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National Adoption Center®

There are no unwanted children, just unfound families®

E-Newsletter

January Edition 2012



Dear Friends,

Now that we're in a Presidential year and politicians are campaigning vigorously, we'll be hearing a lot of references to the welfare of our children. The problem is that those who give lip service to the importance of children to our future as a vital nation rarely do anything about it once they are in office.

The welfare of children - adequate health care, enhanced educational opportunities and, most important, the chance to grow up in a family that will provide them with safety, stability and love-should be among the highest priorities for every elected official.

We know that children do not have to grow up in the limbo of [foster care](#). They do not have to ricochet from home to home until, at age 18, they age out of the child welfare system without the emotional resources, support system or skill set needed to sustain themselves as adults.

We urge programs to raise [public awareness](#) about children who need to be

adopted and recruit the families willing to give them permanent homes. We want initiatives that will break down the barriers that keep children in foster care - agencies that will not place them across state lines, social workers who do not respond to potential adopters in a timely way, the absences of services to families after they have adopted.

As Eliza Doolittle warbles in *My Fair Lady*, "Words! Words! Words! I'm so sick of words. Don't waste my time. Show me!"

Ken Mullner
Executive Director



FEATURED YOUTH

Keith is Waiting



Ten-year-old Keith has a smile that lights up a room. He has a caring nature and is always concerned about others. Keith is full of energy and enjoys staying busy; he is one of the first to help with extra jobs around the house.

Keith is from Delaware and would like to be adopted by a family close enough so he may maintain a close relationship with his siblings. He needs a family that is sensitive and understanding of a child who has had many losses in his life. He also would love his adopted family to have cats and

dogs!

Keith receives special education services and enjoys going to school. He enjoys attending church with his foster family. He loves to be on the computer, both for fun and for school projects. His recent passion is fishing and if taken to a park, he will cast his line for hours if you let him.

To learn more about Keith, contact Amy Cressman at 215-735-9988 ext.319 or acressman@adopt.org

CELEBRATIONS

NAC Celebrates Journalist, Broadcaster and Longstanding Friend: Larry Kane



On Thursday, December 8th, board members, adoptive parents and friends of NAC gathered in the beautiful home of Board President Bruce and Sue Davis to honor Larry Kane and celebrate the publication of his first fiction book, *Death by Deadline*, a suspenseful tale about local media.



Guests were entertained by Larry's mesmerizing story-telling ranging from how he approached writing his first fiction book to stories from his exclusive travels with the iconic rock band, The Beatles, and finally, sharing the deep impressions foster children he has met over the decades have made on his life.

Larry, a committed child advocate, has helped hundreds of children find forever families over the past 30 years through his dedication and tireless efforts by telling their stories to the public. Larry's warmth, journalistic skill and savvy with even the shyest of children has made his "[Wednesday's Child](#)" feature on KYWnewsradio an effective recruitment tool for waiting children over the

years - children like Alexis who, like many living in foster care, was dealing with behavioral issues and struggling in school. Alexis was adopted by a loving family, graduated valedictorian of her class and, because of her strength and resiliency, is looking forward to a bright and hopeful future.

Everybody enjoyed the evening and went home with an autographed copy of Larry's book!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

John and Jane Thomas are not just extraordinary volunteers with the National Adoption Center but true adoption advocates. One is inspired by just being in the same room as this dynamic duo! The Thomases were introduced to NAC when they adopted a sibling group of three teens after their children were grown. When one sees their adopted children - Jonathan, 14, Alaina, 17, and Isaiah, 18 - interacting with them, one would never guess these teens were adopted only a few years ago. And they are typical teens! John likes to roughhouse with the boys, and Alaina unabashedly states that she tells her mom everything that goes on at school.

The Thomases recall that they didn't set out to adopt a sibling group but were so drawn to the images of these brothers and sisters, which they say kept "haunting" them everywhere they went that they changed their initial plans. They saw the youth featured through [Freddie Mac Foundation's Wednesday's Child](#) on NBC10 and their photos on multiple photolisting sites and could not get these children out of their heads. Jane says it was the picture and story of Alaina that clinched it for her; she reminded Jane so much of herself at that age.

This family is always willing to tell its story to help inspire others considering adoption. John says, "Our kids love to do anything to help the next child find his or her family." John and Jane speak at NAC's adoption awareness events about their experience with adopting older children. The family has shared their story in newspaper interviews, on television programs and by speaking at their church and various community groups about the needs and benefits of adopting.

Jane says the only thing holding them back from adopting more children is that their house isn't big enough!



L to R: Isaiah, Alaina, Jordan, John, Jane and Jonathan

EVENTS

Coming up.....

March 31, 2012

LGBT Adoption Cafe

Please join us at the Collingswood Community Center, 30 Collings Ave., Collingswood, NJ from 10am - 1pm to learn about the adoption process, listen to a panel discussion with adoptive parents from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, talk with social workers and gather information from our adoption agency resource tables. Complimentary light brunch. To RSVP contact Beth Vogel at 215-735-9988 ext. 304 or bvogel@adopt.org

April 25, 2012

40th Anniversary Celebration of Family: The Art of Adoption

To commemorate four decades of creating families for more than 23,000 children, Carolyn Johnson, the Center's founder, and Alba Martinez, a dynamic child and adoption advocate, will be inducted into the newly created Adoption Hall of Fame. Join us to honor them and to bid on unique works of art, created by 10 prominent Philadelphia artists, inspired by stories of children who have lived in foster care. Live and silent auction, cocktail reception and a delicious three course dinner.

For sponsorship information or to purchase tickets go to www.adopt.org or call 215-735-9988 x 343

THANK YOU



Anthony, Jowelle and Tah'tera are all smiles after opening their holiday gifts generously donated by staff from local Wendy's franchises. Annually, the Center facilitates a gift giving program with the dedicated support from our partners at Wendy's. On behalf of the Board and staff at the National Adoption Center, we thank Wendy's for spreading joy during the holiday season!



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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.

2012 marks the Center's 40th year! In commemoration of four decades of creating families for more than 23,000 children we invite you to join us at the [40th Anniversary Celebration of Family: the ART OF ADOPTION](#) on Wednesday, April 25 at the Crystal Tea Room in the Wanamaker Building. We hope to see you there!

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