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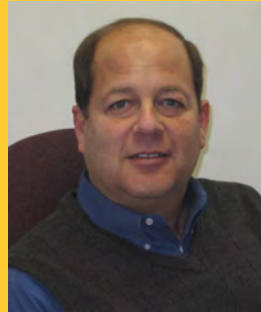


National Adoption Center®

There are no unwanted children, just unfound families®

E-Newsletter

March 2013



Dear Friends,

When we feature a child on "Wednesday's Child"-- on KYW radio or NBC10-- we are frequently contacted by a dozen or more families interested in adopting him or her. Sometimes, we receive only one response. Sometimes...one is enough.

Consider Jayden. Jayden, 3, when he appeared on NBC10, was not an easy child. He had a traumatic brain injury as a result of shaken-baby syndrome. He's deaf and breathes through a tube in his throat. He does not speak and has limited vision. No matter. As soon as Karen and Adam Owens saw him on television, they knew he would be their son. But first, they had to complete the adoption, already underway, of Angela a three-year-old with cerebral palsy. When Angela officially became their daughter, they initiated the adoption process for Jayden.



L to R: Angela, back of Madison and Jayden

The Owens knew all about children with serious disabilities. Their birth son, Gavin, who was born with a rare chronic illness, had died in 2009 when he was three. The skills they learned in caring for him convinced them that they could embrace...and welcome...the challenges of caring for other children with severe medical conditions.

Today, Jayden is a happy member of the Owens family. He has two sisters- Angela and Madison, 7, the Owens daughter by birth.

The children's future? "It's unlimited," says Karen. "They both have so much potential."

This story makes me proud and gives me hope. It re-affirms that indeed "there are no unwanted children...just unfound families."

Ken Mullner
Executive Director

EVENTS

Coming up.....

April 20, 2013

Special Needs Adoption Cafe

NJ Child Welfare Training Academy

30 Van Dyke Ave., New Brunswick, New Jersey

Learn about children with medical needs, children with autism and other special needs who are waiting to be adopted in New Jersey. Social workers will be on hand to talk with prospective adoptive parents about the children. Support for families who adopt New Jersey children with special needs will be available at agency resource tables. A panel of experts and experienced adoptive parents will provide their perspective on raising children with special needs. We welcome both studied and unstudied families to this event.

[Click here](#) if you are an interested family. [Click here](#) for agency online sign-up. For more information contact Crystal Allen at 267-443-1867 or callen@adopt.org

April 25, 2013

Celebration of Family

Crystal Tea Room, Center City, Philadelphia

Join us for a special evening highlighting family memories. Guests will get a unique glimpse into family life through exciting interactive experiences. There will be cocktails, gourmet food stations, and a live and silent auction! Seth Williams, Philadelphia District Attorney, will be inducted into the Adoption Hall of Fame and will share how adoption has impacted his life.



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For Sponsorship information or to purchase tickets [click here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

June 22, 2013

SWAN Older Youth Match Party - Pennsylvania

New Castle, PA

(You must be homestudied to attend this party.)

For more information contact Julie at 267-443-1875 or pateen@adopt.org

CAPITAL HILL UPDATE



The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing this month on how to boost adoptions from foster care.

In announcing the hearing, Congressman Dave Reichert (R-WA), Chairman of the Subcommittee

stated, "While tens of thousands of children are adopted from foster care each year, twice as many foster children are still waiting for a permanent home. Past federal efforts have increased support for adoptions and have helped States reduce the number of children in foster care each year. As we review the Adoption Incentives program in preparation for its reauthorization, we need to make sure these measures are still working well so we can ensure all children have a permanent home as quickly as possible."

Testimony included that of Voice for Adoption, of which Ken Mullner is a member of the board. Recognized as a national leader in special needs adoption, VFA works closely with federal and state legislators, as well as other child welfare organizations, to make a difference in the lives of the 104,000 children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted and the families who adopt.

JULIAN FOUND A FAMILY



From L to R: Tracey, Julian and Stacey

Tracey and Stacey knew they wanted to start a family through adoption. They went into the process looking for a child between the age of three and seven. That is before they set eyes on Julian - an intelligent, caring twelve year old that got their attention, and kept it!

Julian was featured on [Wednesday's Child Philadelphia](#) in the hopes of finding a forever family. His photo was also placed on a photolisting site for waiting children. Tracey and Stacey said that when they saw Julian online and then again on [Wednesday's Child](#) they knew they had found their son! After a few visits and several months of living in the home, Julian's adoption was made final.

When Vai Sikahema from [Wednesday's Child Philadelphia](#) paid a visit to Julian's new home he learned all about this new happy family who evidently are avid sports fans! Tracey and Stacey love the Eagles. Julian prefers the Steelers. This continues to be the family battle. The living room is decorated in all Eagles gear and Julian, well, he was able to have his room in Steelers colors. Julian is on the

honor roll for the first time in his life and is adjusting well to the neighborhood and new school.

[Click](#) to check out other Wednesday's Child features. Over 60% of the children featured on Wednesday's Child Philadelphia now have a permanent home.

ACTION ALERT

Is Your Company Adoption-Friendly?



The Adoption-Friendly Workplace program, administered by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, each year compiles a list of the top 100 adoption-friendly workplaces—the best small, medium and large companies. If your company offers benefits, you are eligible to participate by taking the brief [2013 survey-online](#). Deadline is Monday, April 15.

Every company that completes the survey will be listed on the Adoption-Friendly Workplace website. With the company's permission, benchmarks about specific adoption benefits offered by employers of a specific state, size or industry will be published.

The Foundation is eager to recognize and honor companies that now offer adoption benefits and to urge others to establish benefits that would make adoption an affordable option for every working parent. The Foundation offers an Adoption-Friendly Workplace toolkit to help adoptive or prospective

adoptive parents propose an adoption benefits policy to their employers, and will support companies wishing to institute them.

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, was a champion of adoption. He encouraged Fortune 500 and later other companies, to establish a benefits program for those in their employ who wished to adopt. His efforts grew into the robust Adoption-Friendly Workplace initiative.

ADOPTION PARTY



Thirteen Pennsylvania teenagers available for adoption and sixteen prospective adoptive parents from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, spent a wonderful day together on Saturday March 2nd. The Center's match party at the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center in Philadelphia, funded for the fifth year by the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), was a great opportunity for licensed adoptive parents interested in teenagers to meet some youth in a fun, relaxed environment. The day had something for everyone. Chris Ridenhour, an extraordinary facilitator, had the teens and prospective families laughing and interacting with each other the entire day. The fun included get-to-know-you ice breakers, a scavenger hunt on the Center's beautiful grounds and a bonfire to roast s'mores!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Play Ball!

The National Adoption Center is pleased to have been selected as the beneficiary of proceeds realized from the 2nd Annual Charity Softball Tournament sponsored by Chubb Philadelphia Branch. The event will be held Thursday, May 9 at the Camden River Sharks Stadium. "Chubb has been a valued supporter of the Center," says Ken Mullner, the Center's executive director, " and has been a recipient of its Champion of Adoption award for its outstanding benefits program for employees. We especially appreciate the dedication and contributions of Bryce Graham, Chubb's vice president and marketing manager." Graham is a Center board member.



BLOG CORNER

NAC's [Blog Center](#) 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 Center](#) is a result of the efforts from NAC's staff, interns and occasional guest bloggers. [Visit us often.](#)

[Businesses in Historic Old City Philadelphia Help Foster Children Looking to be Adopted](#)

For years we have teamed up with KYW Newsradio to air a program called Wednesday's Child, hosted by broadcast journalist Larry Kane. Larry, who has been a friend to NAC for more than 25 years, asks the children about themselves and why it is important to them to be adopted. These special interviews are featured on the radio every Wednesday, multiple times a day, with the goal of finding permanent...»



KEEP IN TOUCH!



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www.adoptspeak.org

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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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