

History of Hogues' Involvement in child protection.

Attachment to Press Release: **Adoptive parents Steve and Sandra Hogue receive DCF Visionary Award**

Steve and Sandra Hogue became foster parents in 2005 and have grown their engagement with Community Partnership for Children tremendously since then. Steve Hogue is a youth pastor at Calvary Christian Center. To begin, Sandra began volunteering to help with adoption awareness efforts in 2006. Her commitment and passion has been an inspiration to many. Sandra began her awareness efforts by serving as a keynote speaker at the Friends of Children Breakfast hosted by Community Partnership for Children (2008) and a National Adoption Day event (2007) hosted by Embraced by Grace adoption agency. She shared her story of adoption to audiences of 125 guests. The Hogues have adopted five children from foster care and one from private adoption. The Hogues have been instrumental in growing a strong partnership with Calvary Christian Center. Sandra Hogue was recognized by Governor Charlie Crist as a Point of Light in 2010, nominated by CPC.

Following are highlights of their many, many contributions...

**Orphans Ministry:** Sandra and her husband Steve founded the All for Children orphan's ministry at Calvary Christian Center along with Rachel Arazashvili and Hashmareen Griffin, to help raise awareness about foster care. Under this ministry, they have hosted adoption matching events, a National Adoption Day event, foster parent training and child welfare conferences.

**National Adoption Day Celebration 2008:** Sandra served on the event planning committee and was instrumental in coordinating the 2008 National Adoption Day event for Community Partnership for Children. She secured the location, assistance with sound and stage production, and several volunteers. This event raised the most public awareness of any adoption day event held by Community Partnership for Children.

**Adoptive Parent MAPP Training:** Sandra and her husband Steve's desire to see adoption more widespread prompted an invitation for a state licensing team to visit the church and explain the adoption process. Because of her involvement with adoption through foster care, Sandra worked with her foster care provider and her church to coordinate MAPP training for prospective adoptive parents. The trainings are held several times each year. More than 50 families have signed up for MAPP training and are in the process of becoming licensed to foster and adopt

**Post Adoption Training:** Sandra has volunteered to schedule and coordinate the PAIRS post-adoptive training for adoptive parents through her church. She realizes the importance of continued support for adoptive parents and has been a tremendous advocate for this training.

**Fall Matching Event:** Sandra volunteered to serve on the planning committee for the October Matching Event. Matching events are held by Community Partnership for Children 3-4 times per year to bring prospective adoptive parents together with children eligible for adoption. Sandra secured the location, food and beverages, and entertainment. As these events are held several times per year, Sandra has volunteered to help with other matching events.

**Hope For Children Network:** Community Partnership for Children hosts a Hope For Children Network. The network is made up of faith-based groups who meet monthly to distribute information about children who are currently eligible for adoption. Sandra serves as the church member on behalf of

Calvary Christian Center. Sandra has been instrumental in helping to coordinate adoption awareness efforts with other faith-based organizations and churches.

Mentor Program: Children who are eligible for adoption are often enrolled in the Community Partnership for Children mentor program. Sandra has promoted the program through Calvary Christian Center and has coordinated orientations and trainings for church members.

Holiday Toy Drive: When Sandra was employed as a school psychologist with Hinson Middle School, she organized the school's first toy drive to benefit children served by Community Partnership for Children.

Orphan's Sunday: Through Calvary Christian Center, Sandra and Steve help organize an Orphan's Sunday event every November for National Adoption Month. They also helped organize a National Prayer Day for foster children.

Calvary's Closet: Sandra organizes and manages Calvary's Closet to provide items for foster families.

Kidds aRe First, Inc.: Sandra Hogue is on the board of directors of Kidds Are First, a non-profit that provides funds for extracurricular activities for foster children, and clothing and other necessities.

Awareness and Public Relations: Sandra and Steve organize and host Quarterly Q & A events to recruit foster parents, adoptive parents, and mentors at Calvary Christian Center.

Most recently, Sandra helped organize a Clergy Dinner through Calvary to help engage other churches in the mission

Family support: Steve presided over a funeral for a foster child who passed away in November 2007 and the Hogues donated a vehicle to a mother to expedite the reunification process with her children, so that she could have transportation.

For more information, please contact Jo Lynn Deal at Community Partnership for Children at 386-566-6935.