

Open Arms Open Minds



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Perspectives of...a Waiting Family

By: The Webster Family



Adoption, what a tough and wonderful decision to make. We tried all the other methods to conceive, nothing worked. You find yourself frustrated and sometimes angry. After some time had passed we talked with our close friends and family about adoption and what it would mean for us. It was amazing the care and support we received. It was also surprising to find many friends knew of someone adopted, I even learned I had a Grandparent that was adopted. We instantly knew it was meant for us. We researched many different agencies, and decided that Adoption Options was the best fit for our family.

As we filled out all the necessary paperwork and attended the required classes our excitement grew. Will someone bless us with a child, should we change our checklist, will it be a boy or girl, are we good enough, how big is the pool, what is our number? The time seemed to move fast but not our number in the pool. Many things run through your mind over and over again as the time passes. Should we go away this weekend, take a vacation, will they pass us up if we are gone? We found everything will be just fine. Your time will come, stay true to yourselves. Do not put your life on hold or change what you like to do. We went skiing, went away for weekends and even took a trip to Greece for a wedding.

After the six months it took to finish the paperwork, and waiting two years in the pool; our call came on a Friday; a young lady had given birth to a baby girl. We were asked to come into the office on Monday to learn more details. I think that was the longest weekend of our lives. Monday arrived and we sat down and reviewed all the details with both case workers; the size, weight, and health of the baby and the birth parents' family histories. But the biggest question that needed to be answered was from us. Are you ready, do you feel this is a match? Our answer was yes! But we wanted to know why the mother had chosen us as the adoptive parents. The birth mother stated as she read our birthparent letters and watched our video she felt our life experiences were similar and an internal connection was made. The same day we were asked if we would like to see our daughter at the cradle care home. It was love at first sight. We visited and held our daughter at the cradle care home every night until she came home with us. The Rogers are a wonderful cradle care family.

Your time will come, your son or daughter will join your family and the time that you have waited will seem long and hard, but it will end. You will then begin a life of "firsts" and your wait will fade from your memory.

**WE MAY BE PHASING OUT
OUR MAILED NEWSLETTER
OVER THE NEXT FEW
MONTHS. IF YOU WISH TO
RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC
VERSION, PLEASE SEND
YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO
info@adoption-options.com**

DIRECTOR'S PEN

By Carol Holliday Lawson, Executive Director



Last week I attended the annual picnic, along with the rest of the staff and over 100 adults and children, and then I left to go on vacation to Arkansas (of all places!). During the 6-hour journey through Kansas before stopping for the night, I reflected on the day. I saw children we had placed 16 years ago and babies we had placed a few weeks ago. I saw children from different ethnic backgrounds placed trans-racially with families proud of their children's unique background. I realize that much of our work is based on loss and grief and broken dreams, but seeing the happy families and children at the picnic enables us to see the culmination of hard work by our professional staff, of painful but courageous decisions by birth parents, and of the commitment of adoptive families. It was a great start to my vacation.

As summer turns to fall, we consider the number of placements this year. Twenty-seven children have joined new families so far. Sadly, one placement disrupted. The family has been amazingly stoical and gracious in their interactions with the birth mother. Disruptions, even though they only average one every year or two, are distressing to the family and to the caseworkers involved and we offer support to both. Clearly, the majority of placements go extremely well and the birth parents and adoptive parents feel positive about their experience.

On a very different note, this is the season of events. We had a very successful golf tournament in August, we have a wine tasting in September and we have our major Gala on October 23rd at the Wildlife Experience. These events give us an opportunity to showcase the agency, our achievements and adoption in general. They also give us an opportunity to reach new sources of referrals, sponsors, supporters and volunteers. Please try to attend the Gala – it will be a wonderful evening.

Carol Holliday Lawson

GALA EVENT ~ OCTOBER 23RD

*Please join us for our fundraising gala
on October 23, 2010*

at the Wildlife Experience

10035 South Peoria, Parker, CO 80134

*If you would like to attend, have an item
you would like to contribute to the live or
silent auction and/or are interested in being
a sponsor for this event, please contact
Carol Lawson or Elisabeth Duran*

303-695-1601

Adoption Options Annual Picnic

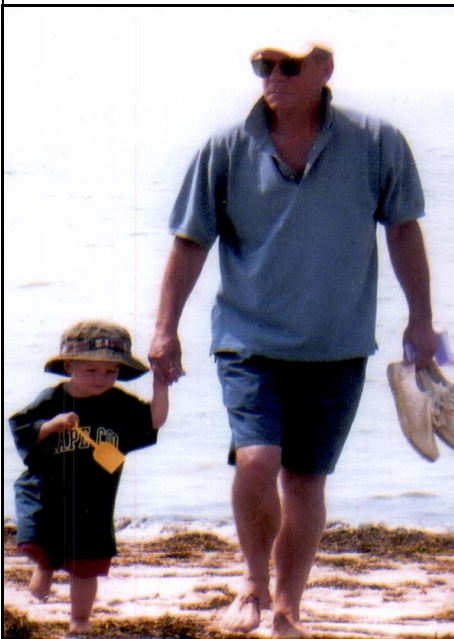
*The picnic was a wonderful day, with over 100
people in attendance, great food, fun
entertainment and terrific company!!*



WHY I'M ON THE BOARD...

By Larry Huddleson, Vice President of the Board of Directors

I was first introduced to Adoption Options in 1999 when my daughter Heidi and her husband R.A. adopted their son (my grandson) Flynn. What a joy! As it turns out, all six



Larry and his grandson, Flynn

of my children and now my third of four grandsons are adopted. Adoption is by definition to take legally and raise as one's own child. With that responsibility also comes a true sense of completeness that only a parent can understand. Being a board member of Adoption Options gives me the chance to give back a little bit to an organization that has given so much to my family and hundreds of other families.

...WHY YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER JOINING ADOPTION OPTIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. You feel passionately about Adoption Options' mission and the services we provide.
2. You believe strongly in giving back to your community.
3. You want to be involved in strategizing for the long term future of Adoption Options.
4. You have a few hours a month to spare for a great cause.

If you are interested in serving as a member of our Board of Directors, please contact Carol Lawson at 303-695-1601

15TH ANNUAL LAWSON CUP A SWINGING SUCCESS

Friends and supporters of Adoption Options joined forces August 9th at the Pinery Golf Course in Parker to raise funds for the agency's counseling and special programs.

In 15 years, the tournament has grown from fewer than 20 golfers in its inaugural year to 90-plus players last month.

"Not only was it beautiful," says tournament participant Kate Goldberg, "I even got to win prizes! The turnout is a compliment to the agency."

The day's events included a dinner, raffle and silent auction. Capturing first place honors in the scramble-play format with an impressive score of 58 were John Rohl, Greg Perkin, Mike Miyake and Tim Brown. They each received a \$100 gift certificate to the Pinery's pro shop. Second place, with a showing of 59 went to Marty Davidson, Chuck Griffin, Bob Beatty and Gary Fowler, who each received a Pinery gift certificate. Third place finishers R.A. Plummer, Mark Jackson, Mark Mehalko and Dan Keyghobad, with a score of 60, received Pinery gift certificates as well.

The staff and families of Adoption Options would like to extend their thanks to event and tee sponsors Steve Loux and Toni Howell-Loux; Arris; McClure Hill Incorporated; FirstBank; Brigus Gold Corporation; Colorado Capital Bank; the Davidson Family; Scottish Home Improvements and Jeff Van Gulick.

Additional thanks are due to prize donors Bear Dance Golf; Breckenridge Brewery and Paul Adams; Colorado Golf Magazine; Crowfoot Valley Coffee; Dick's Sporting Goods; Fruition Restaurant; Golfsmith; Heritage Eagle Bend; Jim and Carol Lawson; Steve Loux and Toni Howell-Loux; The Pinery Country Club; Pradera Golf Club; Red Hawk Ridge Golf Club; Scottish Home Improvements; Alan Sweet; and Andy Tysler.

"The course was in beautiful condition, the weather was kind, the players had fun and the agency was able to raise money," says Executive Director Carol Holliday Lawson.



THE STAFF WITH THE SIGNAGE OF OUR MAJOR SPONSOR, DEX ONE.

ADOPTING AGAIN...PAVING THE WAY

Your child will probably have mixed emotions about a new addition to your family. Help him or her prepare for the changes, and the new role he'll be taking on, with these talking tips.

Start early. using age-appropriate language. Give an older child plenty of time to adjust to the idea of "expecting" a sibling. "Some day, we hope to adopt another child to become your little sister, but it won't happen for awhile." With a younger child, introduce the idea casually about two months before the expected birth or travel date. "Daddy and I have lots of love for you and our family. We have so much love that we're thinking about growing our family. That way, we can take care of and love a brother or sister as much as we love you. Let's talk about it."

"Mommy and Daddy have special hearts that make so much love that there is always enough to go around." **Assure her of his/her place in the family.** "Having a new brother may change some things at home, but it won't change the special relationship we have with each other."

"When the new baby comes, we'll still have our mommy-daughter time, because I love being with you." **Involve your child in the process.** "Do you want to help Mom and me choose the pictures of our family to send to the new baby's birth mommy?" "Let's pick out some new things for your little sister. What colors do you like best for decorating the baby's room?"

Encourage him/her to take on the role of big (or little) brother or sister. "Let's spend today doing our favorite things together, and then we'll talk about all the fun things we'll do when you're a big bro." **Revisit your child's adoption story.** Explain that there is a birth mother who is growing a baby inside her (using whatever language you and your child have grown accustomed to), and say, "The baby should be here in the spring (or after Thanksgiving)." Give your child enough information so that he/she can prepare for the new baby, but not so much as to overwhelm him/her. Retell the story of your trip to adopt him/her, and your first days home.

~From *Adoption Today* magazine



**Many
thanks to
DexOne
for its
wonderful
sponsorship
and
on-going
support.**



www.adoption-options.com

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