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National Adoption Center[®]

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

E-Newsletter

Spring Edition 2011



Dear Friends,

Everyone is still feeling the excitement and high energy of last Friday night's Celebration of Family. Symbolic of spring and balmy weather, friends all turned out to enjoy an evening of Phillies fun while acknowledging the importance of children growing up in families.

It was exactly what we had envisioned-smiles on every guest, young and old, as they participated in the evening's activities. We are grateful to our generous corporate sponsors, including Grand Slam sponsor Wendy's Philadelphia Co-op and Run the Bases sponsor, Wawa; Melissa and Rachel Codkind, the extraordinary mother-daughter event co-chairs, friends, supporters and our terrific board and staff.

During the past few months we have been busy finding new ways to expand adoption opportunities for children-facilitating match parties, orchestrating educational events, reaching out to the LGBT community.

We are pleased to share with you the news we just received-that we have won the Heroes Award from the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund which will be presented to us next month.

We enjoy bringing you adoption news and photographs in these e-newsletters, and appreciate your commitment to our belief that "there are no unwanted children...just unfound families."

Warmly,

Ken Mullner

Executive Director



NEWS

We Knocked it Out of the Park at NAC's Celebration of Family!



(L to R) Picture 1: Our friends at WaWa - Tom DiStefano, Marc Tredanari, board member Joanne Jackson, Ivan Jackson. Picture 2: Board member Clay Armbrister - Mayor Nutter's Chief of Staff, Phillie Phanatic, board member Chuck Williams - Dir. Center for the Prevention of School-Aged Violence, Drexel Univ. Picture 3: Tee Devine, Bridget Devine, Ellie Graham, Meg Devine, board member Jay Devine - Devine & Powers Communications Group. Picture 4: Board member Melissa Codkind and Rachel Codkind, Event Co-Chairs.

On Friday, April 8th, nearly 300 guests gathered at Citizens Bank Park for an evening of exclusive behind-the-scenes Phillies fun. The event raised \$100,000

which will be used to find permanent homes for children now living in foster care. Children and adults alike enjoyed the Phillie Phanatic's antics, carnival games, stadium tours including the locker and media room, batting cages and hanging in the dugout! Lucky guests went home with one-of-a-kind raffle and auction items such as a week's stay in St. Thomas, coveted sports tickets and autographed Phillies memorabilia.

Charles William III, director of the Center for Prevention of School-Aged Violence at Drexel University, received the Center's Alison Award for his activism in advocating adoption for children whose parents are not able to raise them. Williams grew up in foster care and was never adopted. We thank all of our friends and sponsors who joined us in making this a special evening.

To view more photos from the event [click here](#).



EVENTS

Coming up...

Match Parties - The Adoption Center hosts matching 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 can be an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding experience for both prospective adoptive families and for the children. The following match parties are scheduled for spring/ summer 2011.

May 7, 2011
Teen Match Party - Pittsburgh

May 3, 2011 at 7PM

May 5, 2011 at Noon

Parent Webinar - Learn what to expect at the Pittsburgh Teen Match Party, get your questions answered and hear from a parent who attended a previous party.

For more details or to register, contact Julie Marks, Teen Project Coordinator at 215-735-9988 x 367 or pateen@adopt.org.

May 14, 2011**Teen Match Party - New Jersey**

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

June 4, 2011**Match Party - New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania**

For more details or to register, contact Sheina Martinez at 215-735-9988 x 311 or smartinez@adopt.org.

July 25, 2011**NAC's Golf Classic****Waynesborough Country Club, Paoli, Pennsylvania**

For more details about event or sponsorship opportunities, contact Ken Mullner at 215-735-9988 x 323 or kmullner@adopt.org

LGBT INITIATIVE**LGBT Adoption Cafe**

As part of NAC's initiative to encourage the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community (LGBT) to consider adoption, we hosted an



educational event with funding from the Wells Fargo Foundation on March 10, in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. Despite a drenching rain, there was not an empty seat in the house - people came eager for the program and information we were offering. There was a lively and honest panel discussion which included gay and lesbian adoptive parents and adoption professionals. In addition, participants had an opportunity to talk with

staff members of several adoption agencies at information tables set up around the room. We look forward to our next LGBT Adoption Café in Center City this Fall.

Thank you!

NAC IS HONORED

DVLF Names NAC Non-Profit of the Year

NAC has been named the [Delaware Valley Legacy Fund's](#) Nonprofit of the Year and will be presented with the HEROES award at its fifth-annual HEROES Party, a fundraiser to honor leaders and allies of the Delaware Valley's LGBTI community on May 6th, 2011.



From its inception the Center has welcomed members of the LGBT community. One of the first children it placed with a family was Alison, a little girl born with Down Syndrome, who was adopted by a single woman, a lesbian, in West Virginia.

Almost four decades later, the Center is still a champion for inclusive, welcoming services through its proactive programs which spread the word that members of the LGBT community are welcome as adopters.

We are proud to receive this honor and encourage people to attend the [DVLF's](#) May 6th event. Click [here](#) for more information.

FEATURED YOUTH

Davon is Waiting



Twelve year old Davon is a handsome, easy-going youth. Placed in advanced classes, his favorite subjects are math and science. These subjects will come in handy because he wants to be a veterinarian when he grows up. Davon likes all animals but his favorites are turtles, monkeys and snakes. His interests don't stop with animals; he also likes collecting YuGiOh trading cards, playing video games and just being outdoors.

Davon has a close bond with his siblings who have already been adopted, and continued contact is important to him. Davon needs a patient, committed family, along with a positive male role model in his immediate or extended family. Above all he needs a forever family that will love him unconditionally.

Learn more about Davon. Call 1-877-799-6900 or callen@adopt.org.

CONNECTING FAMILIES

Luau Inspired Match Party Brings Youth and Families Together



This past March, waiting teens and approved adoptive families enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon at the Philadelphia teen match party. This event provided a chance for teens and families to interact in ways that could lead to adoption. Teens proudly exhibited art pieces that described themselves and their dreams, showed off their dance moves encouraged by the energetic DJ, and participated in relaxing, get-to-know-you activities organized by a skilled facilitator.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Important Adoption Tax Credit Opportunity

In 2010 and 2011, adoptive parents filing tax returns may be eligible for refunds from the federal government for credits relating to any adoption from 2005-2009. This is the way it works: if you adopted a child during those years and did not

have enough tax liability to use the credit, you may be able to take full advantage of it with your 2010 or 2011 return. The amount of the credit is based on the year you adopted ranging from \$10,160 in 2005 to \$13,360 in 2011.

NAC has partnered with H&R Block to help adoptive parents determine whether they are eligible to receive additional benefits. ([Click here or print out the coupon below - valid February 14 to April 30](#)).

H&R Block is offering:

1. Free Second Look Review - An H&R Block tax professional will conduct a review of your prior years, checking to see if any credits or deductions were missed.
2. Special pricing on filing amended returns
3. \$20 discount on 2010 tax return preparation

For more information [click here](#).

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Internal Use only: For additional tax training on the adoption credit, see [Tax Update \(2011 Filing Season\)](#) and search [The Tax Institute Tax Research](#) with the keywords [adoption credit](#).

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