



November 2012 Newsletter

## November is National Adoption Month!

The history of National Adoption Month goes back to 1976, when it began as Adoption Week in Massachusetts under Governor Michael Dukakis, followed by both Presidents Ford and Reagan celebrating National Adoption Week. Finally, in 1995, as more states participated and activities ensued, President Clinton declared November as National Adoption Month.

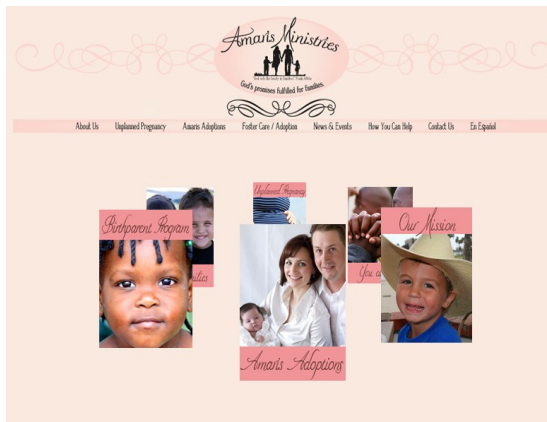
The month-long celebration includes National Adoption Day, with courthouses throughout the nation participating and hundreds of adoptions being finalized simultaneously. November 17, 2012 will mark the 13th year for Adoption Day. Through the help of adoption professionals, child advocates, judges, social workers, and attorneys, thousands of children in foster care will finalize adoption and become part of a permanent home and family.

Last year, close to 4800 children found forever families on Adoption Day in about 400 cities across the US. Right here in our very own Imperial County there will be nine adoptions finalized on adoption day this year. In total, more than 40,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day since its inception. Now that is something to celebrate! For more information visit [www.nationaladoptionday.org](http://www.nationaladoptionday.org).

### Check us out on the web!

Visit: [www.amarisministries.com](http://www.amarisministries.com)

It is our hope to become a resource of all things adoption, foster care, and orphan care in general. Our website is filled with a plethora of information to help answer questions you may have about getting involved. It is also a resource for those considering adoption as an answer to an unplanned pregnancy. It is still a work in progress and we will continue adding information, and if YOU have any resources or information to contribute, please let us know!



### Orphan Sunday Celebrated November 4th Valley Wide!

It was the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Orphan Sunday to be celebrated in the United States, but it was the 1<sup>st</sup> for Imperial Valley! Our board directors and staff visited churches around the Valley on November 4<sup>th</sup> to give presentations on the orphan crisis both worldwide and right here in our own backyard, along with various ways people can answer the call to "care for the orphan in their time of need" as James 1:27 says. In case you missed it and are wondering how YOU can help, below are some ideas:

- Private Adoption** – domestic or international
- Foster Adoption** – through the County
- Foster Care** – licensed through the County
- Godparent** – financially support this ministry
- Support Families/Services** – offer your professional (ex. Doctor, house keeping) or personal (ex. babysitting) services for free to an adoptive or foster family
- Aging Out Program** – take in an 18-21 year old who can pay rent and mentor them as they venture out into the world
- PRAY** – most critical!

Board Directors: Nicole Rothfleisch, Walter Colace, Joy Tucker, Alex Cardenas, Tom Storey, Annette Rea, Vicki Uhrli, Steve Uhrli