



Celebrating 30 Years of Open Arms and Open Minds

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**Perspectives on....
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!**



IT'S OUR 30TH BIRTHDAY AND WE WANT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU!

Whether you've been with us since the beginning or came to the agency just recently, join us this year at special 30th Birthday events we've planned for 2011.

We'll host our 16th annual Lawson Cup Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, July 25

In August our annual picnic will evolve into a Family Reunion with expanded activities for kids and a "family marketplace" offering products and services of interest

And finally, we'll cap the year with a 30th Birthday Party on October 15th at the Denver Art Museum

WHY WE'RE CELEBRATING

Who could predict that in 1981, when a group of adoptive parents and adoption professionals joined to form Adoption Options, that as a result more than 1,450 infants and children would find their way into safe, loving homes? Adoption Options was conceived to fill a need in Colorado for an agency empowered to accept clients irrespective of age, religion, ethnic or racial background; marital status, sexual orientation or disability. We still believe that everyone in the adoption circle benefits when such constraints are removed.

In the 30 years since we opened our doors, we've witnessed incredible changes within the adoption field. The growing acceptance of open adoption; dramatic fluctuations in international services; a more complicated legal process; and of course technology—especially the growth of the Internet and social media—all impact our work. We at Adoption Options strive every day to stay current with these and other developments and to continue to dispel the sometimes negative myths about adoption that still linger in the minds of many.

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO CELEBRATE OUR 30 YEARS

Besides attending the events planned for 2011, we hope that each family will donate "\$30 for 30 Years." You can do this through our website via PayPal. Your support enables us to continue to provide free services to birth parents, keep our adoption fees amongst the lowest in Colorado and ensure that we will be around for another 30 years!

PLEASE DONATE \$30 FOR 30 YEARS!

1981-2011

**Building
loving,
permanent
families**

DIRECTOR'S PEN

By Carol Holliday Lawson, Executive Director



What a celebration – 30 years and over 1,450 children placed through Adoption Options. It is an incredible achievement and one that makes us excited, humble, appreciative and nostalgic. Nostalgic for the children, birth families, adoptive families, cradle families, adult adoptees, staff, board members and volunteers who have passed through the doors of Adoption Options over these 30 years. Most we remember as important people who have helped shape, support and embrace Adoption Options and adoption in general. We have counseled thousands of birth parents, heard painfully sad stories and sat in admiration and awe at the difficult and courageous decision they made to place their child for adoption.

In 1981, Reagan was President, the average cost of a new home was \$78,200, a dozen eggs were 90 cents, a gallon of milk \$2.22 and the average income \$21,050. Gas prices rose for the first time to over \$1.00 a gallon, peaking that year to a 286% increase in 12 years. In inflation terms, the cost would be the same as today \$3.25!!! Apart from the average income, these figures are not so very different from today you might think, however, some things have gone up—adoption being one of them.

In 1981, as Adoption Options placed its first six children into new families, the cost of adopting an infant was \$4,600, a fee that had to be approved by the courts prior to it being instituted by the agency. Since then the costs has risen to approximately \$19,100. The majority of the 1,450 placements have been successful, but we should not fool ourselves that they have all been so. In many ways it is the same as any family – adopted or biological – there will be successes and disappointments, some children will do well and others will have their struggles. The key comes from the commitment, love, stability and advocacy of the family – they do not give up, even when life is hard. That is my dream for the 1,450 children placed with our families – that even though relationships go through painful and strained periods, that the parents never give up and the children always know there is a place to call home.

~Carol Holliday Lawson



PRIVACY AND TECHNOLOGY

In light of the proliferation of social networking sites and internet search capabilities, it is important to remember that personal privacy is increasingly difficult to protect. It is truly alarming how simple it is to obtain information on any given individual, if one knows where to look.

This is especially important to remember with respect to all of the sensitive personal information involved in adoption.

Keep in mind that the younger generations are especially adept at using the computer and the internet. Curious adoptees often take seeking answers to questions they may have into their own hands. It is vital to be open and honest with your child about adoption and it is our hope that your child knows his/her adoption story. Consider too that birth parents may be able to find you and/or your child on the internet, including intimate details you may not wish to share with birth family members.

While this is not meant to worry you, it is crucial that you have a realistic view of the role technology plays in your private life. We encourage you to talk with your child about searching on the internet and the consequences of finding information that he or she may not yet be capable of processing. Inform yourself about what your child does on the internet; for example, ensure you are a “friend” on your child's Facebook page. Prepare yourself for the possibility of being found via the internet and devise a plan for handling such a situation. While technology offers wonderful opportunities for support, education and networking, it also creates new hurdles and issues which are better dealt with the more realistic, informed and prepared you are.

FOR MORE ON THIS TOPIC, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES: *Adoption 2.0: Finding Mom on Facebook*, by Belinda Luscombe, Time Magazine, time.com; and *Finding Birth Family Online*, by Rita Taddonio, Adoptive Families Magazine, adoptivefamilies.com

SAVE THE DATE!! IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW:



TUESDAY, MAY 10th

AT 6:30 P.M.

Fundraiser at



(located in the Streets of SouthGlenn shopping center, 6853 South York Street, Suite 124, Centennial, 80122)

Paint alongside your friends!
Enjoy Happy Hour-priced wine, beer
and other beverages and snacks!

**\$10 of your \$40 registration fee will
benefit Adoption Options.**

**Register online at canvasandcocktails.com
(hurry, classes sell out fast!)**

*This event was rescheduled from 2/8 due to inclement weather

MONDAY, JULY 25TH

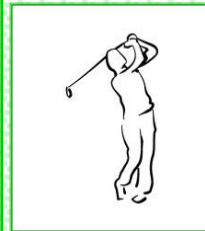
ANNUAL LAWSON CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Pinery Country Club
\$155/per person

Please call
303-695-1601

for more information,

or if you are interested
in donating or
sponsorship
opportunities



ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27th,

WE WILL CELEBRATE ALL OF THE FAMILIES
ADOPTION OPTIONS
HAS HAD THE HONOR OF HELPING
TO BUILD WITH A **FAMILY REUNION PICNIC!**



This is a very special event and we want to make sure
everyone has a great time, so we would love your
suggestions for entertainment & activities!
If you or someone you know has a talent ...

FOR EXAMPLE:

- **FACE PAINTING**
- **CRAFTS**
- **MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**
- **BALLOON ART**

...and might be willing to help make this
an extra special, extra fun day,

PLEASE CONTACT

Lori Devlyn or Sarah Olsen:
ldevlyn or solsen@adoption-options.com

(More details to follow in the next newsletter)

OCTOBER 15th

**30th Birthday
Celebration**

Adoption Options will uncork its 30th
Birthday party celebration at the Denver
Art Museum's Duncan Pavilion on
Saturday, October 15. Invitations will be
sent this fall but meanwhile, we're
looking for

**Gala Committee members
and**

Silent or Live auction items

If you are interested in joining
our volunteer committee to plan and
execute this year's Gala, or have auction
items you can donate or
recommendations we should follow up,
contact Elisabeth Duran
at 303-695-1601. Thanks!

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Did you have, or are you having, a positive experience working with our agency and staff?

If so, spread the word!

Please consider writing a review of our services on business rating sites, such as:

DexKnows.com
or
insiderpages.com

WE NEED BOARD MEMBERS!

Adoption Options' Board of Directors is currently looking to expand. If you or someone you know would like to be part of shaping the future of Adoption Options and help to steer the course for the agency's next 30 years, **we would love to have your contribution of ideas, support and passion for our mission!**



Please contact
Carol Lawson
for more information
303-695-1601

(Board meetings are held monthly at 7:30am)

Many thanks to



DexOne for its wonderful sponsorship and on-going support.



adoption-options.com

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