

## Our Mission

It is the mission of Illini Christian ministries to glorify God by partnering with churches and others to restore and empower His families to wholeness through a variety of community-based Christian social services and ministries.

Building ... families ... lives ... hope

Serving families & children in crisis since 1967.



# Our Ministries

Restoring Hope, Empowering Families



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Illini Christian Ministries is a not-for-profit child welfare agency, licensed with the State of Illinois. License No. 010274.

We Are

Since 1967, Illini Christian Ministries, Inc. (ICM) has partnered with churches in Illinois focusing on protecting and caring for children-at-risk and preserving and restoring families. Whether the issue may be abuse, neglect, crisis pregnancy, family conflict, or the lack of an adequate support system during a crisis, ICM can help.

Through our three areas of ministry, our experienced and committed staff provides Christ-centered care for children and families throughout the State of Illinois.

### Adoption

ICM offers adoption services to Christian couples who are residents of Illinois. Home study services and post-adoption support is available for private, domestic, and international adoptions.

ICM also provides support and counseling to young women who are considering making an adoption plan. ICM assists pregnant women in making decisions regarding parenting or making an adoption plan. We help women make positive decisions for themselves and their child.

### Counseling

ICM provides help with marital and pre-marital issues, anger management, conflict resolution, depression, and behavior modification through individual and family counseling that is Christ-centered. Counseling services are performed by licensed therapists with the State of Illinois which meets all HIPPA requirements.

It is the policy of Illini Christian Ministries in offering services to families and children to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or citizenship.

#### **Family Care Ministry**

When a crisis arises, many families have a support network and resources to aid them in their time of need. However, some families do not have this support or anyone to turn to for help, which may leave the children vulnerable for neglect and abuse. We strive to mobilize churches and Christians to fulfill the biblical call to care for vulnerable children and support families in crisis by becoming a support network.

For many of these children and families, a possible solution in their time of need is found in our Family Care Ministry through either Parenting Partners or Safe Families.

#### **Parenting Partners**

ICM recruits, licenses, and trains individual Christian families to provide home-based care to children in need. Placements are made strictly on a *voluntary basis* by the parent or guardian of the child. Our Christian families offer hope and faith to struggling families.

Parenting Partners is a volunteer-based ministry with the primary objective to strengthen and equip families in their times of crisis and need. Caregivers make a conscious decision to place their children in the care of a DCFS-licensed, Christian home. Unlike traditional DCFS foster care, in the Parenting Partners foster care model, both caregivers and children are served through a faith-based approach, with the *goal of family reunification.* This ministry outreach is a partnership between two families with the child's best interest as the foundation of this agreement.

#### **Safe Families**

Safe Families for Children<sup>™</sup> is a temporary child-placing program ICM facilitates in the Central Illinois area. Safe Families works to come alongside parents who do not have an adequate social network to depend on in times of crisis. The Safe Families program provides parents in crisis with respite care for their children, allowing them to temporarily place their children with safe and loving Christian families while addressing their current crisis.

