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National Adoption Center[®]

There are no unwanted children, just unfound families[®]

E-Newsletter

September Edition 2011



Dear Friends,

It isn't often that we can do good and save money at the same time. But new information from state and federal child welfare agencies tells us that by moving children from the limbo of foster care to the stability of adoption, we not only give them the chance for a secure, productive future...we also could save the country more than a billion dollars a year.

Keeping children in foster care is expensive. State and federal expenditures for foster care annually total more than nine billion dollars under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act alone. Even more is spent for federally subsidized medical care for foster children and child care payments to the families who care for them. This doesn't even count the long-term costs to society of family disruption and child neglect.

The children, of course, have the most to gain by having permanent parents. They are more likely to do well in school and less likely to have physical and mental health problems. But only 50 percent of the children waiting to be adopted actually end up in permanent families, despite the willingness of

many Americans to adopt from the foster care system.

Often, it is the time-consuming effort to "preserve" biological families beyond what is practical or responsible that keeps children from being adopted by parents who would love them well and keep them safe. The National Adoption Center is always motivated by what works "in the best interest of the child." When that interest is reunification with the birth family, we fully support it. When it is not, we urge that adoption from foster care be made easier and faster so that more children can grow up with the security and unconditional love that every child deserves.

Sincerely,

Ken Mullner
Executive Director



EVENTS

Coming up...

September 15, 2011

LGBT Adoption Café - An educational event for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community

Please join us at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square, 1904 Walnut St., Philadelphia from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm to learn about the adoption process, listen to a panel discussion with adoptive parents from the LGBT community and adoption agency representatives, talk with social workers and

gather information from our adoption agency resource tables. Complimentary light dinner. Sponsored in part by the Wells Fargo Foundation. [Click here](#) to RSVP or contact Beth Vogel at 215-735-9988 ext. 304 or bvogel@adopt.org

October 22, 2011

Teen Match Party - New Jersey

The Funplex, East Hanover, NJ

For more details or to register, contact Crystal Allen at 215-735-9988 x 346 or callen@adopt.org

Match Parties - The Adoption Center hosts matching events 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 can be an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding experience for both prospective adoptive families and the children.

AdoptMatch.org webinars

AdoptMatch.org is a free online service matching prospective adoptive parents with adoption agencies that best fit their needs. If you are from an adoption agency and are looking for more families to adopt the children in your care, join our webinar to learn how our free service, AdoptMatch.org can help you.

September 21, 2011 at 2 pm

October 12, 2011 at 2 pm

October 24, 2011 at 2 pm

For more information or to register, contact Alexandra Buczek at 215-735-9988 x 353 or abuczek@adopt.org

Kick-off event for National Adoption Month

Adoption Café - An educational event

October 29, 2011

Join the National Adoption Center and adoption agencies from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware at our Adoption Café on Saturday, October 29th anytime from 10 am to 1 pm at the Sharon Baptist Church, 3955 Conshohocken Ave, Philadelphia. Take advantage of a casual and informative event where

one can talk to prospective and adoptive families, get answers from adoption experts, view child profiles, learn about available children and local post-adoption support services and much more. Complimentary light brunch provided. Call 215-735-9988 and ask to speak to an Adoption Coordinator to register!

TEE-OFF FOR KIDS GOLF CLASSIC

NAC held its 2011 Tee-Off for Kids Golf Classic on July 25 at Waynesborough Country Club. Although the rain cut golfing short, it did not dampen guests' enthusiasm during the energetic dinner and live auction that followed. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and friends who joined us that day, we raised more than \$50,000 to help find adoptive homes for children living in foster care. Next year's Tee-Off for Kids Golf Classic is slated for October 1, 2012 at the Radnor Valley Country Club. We hope you will join us.



Tee-Off For Kids Golf Classic 2011

Picture 1: (Left) Board member Sheri DeMarino and friends representing Wendy's, the event's Title Sponsor. Picture 2: (Second from left) Former board member Wanda Paul of the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau, an Eagle Sponsor, leads her team through a fun filled day. Picture 3: (left to right) Tom DiStefano, Jeff Hallar, and George Gordon, from Wawa, an Eagle sponsor, were all smiles - ready to take on the day!



Thank you Wendy's for being this year's
Title Sponsor!



We are honored and extremely grateful to Wawa for choosing the National Adoption Center as their beneficiary during their annual golf tournament on June 16 at Cream Ridge Golf Club in New Jersey. Wawa's supporters raised more than \$30,000 for NAC's programs.

FEATURED YOUTH

Inquisitive, outgoing and amazing are words that are commonly used to describe 8-year-old [Jahnai](#). His sense of humor makes him extra special. [Jahnai](#) loves to learn new things and is a smart young man. He enjoys listening to Michael Jackson and watching movies, and has a never ending love of food. It is said: If you dream, dream big, [Jahnai's](#) dreams are just that! He hopes to become a movie star, or a football or hockey player when he grows up.



Jahnai

[Jahnai](#) is hoping to find an active family to adopt him. Structure and consistency works best with Jahnai. He needs a family that will love, support and care for him.

To learn more about Jahnai, contact Sheina Martinez at 215-735-9988 ext. 311 or smartinez@adopt.org

BLOG POST INSPIRES HEATED EXCHANGE

This past spring our blog post titled "Match Parties - are you for or against?" elicited strong emotional responses from a few readers. This blog exchange allowed us the opportunity to present the Center's philosophy around our comprehensive match party service. The original blog posts and the dialogue it inspired are below.

[Match Parties - are you for or against?](#)

05-06-2011 14:48:00 PM

The National Adoption Center plans and executes multiple Match Parties throughout the year. These parties are a signature recruitment vehicle for the Center and a truly wonderful opportunity for children & youth looking to be adopted to interact with prospective parents in a safe, secure and fun environment. Our success rate is often as high as 40 percent. Countless new "forever families" have [...»](#)

[Responding to Match Party Comments](#)

05-09-2011 14:36:00 PM

The following was written by Chris Jacobs our Program Director:
I would like to respond with some facts about National Adoption Center Match Parties. The children and teens who attend do know that they are coming to an event to meet families. The Center believes that not every child or teen is appropriate to attend a Match Party and no child/teen should be forced to attend. Children are prepared [...»](#)

GETTING IN GEAR FOR OUR 40TH YEAR



Did you know that the National Adoption Center was founded in 1972? The days when gas cost \$.55 per gallon, tuition at Harvard University was \$2,800 and a movie ticket only \$1.75! A lot has changed in the past four decades but a few things have stayed constant - the need for safe loving adoptive homes for U.S. foster children and the National Adoption Center's steadfast commitment to the creation of forever families.

The National Adoption Center's story began in the early 1970's when two adoptive parents - Paddy Noyes and Carolyn Johnson - wondered whether there were other families interested in adopting children who were not the healthy infants one often associates with the idea of adoption. Would someone be willing to give a home to a child with Down syndrome or cerebral palsy? Would someone adopt a family of children--three or four brothers or sisters who wanted to stay together?

Paddy convinced a Philadelphia newspaper to run stories of children who were waiting for adoption, and there was a startlingly large response. Carolyn went to work at her kitchen table from a wooden recipe box with sections for "waiting children," and "prospective parents," and began to formulate possible "matches."

This "home-grown" program eventually became a model for the country. It demonstrated that once families knew about the "waiting children," they came forth to adopt them.

As we gear up for our 40th year we look forward to reflecting on the 23,000 children for whom the Center has found families, celebrating those successes with our community partners, and serving future adoptive families and children who need permanency.

ADOPTION MOBILE ALERTS

Join our Adoption Mobile Alerts List!

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

...and learn how to help 115,000 US foster kids in need of adoption!

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