

MINISTRY SUMMARY GUIDE

HOW TO SHARE WITH
CHURCHES ABOUT OUR
FAMILY OF MINISTRIES

OVERALL MINISTRY

Now more than ever, families are in a battle and the local church has been appointed to be their place of hope, healing, and help. But the burden is too great for church leaders to carry alone.

Pastors and churches don't have to be overwhelmed by the needs of families in the church and community. **Your mission is our mission.** We want to bring our ministry to your community by equipping you with specialized resources to strengthen families.

Our resources are here to uphold your church as the answer to brokenness in your community and equip you to lay a healthy foundation for future generations. Our resources expand your reach of the Gospel into your community.

We provide resources to build, strengthen, and restore Arkansas families for God's glory through 6 areas of ministry:

CONNECTED FOSTER CARE

Every child deserves hope and healing. Families want to welcome vulnerable children and impact a childhood but are often unsure they can navigate all that comes with fostering.

Saying yes to foster care can seem overwhelming. But it doesn't have to be. Connected partners with you at every step for every challenge. We do the work of providing you with the right tools and managing the process while you do the ministry of welcoming children who need hope.

Last year, Connected provided Christ-centered foster care for 266 children.

If just 1% of Arkansas Baptists said yes, every child in foster care in Arkansas would experience Christ-centered foster care. Hope for every child is possible-with your yes.

Register for our next Virtual Information Meeting to learn more about the Connected Foster Care difference. Contact our team to learn how your church can BE THE ONE!

CONNECTED ADOPTIONS

Women with unexpected pregnancies deserve to have the life-giving option for adoption that also seeks to serve them with compassion. Expectant mothers are often not given the pre-placement and post-placement care they need for this brave choice. Further, adoptive parents are not equipped with the training, ongoing services, and support they need for a healthy future as a forever family.

Families can champion the brave, life-giving choice of an expectant mother and welcome an infant in need of a forever family. We remove the barriers that hinder loving families from adoption and equip them with the services needed for a healthy future. We equip expectant mothers with the services needed to choose the best future for her child. When a mother chooses adoption as her parenting plan, we bridge an expectant mother to the right waiting family for her baby.

Connected Adoptions provides inquiring families with missional adoption. Our mission is to meet the need of vulnerable children. The greatest need is foster families. When the need arises, we want willing families equipped to welcome children in need of forever family.

Licensed Connected Foster families can inquire to become a private adoptive home.

CAMPUS CARE

Siblings should not experience the added trauma of being separated when placed in foster care. But foster homes often do not have the space or support to receive multiple children.

We are meeting the vital need for brothers and sisters to stay together while in foster care. Arkansas Baptist Ranch in Harrison and Arkansas Baptist Homes for Children in Monticello provides foster homes and a community of support that allows foster families to welcome large sibling groups. Campus foster care provides real homes and a real family environment to siblings in foster care.

Keeping brothers and sisters together provides children a sense of belonging and safety. They are able to make the transition into foster care more positively and the work towards family reunification is more successful.

Last year, 107 siblings were able to stay together while in foster care.

Churches can engage in local missions by volunteering at our campuses and by wrapping campus foster families with support.

Contact our campus directors to see how your church or small group can serve and what the current needs are.

DESIRED HAVEN FAMILY CARE

Every family deserves to experience all that God desires for them. Desired Haven helps guide at-risk families to healthy futures by partnering them with a trained advocate who builds a healthy support system around families and teaches them 7 areas of stability.

The need to serve vulnerable families is greater than what our 3 family care homes can serve and often, families simply need a support system rather than to move into a family care home. There are families at risk in every community of our state and churches can impact those families. We want to bring our ministry to your community by equipping your church to be family advocates. We equip the local church with the training, tools, and ongoing support to provide a Christ-centered support system around the hurting families in their community.

Last year, 27 vulnerable families were given stability and advocacy through our family care homes.

Your church can become a Desired Haven partner in two ways: DH Communities and DH Home Support. Your church can become a Desired Haven Community, where we train and support advocates in your church to serve the families of your own community. Your church or small group may feel called to support one of our 3 family care homes through:

- Providing special events and holiday celebrations for our families
 - Adopting a Family Suite to update when a new family moves in
 - Hosting drives for household supplies
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LIVING WELL COUNSELING

People are experiencing depression, anxiety, grief, loneliness, trauma, and broken relationships at unprecedented rates. Living Well Counseling, the counseling division of Arkansas Baptist Children & Family Ministries, is resourcing local churches with mental health services to meet the needs of its church and community.

Pastors need a counseling resource they can trust. Through a shared partnership with local churches, Living Well is able to provide professional counseling that is affordable and accessible. Pastors have the peace of mind knowing that the counselors they are referring their church members and community to are like-minded and Christ-centered.

Living Well serves in multiple locations statewide, with the goal of having a presence in communities across the state so that every Arkansan has access to professional, Biblical counseling.

Last year, 9,368 sessions were provided.

Contact us to learn more about partnering to provide a Christ-centered counseling resource for the families of your church and community.

OTHER RESOURCES

Our website has a media resource link for you to utilize as you share with churches:

- Presentation slides
- Videos
- Logos

Our Mission Advancement Team is here to assist you in any way you need.
