



Post-Adoption Resource Center

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2014



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WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKPACK?

The new school year presents an opportunity for a fresh start! Going back to school can be fun and exciting, but many children who have experienced trauma and loss have difficulties in school. This may be in the form of attention issues, poor organization, sensory difficulties, learning disabilities, or behavior challenges. We want to make sure you have the necessary tools to help them succeed. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

GET INFORMATION!

Advocacy begins with being informed. The resources featured in this newsletter should help you get started down the right path.

GET ORGANIZED!

Once you have direction, you will need to organize information about your child in a way that makes sense to you as well as their educators. Don't be afraid to ask for help or get feedback from others.

GET MOVING!

Your research and organization is only as good as what you ultimately do with it. Let us know how we can help.

Your local Post Adoption Resource Center wants your backpack to be full of resources that that will help you assist and advocate for your student. From the resources featured in this newsletter to the local training offerings, group, and one-on-one support, we want you to know that we are here to support you as you support your child!



BETHANY.
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

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.

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

www.bethany.org

Local and Regional Education & Events for Adoptive Families

REGION 2 NORTHERN MICHIGAN

 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.

ALPENA COUNTY

Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan

WHEN: Nov 5, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

WHERE: 491 Johnson Street, Alpena

Join other foster and adoptive families for an afternoon of exploring art, history, and science displays.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Adoption & Foster Care Support Groups

WHEN: 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Charlevoix Community Reformed Church, 100 Oak St

Family dinner begins at 5:00.

Group begins at 6:00.

Childcare provided with an RSVP.

EMMET COUNTY

Pond Hill Farms*

WHEN: TBD

WHERE: 5581 South Lake Shore Dr, Harbor Springs

Join us for an afternoon of family fun. Watch our Facebook page for more information!

Foster, Adoptive, and Prospective Foster Parent Support Group

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of the 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.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Networking Nights Adult Meeting and Teen Activity

WHEN: 2nd Thursday of Every Month, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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

SEPT: Back to School: Educational Resources

OCT: Gimme a Break! Respite and Self Care for Foster and Adoptive Parents

NOV: The Family Orchard: Navigating Relationships with Biological Family Members

Childcare and light dinner provided. All foster and adoptive families welcome! RSVP required.

*For outdoor events, please call or check our Facebook page as events are weather permitting.

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

REGION 3 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

 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 Groups

WHEN: Sept 8, Oct 13, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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

GLADWIN

Adoption and Foster Care Connect Groups

WHEN: Oct 20, Nov 17, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

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

FREMONT

Adoption and Foster Care Connect Groups

WHEN: Oct 14, Nov 11, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

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

LUDINGTON

Adoption and Foster Care Connect Groups

WHEN: Sept 16, Oct 21, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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

Mom's Night Out

WHEN: Nov 18, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Blu Moon, 125 South James St

A KID FREE fun night with other moms! Dessert and coffee provided. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Beyond Consequences LIVE!

WHEN: September 26, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library Street NE, Grand Rapids, Ryerson Auditorium - Level 3
Meet at Bethany Christian Services, 1055 Carriage Hill, Traverse City, to carpool to this training event. PARC will purchase a book for you, providing you FREE admission. RSVP required.

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Trauma Informed Parenting (TIP) Training

WHEN: Sept 27, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Eagle Village, 4507 170th Ave, Hersey

Presented by Alicia Kaja, MSW. Lunch provided. Space limited. RSVP required.

MIDLAND

FAK Parent Training Conference

WHEN: Sept 12, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Great Hall, 5021 Bay City Rd

Join us for a conference focused on parenting, resources, support groups, trauma and self-care. The training and meals are FREE of charge. Watch our Facebook page for more details and registration information.

CLINTON COUNTY

Parenting a Traumatized Child

WHEN: Oct 18

WHERE: Clinton County RESA,

1013 S. US 27, St. Johns

Presented by Kim Seidel, M.A., LPC, NCC, Adoptee, adoptive parent, caregiver, therapist, and trainer extraordinaire!

Watch our Facebook page for more details.

NEWAYGO

Building Family Fun Day

WHEN: Sept 13, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Camp Newaygo, 5333 Centerline Rd

Fun outdoor activities for your family. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

REGION 4 WESTERN MICHIGAN



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 or 616.224.7565, unless otherwise noted.

ALLEGAN COUNTY

Friday Night at the Point

Adoptive & Foster Parent Group

WHEN: September 19, October 17, November 21, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

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

Light snacks and childcare will be provided. RSVP required.

KENT COUNTY

Adoptive Parent Support Group

WHEN: September 23, October 28, November 18, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern NE (Door G), Grand Rapids

RSVP required

Parent's Connect

A Play Group for Parents & Children

WHEN: September 9, October 14, November 11, 2014, 10:00–11:30 a.m.

WHERE: TBD

Watch our Facebook page for details!

MUSKEGON COUNTY

Kids Belong Parents Connect

WHEN: Mondays beginning September 9, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

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

Childcare provided with RSVP. RSVP required.

Parent's Connect

A Play Group for Parents & Children

WHEN: September 11, October 9, November 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kangaroo Palace, 3524 Green St, Norton Shores

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

OTTAWA COUNTY

Play Group for Foster/Adoptive Parents and Their Children to Connect and Share

WHEN: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month beginning September 3, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Ridge Point Community Church, 97 W 22nd Street, Holland

RSVP required.

MANY FUN, FAMILY EVENTS ARE BEING SCHEDULED

For more information about trainings, groups, and family fun events in Region 4, check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PARCRegion4

If you would like to receive PARC's monthly flyer for events in Region 4, please contact Tammy Britton at tbritton@bethany.org. Please indicate if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically or through the mail.

Hope to see you soon!

Adoptive Family Support Network

provides services to adoptive families in West Michigan.

www.afsn.org

Bethany Christian Services Region 4 is proud to partner with MOSAIC.

MOSAIC
EMPOWERING FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

mosaicfosteradopt.org

Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) created by Karyn Purvis Presented by Julie Glass, MA, LPC, LMFT

WHEN: Tuesdays, September 30 thru November 4, 2014 9:30–10:45 a.m.

WHERE: Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern NE, Grand Rapids Michigan Room, Park between door F and G
RSVP required.

PARC and AFSN present Stacy Manning from Hope Connections

Adoptive parent, post-adoption family coach, and educator

WHEN: Thursday, September 18, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Grand Valley State University – downtown campus

Check out our Facebook page for more information. Childcare is not provided. RSVP to registration@afsn.org



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

ALL REGIONS WELCOME



The National Center for Learning Disabilities is working hard to improve the lives of individuals with learning disabilities. Their website includes excellent resources (including toolkits and e-books) to assist parents of children with various learning disabilities.

www.nclld.org



Funded by the Michigan Department of Education, MSEMP provides mediation, facilitation, and training services for working through disagreements so that children with disabilities promptly receive the services they need to develop and succeed in school.

<http://msemp.cenmi.org>



OK2SAY is a student safety program that uses a comprehensive communication system to facilitate tip sharing among students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, the Department of Human Services, and law enforcement officials about harmful behaviors that threaten to disrupt the learning environment. States with similar programs have documented and resolved hundreds of school attacks, sexual offenses, planned suicides, and bullying instances over the past ten years. Please inform your child and his/her school that this program exists to keep kids safe.

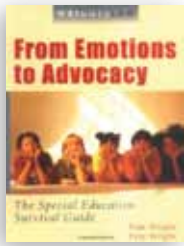
<https://ok2say.state.mi.us>



The Michigan Alliance for Families provides information, support, and education for families who have children (birth through 26 years of age) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education services. One-on-one support is available through regional parent mentors and their website is full of helpful resources.

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Resources for Adoptive Parents



Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy: The Special Education Survival Guide

by Peter W.D. Wright and Pamela Darr Wright

Hailed by parents of special needs children as a roadmap through the education system, this book provides you with invaluable advice and direction as you seek to assist and advocate for your child.

www.amazon.com/Wrightslaw-Emotions-Advocacy-Education-Survival/dp/1892320096



The Sensory Child Gets Organized: Proven Systems for Rigid, Anxious, or Distracted Children

by Carol Dalglish

This practical book focuses on supporting parents of children with sensory challenges through simple interventions. As a parent of a sensory child, the author is eager to share proven tips. She also maintains an insightful blog, *Solutions for Parents and Families of Sensory Kids*: <http://systemsforsensorykids.wordpress.com/>

www.amazon.com/The-Sensory-Child-Gets-Organized/dp/1451664281

Other suggested websites: www.adoptivefamilies.com 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.11566

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

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

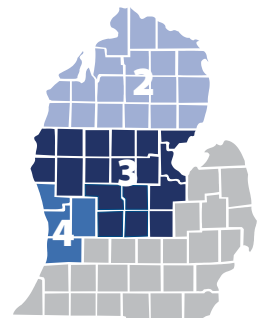
Bethany Christian Services
6995 West 48th St
Fremont, MI 49412
231.924.3390
www.bethany.org/fremont

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
616.224.7550
www.bethany.org/grandrapids

Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, and Allegan counties



postadoptionrc.org