

Mission: Hope

Vision Statement & Strategic Planning

*Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this:
to visit orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*
James 1:27

We will seek to increase the awareness of the Oakwood Church body and the Lake Country community to the needs of foster care children and orphans with the ultimate goal of increasing the number of adoptions.

Strategy:

- First we will utilize the book, Launching an Orphans Ministry In Your Church, to identify areas of interest and need. (2008)
- Establish a leadership structure for the Mission: Hope ministry. (2008)
- Encourage involvement in current Oakwood and Evangelical Free ministries that relate to orphan care. (Heartlove Place, Globalfingerprints, Operation Christmas Child)
- Develop a five year action plan that will facilitate the direct care for foster care children and orphans.
- Develop a five year action plan that will bring awareness for adoption and result in more families choosing to adopt.

Action Plan:

- **Foster Care Support**
 1. Develop a prayer program for waiting children in the Foster Care System, utilizing bookmarks, posters in Sunday School classrooms, and the bulletin board in the foyer. (2009)
 2. Encourage women's groups and small groups to supply emergency backpacks for foster care children. (2009)
 3. Develop a program to engage the Oakwood youth in the backpacks for foster care children project. (2010)
 4. Begin a meal program for foster care families. (2009 – 2012)
 5. Encourage becoming a foster parent as an option to caring for orphans. (2010)
 6. Encourage Oakwood members and attendees to volunteer for community foster care programs. (2009 – 2012)

- **Orphan Care Support**

1. Mission Trips directly to orphanages. (2009 – 2012)
 - Latvia Orphanage - Buckner International. (2009)
 - Provide multiple options for direct mission trips. (2010 - 2012)
 - Congo Orphanage - Rachael Martin & Glogalfingerprints. (2011)
2. Join with Heartlove to provide care packages for Congolese Orphans through missionary Rachael Martin. (2009)
3. Increase the number of Oakwood families who sponsor Congolese orphans through Glogalfingerprints. (2010)

- **Adoption Awareness**

1. Develop a prayer program for waiting children in orphanages, utilizing bookmarks, posters in Sunday School classrooms, and the bulletin board in the foyer. (2009)
2. Provide resources for OASIS classes that raise awareness of adoption.
 - “Considering Adoption” (2009)
 - “If You Were Mine” (2009)
3. Host an adoption informational meeting with a local Christian adoption agency. (2009)
4. Investigate the need for an adoption support group at Oakwood Church. (2009)
5. Gather adoption resource information for families interested in adoption and those who have already adopted.
 - Brochures for the welcome center regarding local adoption resources. (2009)
 - List of financial assistance programs available for adopting families. (2009)
 - Develop a comprehensive adoption resource library. (2010 – 2012)
6. Host an Adoption Expo for the community. (2010)
 - Speaker
 - Booths for adoption organizations
 - Breakout sessions about adoption and post adoption issues.
7. Adoption Showers for children and their forever families. (2010)
8. Engage youth in understanding more about adoption. (2010)
9. Host a multicultural day for Oakwood Church and the community. (2011)