



CAMPAIGN:

Children **NEED** Parents, Inc.

... kids don't have to grow up alone.

There are more than one million children in the United States who are not being cared for by family.¹ They live in foster houses, group homes, correctional facilities, on the street, or wherever they can find a place to shelter for brief periods.² They are essentially raising themselves. Yet, there are enough families to care for them (via

There are 1,000,000+ kids in the U.S. raising themselves. It's a horrible child-rearing plan with predictable results.

A fatal tragedy is that there are enough families presently willing and able to raise each one of these children.

reunion or adoption.) The public is unaware of the problem, much less the solution (which is family).³

The Campaign: Children Need Parents is a non-profit created to spearhead the many excellent efforts to unite these children with

family. The Campaign will generate five million signatures for its petition, which says "I envision a nation where every child is wanted by at least one family." Such a groundswell of support⁴ would allow politicians to take notice, paving the way for system managers to obtain appropriate budgeting and legislation. This would then allow for the difficult work of changing the systems that surround the kids, facilitating their placement in stable, secure, and loving relationships with people who welcome them.

The Campaign will be executed in two stages. First, the Campaign will inform the public of the issue of displaced children and gather signatures via guerilla marketing and collaboration with existing child welfare entities. It will establish volunteer groups in 50 states and use 30-minute Coffee Chats (online meetings), social media, and its website to recruit volunteers, gather petition signatures, and solicit contributions. Allied organizations will lend expertise to the multitudinous sub-issues, contribute to site/sector specific organizing activities, provide strategic insight, and contribute some funding and pro bono personnel.

Secondly, when the five million signatures have been obtained, the Campaign will submit the petition to policy makers in the Federal and State governments, private agencies, and schools of social work. With the necessary policy and practice changes in place our children *can and will go home*.

Your next Action Step is to sign the petition and if more information is wanted, to attend a convenient Coffee Chat near you. Further material can be found at www.ChildrenNEEDParents.org.

¹ At least one immediately available mature adult in a lifelong, legally secure relationship.

² Numbers are elusive. See www.ChildrenNEEDParents.org for illustration. There are at least a million.

³ The experience of many is not that there are not enough families, but that current social systems stymy truly effective solutions. See www.ChildrenNEEDParents.org.

⁴ Five million voting, tax-paying citizens combined with people they influence, could easily amount to a 10% voting bloc.