.pdf

EDUCATION & TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV)

The ETV program is available to children who were adopted from foster care on or after their 16th birthday. Funds can be used for post-secondary education or training.

www.mietv.lssm.org

YOUTH IN TRANSITION FUNDING (YIT)

Youth in Transition is a funding source available to cover expenses not covered by other government or community resources, or to supplement services from other funding sources. Michigan youth are eligible for YIT funding if they are between the ages of 18-21 and have been in foster care on or after their 14th birthday (but are no longer under DHS/Tribal supervision).

www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,1607,7-240-44524-161180--,00.html

OTHER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Find a list of Michigan colleges and universities that offer scholarship programs for former foster youth.

www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,4585,7-240-44289---,00.html



Bethany Christian Services is committed to supporting adoptive families through the lifelong, rewarding journey of adoption.

REGION 2

Bethany Christian Services
1055 Carriage Hill Dr, Ste 2
Traverse City, MI 49686
231.995.0870
www.bethany.org/traversesecurity

Charlevoix, Emmett, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, and Iosco counties

REGION 3

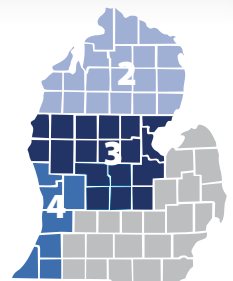
Bethany Christian Services
6995 West 48th St
Fremont, MI 49412
231.924.3390
www.bethany.org/fremont

Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, Bay, Montcalm, Gratiot, Saginaw, Ionia, Clinton, and Shiawassee counties

REGION 4

Bethany Christian Services
901 Eastern Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616.224.7565
www.bethany.org/grandrapids

Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, and Van Buren counties



postadoptionrc.org

FREE BETHANY WEBINAR for Adoptive Parents

TAKING CARE OF YOUR emotional health

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW PRE- & POST-ADOPTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 - 8 TO 9:00 P.M. (EST)

Featuring Nurse, Author & Adoptive Parent Karen Foli

Register Today for FREE

www.BethanyLifelines.org/PostAdoption



Your Questions are Welcome!

Please submit them in the comment section of the registration form.

2014 Adoption Tax Credit

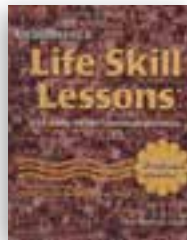


The North American Council on Adoptable Children has updated information regarding the Adoption Tax Credit and how it applies to adoptions finalized in 2014.

www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit2014.html



recommended reading

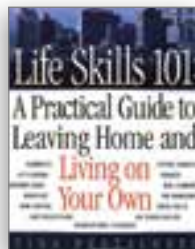


Attainment's Life Skill Lessons: 650 Ready-to-use Transition Activities

by Ellen McPeck Glisan

While written for use in the classroom, these quick activities can be easily adapted for home use. Each activity includes a discussion of key points and instructions for demonstration. These activities can be used with those who have mild to moderate disabilities.

www.amazon.com/Attainments-Life-Skill-Lessons-Ready/dp/1578615968



Life Skills 101: A Practical Guide to Leaving Home and Living on Your Own

by Tina Pestalozzi

Written specifically for those who are getting ready to live on their own, this book is great for independent learners. Topics including work, home, finances, and relationships are addressed in a practical and supportive way.

www.amazon.com/Life-Skills-101-Practical-Leaving/dp/0970133499