



Students serve Christ through serving foster kids

By **Kathy Kinnan**

[Front page photo: Volunteer students (and one of their moms) from Whitefield Academy plant new flowers at the Show-Me campus.]

What qualities must our young people need to be equipped for the world they will face as adults? More than a degree and work skills, we all are called to have a transformed life; one which is not just about making a living but living for a higher purpose. For knowledge to become wisdom, it must be experienced and understood through God's lens: our Christian faith is the foundation for every aspect of life and thought.

For Whitefield Academy, located in the Kansas City metro, that means serving at the Show-Me Christian Youth Home in La Monte, Mo. This service

trip provides each student with the opportunity to connect with the three things central to that growth: Christ, character, and community. On a week-long mission trip, students connect with kids just like themselves—in age, in interest, and even dreams for the future. The difference: for most of Show-Me kids is there isn't always a safe, stable home and family ready to care for them if they leave. The chance to serve other kids has opened Whitefield's students' eyes to the grace and blessings in their own lives and to the responsibility that each of us has to help others.



Stepping out of their comfort zones

Whitefield Academy, a classical Christian Pre-K through 12th grade school, has long sought to provide students with opportunities to stretch themselves and their faith through the avenue of mission trips and serve days in their community.

Approximately, 15 years ago, Whitefield was looking for a safe environment

for their seventh graders to do a service trip. The school had tried several types of missions, including serving in Kansas City's urban core, but none seemed to be the right fit. Parents began hunting for a new safe, service-oriented opportunity that would be conducive to help their seventh graders get out of their comfort zones and be the "hands and feet of Christ." Their search led them to Show-Me and they have been traveling to the small rural community in Central

Missouri every spring since then.

Work hard. Play hard.

We hope and pray the benefits of our week each year bring reciprocal benefits. Yes, we do work for Show-Me such as weeding, painting, cleaning, and sorting. Our "sebies" have dug ditches, planted gardens, cleaned bathrooms, babysat for children, and washed puppies. We play hard too, organizing a soc-

■ See **SERVICE** page 10

The Mission Field in OUR Own Neighborhoods

Too often we think that the mission field in some far off country. We forget about the need happening in our backyards. Children, through no fault of their own, continue to be caught in the crossfire of a broken world, left absent of any parents or relatives able to take care of them. Across Kansas and Missouri, the need for loving, stable homes and families has never been greater or more critical.

As of September 2017, there were more than 6,500 kids on both sides of the state line in the KC metro area in Foster Care with thousands less available foster homes. Only a few lucky ones are able to find the family and community of support they need from individual foster par-

**74.2M children in US
427,910 in Foster Care
"More than 6,500 kids on
both sides of the state line
in the Kansas City metro
are in the system, with
thousands less licensed
foster homes."**

—Sept. 4, 2017, KSHB TV 41

ents, ministries like Show-Me, or other similar organizations. Here, they are fed, housed, educated and given loving environments in which to thrive—things that most of us take for granted. That's why coming along side these organizations is crucial.

Without new foster parents or additional resources for organizations like Show-Me, many of these kids' childhoods will be spent bouncing from place to place trying to find the help they so desperately need. In their mission at Show-Me, the Whitefield kids learn one of the most important lessons: as Christians, we are ALL called to missions—to reflect God's love to those around us. But, missions can simply be doing the ordinary things we do for ourselves—like cooking a meal, sharing our resources, planting flowers, or watching a child—to help others. God does not require a unique skill set, only a willing heart. Right now, there are hurting children in our neighborhoods who need someone they can trust to show them Christ's love through a family.

Considering adoption?

It's a big decision, making a lifetime commitment to a child. Beginning or expanding your family through adoption can be both exhilarating and terrifying at the same time. And the process can seem more than a little overwhelming.

At Saint Francis Community Services, we'll help you get started on the right track with you to the end.



There are hundreds of children waiting for a loving family like yours. Let us help you find the best possible match. We'll be here to guide you every step of the way.

www.st-francis.org/adoption | 800-423-1342



**Saint Francis
Community Services®**
Serving Children and Families Since 1945

From Heart to Home Infant Adoption Program

An adoption agency you can trust.

For over 120 years, adoption has been a core service throughout KCSL's history. Let us help fulfill your dream of having a child.



**Kansas Children's
Service League**

877-581-5437 • www.kcsl.org

Making a difference...

many lives at
a time!



rachelhousefriends.org

Practical advice to avoid pitfalls and dispel fears



RANDY BOHLENDER

Senior Pastor at
Hillcrest Covenant
Church

viewpoint

BEING PRO-ADOPTION WITHOUT BEING SCAMMED

Adoption is an idea that rests in the heart of many couples but fails to come to fruition for a variety of reasons. Sometimes fear holds them back. Hearing stories of fraud causes them to avoid taking those first steps.

Recent news articles have told the stories of families who have lost significant sums of money in adoption proceedings. In some cases, the expectant mother bilked them out of funds. In others, the agencies closed down after accepting payments.

Whatever the reason, it's horribly discouraging to people who are trying their best to adopt and willing to lay out significant amounts of money to do so. The result is even more people who decide it's not worth trying.

If you're considering adoption and want to limit your financial risk, there are a few steps you can take. Due to all the variables, it's impossible to risk-proof an adoption process, but you can

put guards in place so you limit your potential loss and insure that you're being good stewards of the finances God's given you.

CONTROL THE HOME STUDY PROCESS

The first step in adoption is getting a home study. It is a written assessment of your home, history, and preparedness for adoption and will be necessary to file for adoption with the court. There is no way around this, and a good social worker will actually help prepare you for your adoption.

Make sure you are getting the right home study. Home studies for foster-to-adopt, international adoption, and private adoption are all different. If you are going through a private agency, make sure you own your home study when it is over and if you choose to go to another agency, you don't need to pay for the home study to be released.

A home study will cost you up front. Someone is investing significant time in writing it for you, so they need to be paid for that – but once you pay for it, you should be able to use it elsewhere for a similar adoption rather than be locked in with one agency. Ask how many signed copies you will receive and if they insist that they don't give home studies directly to families, go elsewhere.

AVOID ALA CARTE MARKETING CHARGES

Some agencies will offer you greater visibility in front of expectant moms if



you pay a substantial fee up front. That's a huge red flag – trust God to get you in the right spot rather than paying huge sums for websites or specific ads that highlight your family. Those dollars are hard to justify.

Direct marketing, Craigslist ads, even Facebook pages promoting your availability to adopt are more often invitations to being scammed rather than helpful in connecting with an expectant mother.

BE CAREFUL ABOUT EARLY MATCHES

It's not unusual to have an expectant woman approach us when she's only 8-12 weeks pregnant, asking to see family profiles so she can choose a family to adopt her child. We are happy to help care for her in the process, but we don't match expectant moms and adoptive parents until the beginning of the third trimester.

At match, most agencies charge estimated fees for the care of the expectant mom. Many states have relatively modest limits on those amounts, but some do not. A large number of agencies

match early to collect those funds up front, knowing the expectant mother may or may not choose to go forward. If she chooses not to make an adoption plan, the expectant family forfeits those funds.

ASK QUESTIONS

Once you are matched, you will most likely need to pay fees. Ask pointedly, if the expectant mother decides not to go through with her plan, what happens to those funds? Some of the fees will be unrecoverable (birth mother expenses) but your match fee should not necessarily be forfeited. Many agencies will offer you a credit on your next match. A few will offer a refund under unique circumstances.

In cases where families are not offered a cash refund, it does not mean they are been scammed. The agency has done all the work they were able to do in caring for the expectant mother, counseling, preparing you, etc. There is inherent risk in adoption that cannot be entirely mitigated, but that is true of any worthwhile pursuit.

Adoption is not easy or without pitfalls. Even so, it is a beautiful expression of the heart of God and a key part of standing for life. May the grace of God rest on those who say yes.

Randy Bohlender and his wife, Kelsey, have ten children, six of which were adopted. They founded Zoe's House Adoption Agency. He recently became the Senior Pastor of Hillcrest Covenant Church in Kansas City.

2017 ADOPTION LIST

ADOPT KANSAS KIDS

3545 SW 5th St.
Topeka, KS 66601
877-457-5430
customercare@adoptkaskids.org
www.adoptkaskids.org

ALLIANCE FOR LIFE

106B 5th Ave. S
P.O. Box 65
Greenwood, MO 64034
Marsha Middleton
816-806-4168
marsha@allianceforlifemissouri.com
www.allianceforlifemissouri.com

ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

15017 27th Street
PO Box 727
Perry, Kansas 66073-0727
Michelle Kincaid | 785-597-5235
office@alphachristianchildrenshome.com
www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com

ALTERNATIVES CLINIC

307 W. Washington St
Harrisonville, MO 64701
Carol Thompson | 816-380-4885
director@lifechoicecenter.org
www.alternativesclinic.org

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES OF THE MIDWEST, INC.

8249 W. 95th St., Ste. 107
Overland Park, KS 66212
Susan K. Timmons, LSCSW
913-383-3337 x102
susan@cfskc.org
www.cfskc.org

IF NOT FOR GRACE MINISTRIES

PO Box 836
Grain Valley, MO 64029
Lori Drieggs
816-847-2911
info@infg.org
www.infg.org

KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

650 Minnesota Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66101
877-581-5437 or 913-371-2220
tklaus@kcsk.org
www.kcsk.org

KVC KANSAS

21344 W. 153rd Street
Olathe, KS 66061
Campbell Vobach
913-956-5326
1-888-655-5500
www.kvc.org

MISSOURI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

20509 S State Route J
PO Box 447
Peculiar, MO 64078
Dawn Hensley
816-616-3303
Dawn.Hensley@mbch.org
www.mbch.org

MOTHER'S REFUGE

14400 E. 42nd St. South, Suite 220
Independence, MO 64055
Robert Zornes | 816-353-8070
office@mothersrefuge.org
www.mothersrefuge.org

PARKVILLE WOMEN'S CLINIC

6326 N. Lucerne Ave.
Kansas City Mo 64151
Sonya Rice
816 746 4855
info@parkvillewomensclinic.com
www.PWC4life.us

RACHEL HOUSE

1260 NE Windsor Drive
Lee's Summit, MO
Kathy Edwards
816-921-5059
info@rachelhouse.org
www.rachelhousefriends.org

SAINT FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES

509 E Elm Street
Salina, KS
Karen Wahlmeier
316.831.0330 ext. 3046
karen.wahlmeier@st-francis.org
www.st-francis.org/Adoption

SHOW-ME CHRISTIAN YOUTH HOME

Main Campus, 24302 Mahin Rd.
La Monte, MO 65337
Chris Ruhnke
660-347-5982
info@showmekids.org
www.showmehelpingkids.com

Alpha Christian Children's Home & School
www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com

WHAT WE DO:

1. Share Christ to offer hope and healing
2. Provide a Christian family safe haven
3. Help the kids get caught up in school

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Pray
2. Volunteer
3. Refer Children In Need To Us
4. Monetary & Food Donations

In His Hands
Alpha Christian Children's Home

Find out more by calling
785-597-5235
Located an Hour W of KC
15017 27th Street
PO Box 727
Perry, Kansas 66073

Because your mom chose life, you are able to read this. Life, the first unalienable right.

YWA of Missouri, standing for life from conception until natural death.

YWAofMO@hotmail.com

Missouri Right to Life Western Region

Our Mission is to protect life from conception until natural death. We do this by education and legislation.

9504 E. 63rd St. Suite 103
Kansas City, MO 64133
816-353-4113
www.mrlWesternRegion.org

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017
Life Banquet
Adam's Mark Convention Center

January 19th, 2018
March for Life Washington, DC
Local KCMO Prayer Vigil
Noon to 1:00 pm
Federal Courthouse, KCMO

Alternatives Clinic

Providing compassionate support and assistance to individuals facing unplanned pregnancy since 1992

Our Confidential Services Include:

- Free Pregnancy Testing
- Free Limited OB Ultrasounds
- Confidential Peer Counseling
- Baby Food Pantry
- Maternity and Baby Clothing
- Prenatal and Parenting Classes

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ♥ Part-Time Receptionist
- ♥ Board Members

For more info call Carol at 816-380-4885

816-380-4885
307 W. Washington St.
Harrisonville, MO
www.alternativesclinic.org

CONSIDERING ADOPTION?

- Learn your options from a trusted source
- Supportive services for both birth parents and adoptive parents
- Licensed and Hague accredited for those needing home studies—both domestic and international

Serving Kansas and Missouri for over 35 years



Christian Family Services

"Helping Children and Families Find a Better Life"

913-383-3337 ♦ www.cfskc.org
susan@cfskc.org

How do you really feel about a woman who has had an abortion?



1 in 3 women have had an abortion.

Therefore, there are millions of wounded mothers, fathers and families already.

A grace-filled environment starts with you.

#prograce

Together we can be the change.

If Not For Grace
www.infg.org



CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA

CWA of KANSAS SUPPORTS THE SANCTITY OF LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH. ABORTION HAS CONSEQUENCES; OUR CONCERN EXTENDS TO THOSE OUTCOMES.

CWA of Kansas
P.O. Box 11233
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207
913-491-1380 Fax/Office Number

Firefighter adopt baby he delivered on emergency call

By **Leonardo Blair**

A firefighter who was praying for a third child with his wife had his prayers answered when he was allowed to adopt a baby girl he delivered during an emergency call.

Now, six years after Marc Hadden of Myrtle Beach, S.C., helped deliver the baby he and his wife, Rebecca, say she continues to be a blessing in their lives.

"I will never forget that day. It was a day when a lot of things came full circle," Hadden told CNN.

A call had been made about a woman who was experiencing severe abdominal pain. When they got to the scene they realized the woman was in labor and she gave birth in the back of the ambulance.

"It was a pretty serious call for us," he told Today. "We got her on some oxygen, started some IVs, and literally as we were getting ready to leave the parking lot in the ambulance my partner said, 'We're about to deliver a baby right here.' We had no time to prepare. Before we could do anything — we hadn't even cut her clothes — Gracie came right out. Immediately she was handed to me."

"We went from caring for one patient to two: the woman and the baby," he told CNN.

While he was at the hospital on Nov. 14, 2011, the day Grace was born, Hadden learned the woman who gave birth may have been homeless and she wanted to give the child up for adoption.

Hadden told doctors he would like to be baby Grace's father, and when he told his wife about the newborn her response was: "Can we keep her?"



It was perfect timing. The Haddens, who had two sons at the time, were looking to adopt a third child because they were unable to have more children.

"We had prayed about it for so long," the firefighter said. "We wanted to adopt because we were unable to have more kids. We always dreamed of adopting a little girl."

Two days after her birth, Hadden and his wife took her home from the hospital. In March 2012 they were given full custody of the child they now affectionately call Gracie.

"To see my wife's face light up when we brought Gracie home. I can't even begin to tell you. ..." Hadden told CNN.

Gracie, who is now 6, is a budding gymnast and soccer player. Her older brothers Will, 15, and Parker, 13, made her a part of the family from the moment their parents brought her home.

Her family has already told her about the story of her birth and they plan to make sure she fully understands how she came into their lives as she grows older.

"She knows the entire story, but we know we'll have to reinforce it as she be-

comes older and becomes more cognizant of everything around her," Hadden told CNN.

"She's a special person," he said. "We know it and she knows it."

The Myrtle Beach Fire Department named Hadden Firefighter of the Year in 2011 when Gracie was born. At 48, he is now retired from the department and works on a volunteer basis.

"Every day I look forward to waking her up, getting her ready for school, then picking her up later on," said Hadden. "I am living the best days of my life. She contributed to all of our lives."

Saint Francis keeps kids in prayer

Kevin, 13, would like to become a professional chef when he grows up and has been apprenticing at a local soul food restaurant. He also likes to play guitar, swim, watch movies, ride his bike, and visit the library. Eager and enthusiastic, Kevin makes friends easily and performs well in school — although he sometimes gets in trouble for talking too much. Friendly and polite, with a beautiful smile and an easy sense of humor, he gets along with just about everybody.

Several of his siblings have already been adopted, and Kevin would like a forever family of his own. He needs a loving family that understands his unique situation and parents to guide and support him.

Kevin is just one of the hundreds of children awaiting adoption in Kansas. He's also one of the children featured in Saint Francis Community Services' Fostering in Faith program. As a ministry, Saint Francis believes that one of the most powerful acts we can perform on behalf of children is to hold them in our prayers. In our own families, we pray for our children all the time — but sadly, many children have no family and no one to pray for them.

Fostering in Faith arose from that realization. We know that most congregations and religious organizations have within their fellowship groups of people to whom God has given a spirit of intercessory prayer. Fostering in Faith ensures that children desperate for "forever families" are remembered and held in prayer by our faith communities.

Each month, Saint Francis sends participating congregations a photo and brief biography of a child who needs faithful, caring people to pray for him or her. The biography includes a prayer composed specifically for that child to help guide you in prayer. Congregations typically include the material in their Sunday bulletin or distribute it to their members so they can pray for the child at home if they wish.

Your prayers can transform the lives of these beloved children of God and bless the lives of the families who adopt them. To learn more, visit www.fosteringinfaith.org.

To meet Saint Francis children in need of a permanent, loving family, visit www.st-francis.org/adoption.

Over **7000** Kansas Children in Foster Care

Each child needs a safe, stable, loving home like yours

Churches in Kansas
What are you being called to do?

Please sponsor a child in foster care during this holiday season by donating gifts and gift cards.

Contact: Campbell Vobach
Phone: 913-956-5326



Become a KVC Foster Parent
1.888.655.5500 | www.kvc.org

KDHE License #773

LIKE US! FACEBOOK.COM/METRO VOICE

The foster care crisis is ours and now is the time to save it

By **Robert R. Duke**

The decision to foster a child brings great challenge and great reward. You become the stabilizing force in a life disrupted by turbulent times. Knowing that reunification with the birth family is the goal, you open your home and heart. And you fall in love.

Several years ago, my wife and I embarked on this adventure. Today our family includes two biological sons, an adopted daughter, and a foster daughter who joined our family at three months old. She just turned two and likely will be reunited with her birth family soon. Saying good-bye will break our hearts, yet we are not called to an easy path—we are called to be faithful.

I can say unequivocally that we sense a calling on our lives to care for these little ones. Children living right in our cities and towns who have no one to hold them, take them to a park, or put a warm meal on the table—this trumps many things that command more attention. Children represent the future. They represent the hope and possibility of our communities, our churches, and our nation. All people, regardless of faith tradition, must come together to advocate for these children.

Since November is National Adoption Month, religious leaders must begin cultivating a massive interfaith movement to target not only adoption



but also the need for foster care. On any given day, approximately 402,000 live in foster care in the United States, and on average, these children remain in state care for nearly two years with eight percent of children enduring five or more years. We must do better than this.

Recently, a Jewish friend, who works for a foster-adoption agency, and I discussed how our faith backgrounds shape our views on how our communities should pursue foster parenting. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament for Christians) includes several verses about taking care of those who are parentless (Isaiah 1:17, "...learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."). This provides very tangible directions on community care. I also shared with her that as Christ-followers, fostering is a sacred responsibility that models Jesus' love for us. Just as God adopts us into

His family, we have the means to adopt these children—even if only briefly into our homes and forever into our hearts.

The care of children transcends all that divides us and encourages me to reach across artificial lines. I have friends who are foster parents from many (and even no) faith traditions. I have Republican, Democrat, and Independent foster parent friends. We come from different nationalities, ethnicities, socioeconomic means, and the list goes on. But our role as foster parents draws us together in solidarity and advocacy for often-forgotten, voiceless little ones in need of homes and people who care for them. In a world divided by politics and faith, I love the unity I feel with others regarding this issue. Let us come together in heart, mind, and spirit to solve this crisis.

People of faith are called to do no less, and Christians are called to do more.

METRO VOICE. CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KC!



**To unify
and
champion
LIFE
ministries**

Equipping

- Annual statewide conference
- State and regional training events
- On-site consulting/training
- New director consulting/training
- New ministry development consulting

Empowering

- Provides contracted funding through the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion program for our affiliates
- Maintains awareness with legislators at the State Capitol
- Development of statewide advancement strategies
- Development of collaborative partnerships to benefit our affiliates

Engaging

- Regional networking with ministry leaders
- Coordination of a prayer network
- Compiling of affiliate data to raise awareness of the ministries impact through annual report
- Research of new ministry work opportunities
- Connecting affiliates with new program/partnership potential

P.O. Box 65
Greenwood, MO 64034
816-806-4168

www.allianceforlifemissouri.com

*Imagining a world where every child is valued
and mothers and fathers are equipped to
build strong families that positively impact their
communities.*



**The Villages at
Burlington Creek**
6326 N. Lucerne Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64151

Call: 816-746-4855 ■ www.pwc4life.us

Families Make the Difference

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. When a child's family is not able to provide for that child, a foster or adoptive family can. You can make a difference by becoming a "family" for a hurting child. You can also make a difference by providing support for foster or adoptive families.

MBCH Children and Family Ministries and its affiliate The LIGHT House offer a variety of Christian foster care and adoption services.



For information
call 800.264.6224
or visit us at
www.mbchcfm.org

**Korea and Vietnam adoption
program families needed.**

Visit our website at
www.dillonadopt.com to fill
out our **FREE** online
application!



SERVICE

continued from page 6

cer match against the Show-Me team, joining their track practice, playing volleyball and basketball and so much more.

Our trips have evolved over time with the students taking on more leadership roles. They help in the planning of their trip, they give the nightly devotions, and

plan and lead games. They see God stretching them to do things they didn't think they could do. They bond to their classmates and get to know their teachers in a way that being in a classroom doesn't accomplish.

Cultivating Something Greater

Our juniors and seniors talk frequently with such fondness of their week at Show-Me. We even have had a

set of twin sisters continue their relationship with Show-Me after they graduated and come back year after year on their own.

Our students' time at Show-Me builds character, teaches what a hard day's work is like, and moves them outside their comfort zone to meet people and do things they've never done before. They learn how to give and not get something material for it in return, just

the satisfaction of doing a job well.

Just Like Me

Our students get to encounter children that have different needs and some similar to their own; They often say the kids are "just like me" in terms of interests. The students realize just how much they have been given, and also what a responsibility they have to give back—"To whom much is given, much is required."

I believe the relationship that Whitefield Academy has developed through the years with Show-Me Christian Youth Home has helped to raise a group of people to love God, love others, and to give unselfishly. We couldn't ask for more than that.

—Kathy Kinman is Lead Teacher at Whitefield Academy in Kansas City.

Every child deserves a loving, caring home. A family they can call their own. A place where they belong. With people who will be there for them always.



Adopt Kansas Kids



• www.adoptKSkids.org • 877-457-5430

Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and approved adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children's Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

Missouri Baptists.
Partnering with you...
for *life*.



THE PATHWAY

The Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and *The Pathway*, the official newspaper of the Convention, are proud to work side-by-side other Missourians in the effort to promote adoption and foster parenting.

Please join us in celebrating



Years
of welcoming mothers and babies home

Mother's Refuge Taste of Compassion

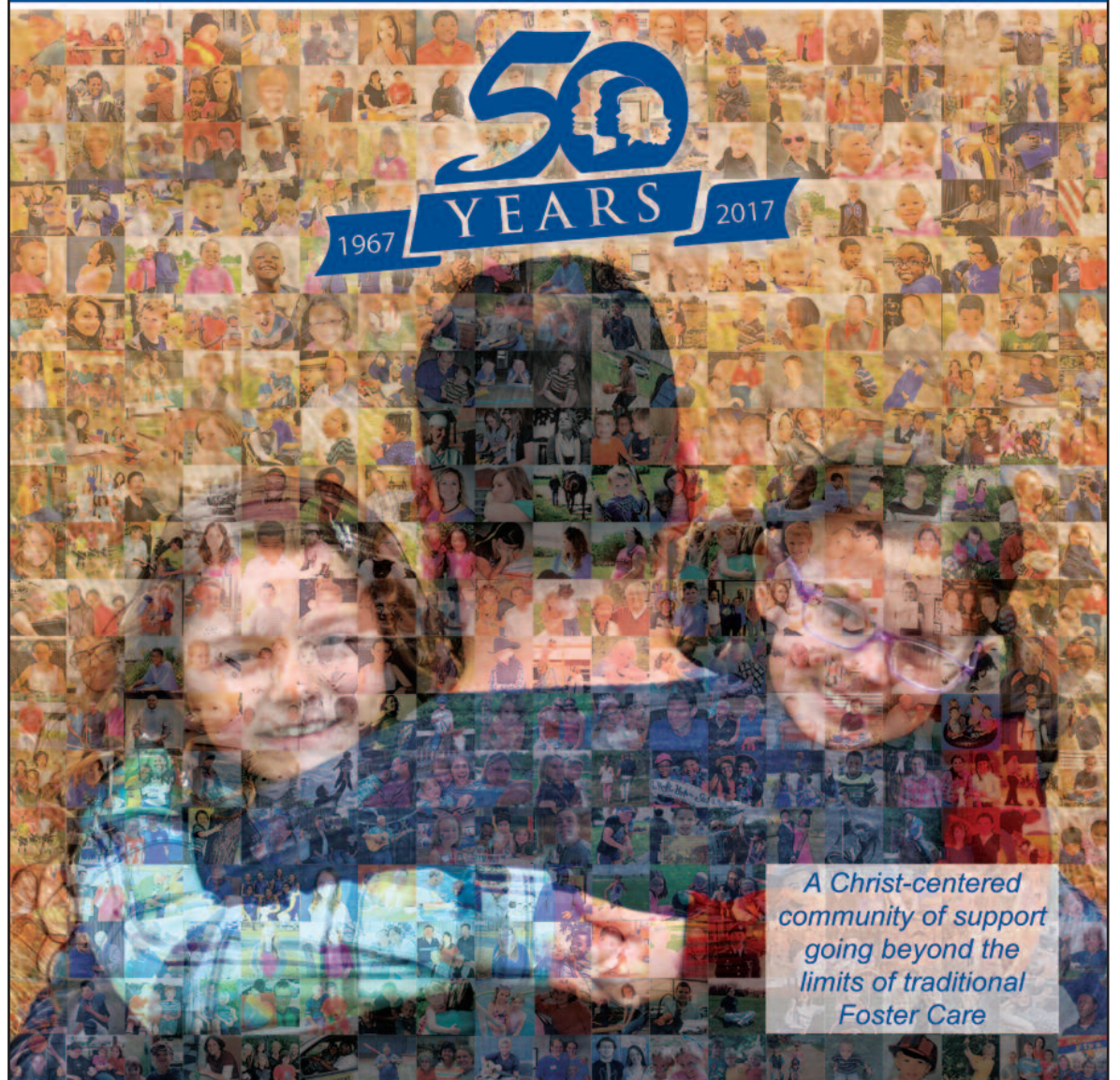
Dinner ~ Silent Auction ~ Live Music ~ Cash Bar

Friday the 20th of
October 2017
6:00 in the evening

Adams Pointe
Conference Center
1400 NE Coronado Dr
Blue Springs, MO 64014

Ticket price is \$35. To purchase tickets visit
www.MothersRefuge.org
or mail check to: Mother's Refuge
14400 E. 42nd St. S., Ste. 220,
Independence, MO 64055

Compelled by Christ to Rescue & Restore Young Lives



*A Christ-centered
community of support
going beyond the
limits of traditional
Foster Care*

Show-Me Christian Youth Home
660-347-5982 | www.ShowMeHelpingKids.com