

In response to the call
of Jesus Christ, the
Good Shepherd, to
help those in need, we
connect children with
families and keep
families connected.

Good Shepherd
Children & Family Services



8740



For Missouri residents

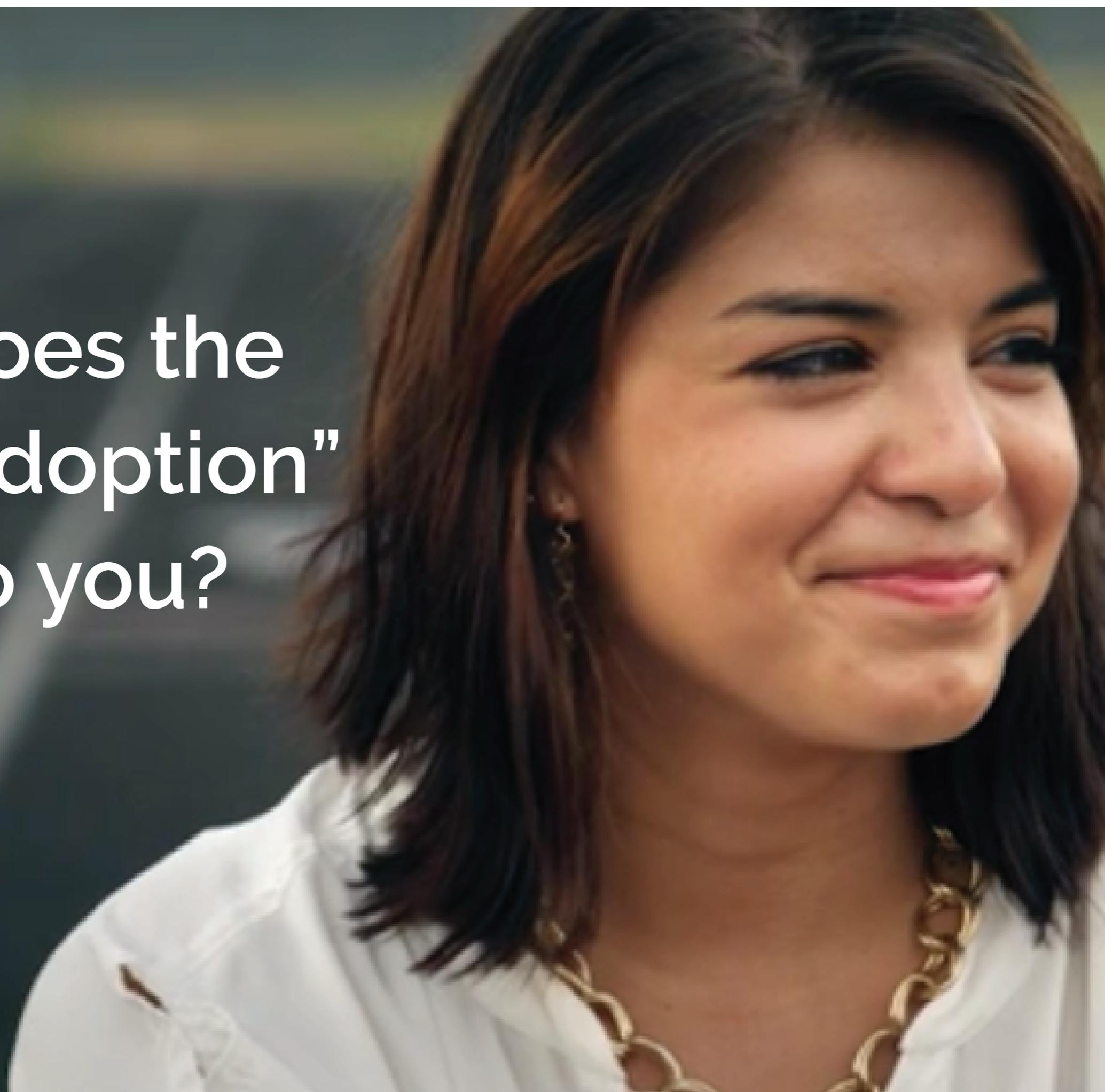
8,740 abortions
———— 2013 ————

75,244 births
———— 2013 ————

531 adoptions
———— 2007 ————



What does the
word “adoption”
mean to you?



When you think
about being
pro-life, do you
talk about
adoption?



How to talk about adoption in a pro-life way

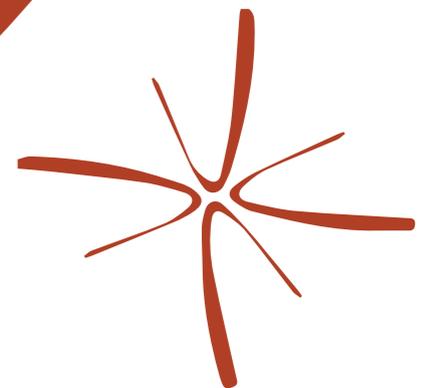
Offer support and offer to listen

Say “I don’t know exactly what you are going through ,
but I will try to understand”

Remind that adoption is a loving and life-giving decision

Adoption is a **brave** decision! You are *not* “giving up”.

There are many adoptive families looking to adopt that
can give your child the life you dream of them having





pregnant
but not ready to parent?

**Good Shepherd's
Adoption Services Program**



What I do as an adoption worker

Help birth parents...

- Explore their options- includes parenting and adoption
- Support through the process
- Education about adoption including the emotional and legal process
- Selecting an adoptive couple
- Decide on the level of openness: closed, semi-open, open
- Preparing for the hospital, going to court, and discussing a variety of emotions



What is Good Shepherd?

Good Shepherd is a non-profit organization that is part of Catholic Charities, along with organizations like St. Patrick Center and Catholic Family Services (eight total agencies).

Our office and maternity shelter for teen moms is located in U. City near the Delmar Loop, but most of our work is done in the community and in clients' homes in St. Louis city, county, and Jefferson County.



What does Good Shepherd do?

Good Shepherd primarily serves babies, kids, moms, and families. We have four main programs, which include foster care, expectant parent support, maternity shelter, and infant adoption. Because we're non-for-profit, we rely on support from organizations like the Annual Catholic Appeal and the United Way in order to provide the services that we do.



Foster Care

What have you heard about foster care?

There are many negative misconceptions about the foster care system. Previously, children without a home would go to “orphanages”, but today they are placed with families.

When a situation is determined to be unsafe for a child or a group of siblings, kids are placed with a family to care for them until their parents are able to take care of them, or until their parents rights have been terminated and they are able to be adopted.

Families provide loving homes for kids that have been neglected or abused. One of our programs is called Treatment Foster Care, an evidence-based model where kids with more behavioral or trauma challenges are placed with families as opposed to in a group home.

Because kids are often taken from dangerous situations, sometimes in the middle of the night, they usually can't bring anything with them to their new foster home. Every Christmas, we have an “Adopt-a-Family” drive where we collect donations to fulfill the wish lists of kids in foster care. Donations of older kid toys, clothes, and blankets are often given to kids in foster care.



Expectant Parent

Our Expectant Parent (EP) program is community based, meaning that we have a team of counselors that meet with clients in their homes or a location that 's comfortable for them.

This program is for parents (primarily moms) who are pregnant or parenting in a crisis situation. Primarily, this program is for counseling, parenting education, and connecting to resources.

Our goal is to help moms have a stress-free pregnancy and deliver a healthy baby. Our counselors visit moms throughout their pregnancies and for about a year after the babies are born.

Donations of diapers, wipes, baby clothes, and toys often go to moms in this program.



Adoption

We work with birth moms on counseling, placement selection, education and preparing for adoption (Colleen's job!)

We also work with adoptive families on the preparation for adoption, which includes background checks, home studies, and counseling.

Because the agencies that merged to form Good Shepherd have a long history in St. Louis (since the mid-1800s!), thousands of adoptions have taken place through our agency. We can help to provide limited information on adoptions that have happened in the past, and keep and maintain the records of adoptions through the Archdiocese of St. Louis.



Maternity Shelter

We have a maternity shelter on site of our U. City office where we have room for 14 girls and 20 babies and kids.

In our shelter, we have moms ranging in age from 12-21, some pregnant and some parenting. The moms are mostly teenagers, and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Moms will typically stay from about nine months to a year and a half, and we help with job skills, finishing high school or earning GEDs, and parenting education. There is staff in the shelter 24/7 to help the moms, and they regularly attend therapy.

The young moms in our maternity shelter are in need of baby items like diapers, wipes, baby clothes, and toys. Our girls also often need items like bath robes and clothes to help take care of themselves.



How you can help support the babies, moms, kids, and families that Good Shepherd serves

Pray - we need prayerful support to do the work that we do, and to pray for our clients who are in need of help.

Volunteer - while we don't have many volunteer openings for under-21, we sometimes have opportunities to help! Sign up at online at www.goodshepherdstl.org/volunteer

Donate - because we're a non-for-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of organizations and individuals to run our programs and employ our social workers and administrators. We are also in need of (new) baby items, toys, and kids' clothing. See our "Collect to Connect" brochure for more info!

Spread the Word - this may be the most impactful thing you can do (besides prayer, of course!). Tell you friends and family about the work that we do and the clients that we serve. Shameless plug: follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and check out our website to stay connected with the work that we're doing in our community!



Stay Connected

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If you have more questions ...

Colleen Mulligan
Adoption Liaison
cmulligan@ccstl.org
314-584-5721

Emma Vonder Haar
Communications Coordinator
evonderhaar@ccstl.org
314-854-5779

