

On Thursday, DCF will join Florida's First Lady Casey DeSantis, NFL Super Bowl winning coach Tony Dungy, and award-winning recording artist Chris Tomlin in an *Act of Good Faith*, a virtual call-to-action for Florida's faith and community leaders to support Florida's most vulnerable. If you know of an organization that may be interested in supporting or expanding their support for Florida's foster and adoptive communities, please pass this information along.

You're also invited to attend a virtual event in your area. Click [here](#) to register and see the full list of upcoming events.

Take a few moments to read on and learn more!



## GOVERNOR'S FAITH AND COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVE

Faith and Community Leaders of Florida,

I hope you and your families are doing well this holiday season. I am super excited to share some BIG news with you, but first...

**Did you know that today there are currently more than 22,000 children in Florida's foster care system and nearly 700 children who are available for adoption?**

That's why I'm writing! **With your help**, the three major announcements below **can bring about transformational change** in the way faith- and community-based organizations are able to support vulnerable children and families in our state.

The announcements include:

- Launch of the MyFloridaMyFamily Initiative
- Upcoming *An Act of Good Faith* virtual events featuring NFL Super Bowl winning Coach Tony Dungy and award-winning singer and songwriter Chris Tomlin
- Creation of Florida's Foster Information Center

And please know, I truly understand how busy you are, but I humbly ask that you take just a moment to read the three announcements and consider joining us as we launch these efforts in our great state.

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### Creation of Florida's Foster Information Center



To ensure that every interested foster parent in our state receives the appreciation and attention they deserve, the Department of Children and Families, in coordination with the Governor's Faith and Community-Based Initiative, created Florida's Foster Information Center. **This is HUGE!**

This means that, for the first time, every interested foster parent will either have their call or web inquiry answered live or returned immediately by a current or former foster parent who is there to thank them and guide them through the fostering process. No automated systems, no unreturned calls; instead, interested foster parents will receive the first-class service and support they deserve. With nearly 23,000 children in foster care, and the state's and faith and community organizations' constant desire to raise up new foster parents, it was imperative that we made sure our front door was open!

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### Launch of the MyFloridaMyFamily Initiative

# MyFloridaMyFamily

[MyFloridaMyFamily.com](http://MyFloridaMyFamily.com) is a one-stop-shop of resources for foster and adoptive families, as well as child welfare advocates, throughout Florida. Whether you need help, are interested in bringing a child into your home, or want to help vulnerable children and families in your community, MyFloridaMyFamily.com has something for you. There are offerings on this website for:

- People interested in fostering
- People interested in adopting
- Families and children in crisis – through the support of Aunt Bertha
- Individuals, businesses, and non-profits looking to help families and children in crisis – through technology from CarePortal

**Additionally, we know that ALL faith and community institutions deeply desire to help the vulnerable children of our state, but not all are one-size-fits-all.** Through a partnership with the national foster care and adoption non-profit Angel Armies Foundation and their five national, best-in-class non-profit partners, we are offering all faith institutions in Florida a menu of FREE options to establish or deepen your journey in supporting children and families in foster care within your communities. We believe that not everyone is called to foster or adopt, but we are all called to do something, so we have given the below menu options as ways for faith institutions to be involved.

Menu options include:

- Using a mobile application to see real time needs of children and families in crisis in your area (like delivering meals to new foster and adoptive families).
- Sharing images and messages in your organization's correspondence to bring awareness to the foster care needs and the MyFloridaMyFamily website.
- Helping children experiencing trauma to cope with their experiences.
- Hosting seminars for biological parents while their children are in foster care.
- Identifying the foster parents (domestic missionaries) in your faith institution and delivering wrap-around care.
- Assistance with becoming a foster and adoptive friendly church by receiving pre-packaged sermon outlines, small group materials, and class curriculum.
- Receiving material that can help you promote Florida's Foster Information Center at your faith institution.

You can see all of these options and let us know which ones fit your faith institution or organization by visiting [www.MyFloridaMyFamily.com](http://www.MyFloridaMyFamily.com).

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## Upcoming Opportunities to Get Involved



## FEATURED GUESTS



**Casey DeSantis**  
THE FIRST LADY OF FLORIDA



**Chris Tomlin**  
AWARD-WINNING  
SINGER/SONGWRITER AND  
NATIONAL FOSTER CARE  
ADVOCATE



**Tony Dungy**  
ALL PRO DAD  
NATIONAL SPOKESMAN



**Chad Poppel**  
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Over the next three months, Florida's First Lady Casey DeSantis, NFL Super Bowl winning Coach Tony Dungy, award-winning singer and songwriter Chris Tomlin, DCF Secretary Chad Poppel, and I will be hosting virtual events with faith and community leaders all over the state of Florida, allowing us to talk about Florida's Foster Information Center, MyFloridaMyFamily.com, and how they can get more deeply involved.

To learn more about the events in your area, click here: <https://www.myfloridamyfamily.com/events/event-act-of-good-faith.shtml>.

I appreciate you taking the time to read and digest the three major announcements above. I know this message was long, but I hope you feel it was worth the read, and now, you're ready to learn more about taking the next step. I look forward to continuing the fight for vulnerable children and families together in the days ahead.

Serving Together,

Erik Dellenback  
Governor's Liaison for Faith and Community  
State of Florida

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