



# Post-Adoption Resource Center

DECEMBER 2014–FEBRUARY 2015



## In this Issue:

**Introduction**

**Regional Events**

**Services Available**

**Education Resources**

**Book Resources**

**Websites**

**Bethany Locations  
& Counties Served**

## SPECIAL THANKS

During the holiday season, we are often reminded of the things that mean the most to us. We, at the Post Adoption Resource Center, are truly grateful for all of our adoptive families. In this issue of the newsletter, we want to send special thanks to our kinship (relative) adoptive families. We recognize that there are unique challenges to kinship caregiving that are often under-acknowledged. We want you to know that we are here to help with whatever needs you may have. We want to partner with you and your family to improve your caregiving experience!

If you aren't a kinship adoptive family, maybe you know a family that is and can benefit from support. Please pass this newsletter along to them. We have included resources that we hope will support and encourage families.

Thanks to all of our adoptive families! We are truly grateful for everything you do. If there is anything that we can do, please let us know. We hope to see you at our fun family or support events.

## IMPORTANT: RE-DETERMINED ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If your child has an active adoption assistance agreement, you may be eligible to take advantage of a new re-determination program. This program allows for a one-time eligibility determination of adoption assistance between January 1 and March 31, 2015. Participation in this program will not change your child's existing adoption assistance contract. It is meant to provide additional financial support to families based on need, due to an increase in a child's special needs post-adoption. For more information, see AAM 410 of the Adoption Subsidy Manual: [www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/AA/Public/AAM/000.pdf](http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/AA/Public/AAM/000.pdf)

Have questions or need help applying? Your local Post Adoption Resource Center can help!



**BETHANY.**  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

The PARC newsletter is published quarterly.  
Please direct questions and comments to

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.

*This program is funded in part by the State of Michigan.*

[www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)

# Local and Regional Education & Events for Adoptive Families

## REGION 2 NORTHERN MICHIGAN

 [www.facebook.com/PostAdoptionResourceCenterOfNorthernMI](http://www.facebook.com/PostAdoptionResourceCenterOfNorthernMI)

“Like” us on Facebook. Additional events are added periodically. We post all of our upcoming events, interesting articles, and other adoption related information on this page!

For more information and to RSVP for events in Region 2, please contact Kjirsten at **231.590.8644** or [kbovee@bethany.org](mailto:kbovee@bethany.org).

### BENZIE COUNTY

#### *Grandparents Raising Grandkids Group*

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

**WHERE:** Betsie Valley Elementary School, 17936 Cadillac Hwy., Thompsonville

Watch our Facebook page for details! Childcare provided with an RSVP.

### CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

#### *Adoption and Foster Care Support Groups*

**WHEN:** Second Wednesday of the month

Family dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. Group starts at 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Charlevoix Community Reformed Church, 100 Oak Street, Charlevoix  
Childcare provided with an RSVP.

### EMMET COUNTY

#### *Foster, Adoptive, and Prospective Foster Parent Support Group*

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

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

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

### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

#### *Parents' Night Out*

**WHEN:** December 11, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Faith Reformed Church, 1139 E Front St, Traverse City

Enjoy an evening out while we watch your children. A pizza dinner and an evening filled with fun activities will be provided for your kids. All foster and adoptive families welcome! RSVP Required.

#### *Family Christmas Movie Night*

**FEATURING:** The Santa Clause

**WHEN:** December 22, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Grand Traverse House of Prayer, 3211 N Garfield Rd, Traverse City

Come in your PJ's to kick off Christmas vacation and get in the holiday spirit with a holly, jolly movie! Popcorn and a \$10 gift card to Espresso Bay provided for each family. RSVP Required.

### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

#### *Networking Nights Adult Meeting and Teen Activity*

**WHEN:** Second Thursday of the month, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Faith Reformed Church, 1139 E Front St, Traverse City

Childcare and light dinner provided. RSVP Required.

**December – Parents' Night Out –** See below for additional information

**January – Internet Safety Part 2:** Learning What Your Kids Already Know

**February – Living with Loss:** Understanding Your Child's Grief

#### *Tubing at Mt. Holiday*

**WHEN:** January 22, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Mt. Holiday, 3100 Holiday Rd, Traverse City

Spend an hour flying down Mt. Holiday's sledding hill on a tube. RSVP Required.

#### *Potluck Recipe Exchange*

**WHEN:** February 19, Starts at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Traverse City Christian School, 753 Emerson Rd, Traverse City

Bring your family's favorite dish to share. Expand your taste buds and make menu planning a little easier! Send your recipe to [kbovee@bethany.org](mailto:kbovee@bethany.org) by February 12 and receive a cookbook featuring all of the evening's mouthwatering recipes! All foster and adoptive families welcome! RSVP Required.

### OGEMAW COUNTY

#### *Parent Led Foster, Adoption, and Kinship Support Group – West Branch*

**WHEN:** Third Saturday of the month, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church, 3480 W M-76, West Branch

RSVP Required.

### OTSEGO COUNTY

#### *Mom's Night Out*

**WHEN:** January 15, 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Applebees, 1379 W Main St, Gaylord

Dinner is on us, drinks are on you. Join us for an evening of games, door prizes, and fabulous conversation!

## REGION 3 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

 [www.facebook.com/PostAdoptionResourceCenterCentralMichigan](http://www.facebook.com/PostAdoptionResourceCenterCentralMichigan)

“Like” us on Facebook. Additional events are added periodically. We post all of our upcoming events, interesting articles, and other adoption related information on this page!

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

### BIG RAPIDS

#### *Adoption and Foster Care Connect Group*

**WHEN:** December 8, January 12, February 9, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, 407 Perry Ave, Big Rapids

### FREMONT

#### *Adoption and Foster Care Connect Group*

**WHEN:** December 9, February 10, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

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

#### *Sledding at Branstrom Park*

Meet us December 30 at the Branstrom Lodge for a treat and sledding!

Watch Facebook for more details!

### GLADWIN

#### *Adoption and Foster Care Connect Group*

**WHEN:** December 15, January 19, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Assembly Church of God, 3400 Buzzell Rd, Gladwin

#### *Bowling at Meadow Lanes*

**WHEN:** February 16

**WHERE:** 430 W 5th Street, Gladwin

Shoes and two games of bowling will be provided for you! This event will replace the monthly support meeting in February.

### LUDINGTON

#### *Adoption and Foster Care Connect Group*

**WHEN:** December 16, January 20, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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

#### *Special Education Advocacy in Michigan*

**WHEN:** February 17, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Ludington Library, 217 E Ludington Ave, Ludington

We will be discussing how to advocate at your child's IEP, Federal and state special education laws, and effective communication and documentation.

**PLEASE CALL OR CHECK YOUR PARC REGION'S FACEBOOK PAGE TO CONFIRM THAT A SCHEDULED EVENT HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.**

Is lack of childcare keeping you from coming to one of our events?  
Please let us know, we may be able to help.

## REGION 4 WESTERN MICHIGAN



[www.facebook.com/PARCRegion4](http://www.facebook.com/PARCRegion4)

**"Like" us on Facebook. Additional events are added periodically. We post all of our upcoming events, interesting articles, and other adoption related information on this page!**

For more information and to RSVP for events in Region 4, contact Sherri at [sirwin@bethany.org](mailto:sirwin@bethany.org) or **616.224.7565**, unless otherwise noted.

### GROUP OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL REGION 4 COUNTIES

#### *Family Fun Night at the Salvation Army Kroc Center*

**WHEN:** January 23, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

(Meet promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the lobby, we will enter as a group)

**WHERE:** 2500 Division Avenue South, Grand Rapids

The Salvation Army Kroc Center has a wide range of high-quality programming, activities, and classes to choose from. Fine arts, aquatics, sports, education, fitness, day camp, ministry, and fellowship—you'll find it all within the walls of the Kroc Center. Bring a bathing suit, towel, and tennis shoes. RSVP required.

#### *Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World*

**WHEN:** December 13 at 3:00 p.m.; December 16 at 6:00 p.m.; December 22 at 10:00 a.m.; December 23 at 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** 1000 East Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids

Excitement surrounds this time of year at Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Enjoy the glow of nearly 300,000 lights, the strolling carolers, the horse-drawn carriage rides, and more than 40 international trees and displays. Please check out our Facebook page for more information. Open to the first 20 people who RSVP for each date.

#### *FREE Tax Training (for families who have or are adopting from foster care)*

**WHEN:** January 2015, date & time TBD, please check our Facebook page

**WHERE:** Conference Center, Door G, Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern Ave NE, Grand Rapids

RSVP required.

### ALLEGAN COUNTY

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

**WHEN:** Third Friday of the month, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** First Congregational Church, 323 Cutler St, Allegan

RSVP required.

### KENT COUNTY

#### *Parents Connect: A Play Group for Adoptive Parents and Children*

**WHEN:** December 9, January 13, February 10, 10:00–11:30 a.m.

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

RSVP required.

### Adoptive Parent Group

**WHEN:** January 27, February 24, 6:15–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Location to be determined each month

RSVP required.

### MUSKEGON COUNTY

#### *MCFAN Christmas Party*

**WHEN:** December 11, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Sherman Bowling Lanes, 1531 W Sherman Blvd, Muskegon

FREE event for Muskegon foster and adoptive families. Includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, a hotdog, bag of chips, and a drink/person. RSVP required.

#### *Play Group for Foster/Adoptive Parents and Their Children*

**WHEN:** January 20, February 17, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Kangaroo Palace, 3524 Green St, Norton Shores

A signed waiver and clean socks are required. RSVP required.

### Kids Belong Parents Connect

**WHEN:** Meets weekly on Monday mornings, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Lake Harbor United Methodist Church, 4861 S Henry St, Norton Shores

RSVP required. Childcare provided with RSVP.

### OTTAWA COUNTY

#### *Play Group for Foster/Adoptive Parents and Children*

**WHEN:** First and third Wednesdays of the month, 10:00 a.m.–Noon

**WHERE:** Ridge Point Community Church, 340 104th Ave, Holland

RSVP required.

### Mom's Night Out

**WHEN:** January 13, 2015 from 6:30–8:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** TGI Fridays at Rivertown Mall, 3700 Rivertown Pkwy SW, Grandville

RSVP required.

### CASS, VAN BUREN AND BERRIEN COUNTY

#### *"Saving Our Sanity" Support Group*

**WHEN:** Third Thursday of the month, December 18, January 15, and February 19, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Stevensville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 6657 Stevensville-Baroda Rd, Stevensville

RSVP required, please contact Kim at [kinman@bethany.org](mailto:kinman@bethany.org) or call 616.307.9936.



## Services Available Through the Post-Adoption Resource Center (PARC)

### 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



Michigan State University's Kinship Care Resource Center is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting relatives raising relatives' children. They offer referrals, events, and resources for kinship caregivers. Check out their quarterly family newsletter!

[www.kinship.msu.edu](http://www.kinship.msu.edu)



AARP has developed Grandparent Resources and included them on their website. While primarily focused on grandparents raising grandchildren, GrandFacts and the GrandFamilies Guide are resources that can be applicable to all kinship care families.

[www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/grandfacts-sheets/](http://www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/grandfacts-sheets/)

For adoptive parents who are now raising their adopted children's children, the North American Council on Adoptable Children has a great article, 2nd Generation Adoptive Parenting.

[www.nacac.org/adoptalk/2ndGenParenting](http://www.nacac.org/adoptalk/2ndGenParenting)



The Child Welfare Information Gateway has two available resources regarding kinship care. Kinship Caregivers and the Child Welfare System and Kinship/Relative Care.

[www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f\\_kinshi](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_kinshi)

## Resources for Adoptive Parents

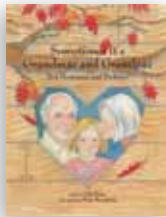


### *A Kinship Guide to Rescuing Children for Grandparents and Other Relatives as Parents*

by Helene LaBrecque Ellis

Described as a source of advocacy for relatives raising related children, this book offers clear suggestions and support. Divided into four sections, this book explores the unique facets of kinship caregiving in a supportive and empathetic way.

\*Book can be found on Amazon.com



### *Sometimes It's Grandmas and Grandpas: Not Mommies and Daddies*

by Gayle Byrne, Illustrated by Mary Haverfield

This beautifully illustrated children's book describes a non-traditional family that is, actually, fairly common. In terms children can understand, this simple book focuses on the love and commitment within this family.

\*Book can be found on Amazon.com

Other suggested websites: [www.adoptivefamilies.com](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com) [www.adoptioninstitute.org](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org)



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

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MI.900.NWL.11804

## SERVING THREE REGIONS IN LOWER MICHIGAN

### REGION 2

Bethany Christian Services  
1055 Carriage Hill Dr, Ste 2  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
**231.995.0870**  
[www.bethany.org/traversecity](http://www.bethany.org/traversecity)

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](http://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  
**616.224.7550**  
[www.bethany.org/grandrapids](http://www.bethany.org/grandrapids)

Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, and Allegan counties



[postadoptionrc.org](http://postadoptionrc.org)