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National Adoption Center®

There are no unwanted children...just unfound families

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April 2014



E-NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the Executive Director



Our annual Celebration of Family gala last week demonstrated once again why the National Adoption Center was formed and why we continue to believe that there are no unwanted children...just unfound families.

Three families whom we helped create received standing ovations from the nearly 300 who attended. They span time from our beginnings through to the present-the first one created 42 years ago when our Center was a hope and a dream; the second formed two years ago as a result of a Wednesday's Child television feature, and the third, who came together last year. Joyce Mosley, who adopted her son, Kevin in 1972, was the first single woman in Pennsylvania to adopt a child. She also came to our Celebration of Family with her mother, her son and three grandchildren. Kevin is now 42.

The amazing Owens family arrived with their four children and the extensive equipment they need when they travel together. Jayden, 4, was medically fragile, having suffered a traumatic brain injury from shaken-baby syndrome. He's deaf and breathes through a tube in his throat. Like her brother, their daughter Angela, 5, adopted two years ago, can't talk. But they are smart, active and interested in the world. They love their big sister, 9-year-old Madison, the Owens' birth child. The Owens are in the process of adopting 2-year-old Harper who has medical challenges. When the family stood to be acknowledged, there was not a dry eye in the room.

Lisa and Chris Jacobson were beaming as they and their daughter, Jasmine, stood to greet the crowd. Jasmine, 16, represents the many teenagers who haven't given up their dream of having a family, reinforcing our conviction that once people know that the children exist they will come forward to adopt them.

These are our success stories. But there are more than 100,000 children now living in foster care whose vision for their futures wait to be fulfilled. The support of so many foundations, corporations and individuals are helping us make that happen.

NATIONALLY

Get Involved

In February twenty-one Members of Congress sent a letter to President Obama in support of expanded funding for the Adoption Opportunities Program. This program supports proven methods of finding permanent homes for those children in foster care, such as child-specific recruitment. The increased funding should also help states hire more case workers, thus decreasing the caseload of each worker. Studies show that there are better outcomes for children when the caseloads on the workers are smaller.

The Members of Congress cite in their letter a 2006 Children's Bureau study that found that "approximately \$65,422 to \$126,825 is saved for every child who is adopted rather than placed in long-term foster-care." Thus, not only are the children given a better life, but also the community saves money in the long term.

Please reach out to your Congressperson ([find his or her contact information here](#)) and lend your voice to this important need.



EVENTS

May 14, 2014 Foster Parent Fair Philadelphia

Make a difference in a child's life by becoming a foster parent, learn how to do so at this fair. Light refreshments. Raffle for door prizes.

[Click to Register.](#)

June 7, 2014 10th Anniversary Wednesday's Child Reunion & Celebration New Jersey

Join us as we celebrate 10 years of featuring children on Wednesday's Child! Was your family brought together by Philadelphia's Wednesday's Child program? If so, contact Sheina at 267-443-1872 to be added to the guest list.



CELEBRATION OF FAMILY



Stan Hochman, Jay & Bridget Devine, honorees, Bruce Davis, board president, and Sue Davis

The Celebration of Family took place on April 10th at the Crystal Tea Room in Center City Philadelphia. Jay and Bridget Devine, long-time supporters of the Center were honored as this year's Adoption Hall of Fame Inductees.

It was a fun night for all who attended. To complement the circus theme,

performers from Airplay entertained guests while they enjoyed dinner and bid on a great selection of silent auction items. Wendy's and Wawa were presented with awards for their involvement and support of our programs. The night closed with a very entertaining live auction.

Thanks to all who supported the event; we achieved our goal of raising \$150,000!

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Jeremy Maclin, wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles, hasn't forgotten his beginnings. Having been raised away from his birth family, Jeremy has special empathy for children who need to be in foster care or who have been adopted. For the past two years, each time the Eagles play a home game, he has entertained a family with the children they adopted. They are Jeremy's guests, have the chance to go out on the field before the game, sit in terrific seats and meet with Jeremy for a chat after the game...win or lose. All of us at the National Adoption Center thank Jeremy for his past and future connection with our families.

BLOG CORNER

NAC's blog highlights the work we do, national adoption trends, advocacy alerts and anything else that we think you'd like to know or share. The blog is a result of the efforts of NAC's staff, interns and guest bloggers. [Visit us often.](#) Tell us what's on your mind. Here's an example:

[Update on Wednesday's Child USA](#)

We wanted to update you on an exciting project we have been working on here at the Center. Wednesday's Child USA (WCUSA) is a two-part program that will create adoptive families for children now in foster care through partnerships with the media. First, we have created an Adoption Community to bring together under one umbrella all professionals throughout the country who participate in Wednesday's Child programs to allow them to share ideas and information and develop best practices. [Read more...](#)

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[The National Adoption Center](#) expands adoption opportunities for children living in foster care throughout the United States, and is a resource to families and to agencies who seek the permanency of caring homes for children.

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