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# National Adoption Center®

*There are no unwanted children, just unfound families®*

E-Newsletter

May 2012



Dear Friends,

We are grateful that more people are aware that adoption is not just for babies. They read about the "waiting" children in the newspapers, see them on television and hear about them on radio. But one of the most powerful ways of bringing children and prospective parents together is through our "match" parties. Here, parents and children have the chance to meet each other, have lunch and participate in enjoyable activities together.

Last month, we hosted two "match" parties, both for teenagers. Some people who attend are tentative, not certain whether adopting an adolescent would feel comfortable to them. When they meet the teens in person, they often change their minds. A single man who came to one of our parties thought he preferred a six or seven-year-old. But after talking with Jason, 14, he knew this was the boy he wanted to adopt. A woman who thought her first choice would be a child between one and five, stood up and with tears in her eyes, said,

"We met two girls, one 13 and the other 17, that we could take home today. We had no idea..."

Several children usually find adoptive parents as a result of each party. They are fortunate; if they are not adopted and age out of foster care, they are at greater risk of becoming homeless, abusing drugs or alcohol, becoming unemployed and developing mental health problems. Those alternatives are not acceptable! We urge you to consider these older children. You may be surprised at how rewarding it is to help them grow and mature into happy, productive young men and women.

Ken Mullner  
Executive Director



## EVENTS

Coming up.....

Match Parties - The Adoption Center hosts match parties several times each year. Center parties are designed for specific kinds of children - teens, siblings or for children of all ages. Families who are approved for adoption have an opportunity to meet children and teens who want to be adopted. Match parties are an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding experience for both prospective adoptive families and for the children.

June 2, 2012  
SWAN Older Youth Match Party - Pennsylvania

**New Castle, PA**

To register online click [here](#) or contact Julie Marks at 267-443-1875 or [pateen@adopt.org](mailto:pateen@adopt.org)

June 23, 2012

All-ages Match Party

Camden County, New Jersey

To register online click [here](#) or contact Sheina Martinez at 267-443-1872 or [smartinez@adopt.org](mailto:smartinez@adopt.org)

**FEATURED YOUTH****Cassandra**

(L to R) Cassandra, Terry, Helen and Vai.

Fourteen-year-old [Cassandra](#) is often described as genuine, friendly, and caring. She is receiving A's and B's in 9th grade and would like to pursue a career as a teacher someday. She loves to laugh, sing, and dance as often as possible!

[Cassandra](#) had the unique opportunity to meet Grammy award winners [Helen Bruner and Terry Jones](#) in their Philadelphia studio. The

singing duo listened to her sing in the sound booth and had fun teaching her and Freddie Mac Foundations's Wednesday's Child host, Vai Sihakema, their song "Hollyhood." [Cassandra](#) then had time to freestyle on the mike. The result was amazing! Helen and Terry spoke to Cassandra about staying positive, never giving up, and having faith that something good would come her way.

[Cassandra](#) passionately wants a family, especially one in which she would be the only or youngest child. To learn more about Cassandra, contact Sheina Martinez at 267-443-1872 or [smartinez@adopt.org](mailto:smartinez@adopt.org)

## CELEBRATION OF FAMILY: THE ART OF ADOPTION GALA



A special thank you to everyone who supported our 40th Anniversary Celebration of Family: the Art of Adoption. We are pleased to announce that we raised \$160,000 through this event, which fused art with the world of adoption. Twelve prominent Philadelphia artists created unique works of art inspired by the stories of children who had been adopted from foster care. These pieces were auctioned off to an enthusiastic audience at the gala on Thursday, April 25th at the Crystal Tea Room in Center City Philadelphia.

Nearly 300 people, including board members, friends, and staff, celebrated with us. Our guests enjoyed an impressive live and silent auction, remarks by media celebrities including Stan Hochman, Steve Highsmith, Vai Sikahema and Larry Kane; and heard from our first Adoption Hall of Fame inductees - our visionary Founder, Carolyn Johnson, and Alba Martinez, a longtime child advocate and a current principal in Vanguard's Education Markets Group. They were also the first to see our newly minted [40th anniversary documentary](#), which follows the story of the National Adoption Center from its grassroots beginnings to the influential organization it is today.

The proceeds of the gala will support our mission of expanding adoption opportunities for children living in foster care throughout the United States.



Premier 40th  
Anniversary Sponsor

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Wawa is known for its ultra-convenience, superb coffee and delicious hoagies, but at the Adoption Center it is best known for being one of NAC's most supportive partners! For the past five years Wawa has supported our services financially; their associates have volunteered hundreds of hours to help at our match parties and other events; and Wawa has provided employment opportunities for youth in foster care

Wawa significantly helps us provide important services to children, youth and families by generously donating through its successful coin canister program, event sponsorships and programmatic grants. We are also extremely lucky to have one of Wawa's brightest young leaders as a member of our Board of Directors. Joanne Jackson, Manager of Store Labor for Wawa, and an adoptive parent herself, has shown leadership and a strong commitment to NAC's mission through her work with us. We can't agree more .... They "...do it just a little bit better: Wawa"!



**SAVE THE DATE**



**National Adoption Center**  
*There are no unwanted children, just unfound families*



**Tee-Off for Kids Annual Golf Classic**  
*Corporate Chairman Phil Barnett,  
SVP & Chief Financial Officer, PECO*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OCTOBER 3, 2012**

**Radnor Valley Country Club**  
Villanova, PA



Enjoy a full day of golf, barbeque luncheon, \$10,000 putting contest, cocktail reception, awards banquet, raffles, auction and fabulous prizes! For more information, please contact Katie Young Wildes at 267-443-1874 or [kyoungwildes@adopt.org](mailto:kyoungwildes@adopt.org)

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Text **NAC** to **27138**

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Adoption Mobile alerts will be sent to your mobile phone 2x a month with timely adoption information.

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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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