

Open Arms Open Minds



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Perspectives on.... Fundraising

By: Elisabeth Duran



In this season of giving, we would like to pause and say thanks—and answer a question you might have: Why does Adoption Options fundraise?

Anyone considering adoption swiftly learns there are financial as well as emotional costs involved. But that's not the end of the story.

In many cases the fees paid by adoptive families, especially in cases of children with medical issues and for children affected by drugs or alcohol, do not cover the costs incurred by the agency. In addition, our education programs targeted to young people, health care providers, educators, the clergy, and other professional members of the community are offered free of charge.

We bridge the gap between fees charged and services provided with fundraising events and donations, driven by our concern to keep adoption a viable option for families of every income level. And in that process, we enlist the support of donors and sponsors throughout the year to produce our annual golf tournament, the biennial Gala and assorted other events.

Donors are not ATM machines. We consider them our partners in changing lives and if you wonder why we need them, think about this:

- Adoption Options provides confidential birthparent counseling free of charge
- Every year, Adoption Options counsels approximately 200 birth parents facing crisis pregnancies
- Only 20% of birth parents counseled ultimately place their babies for adoption
- It costs on average \$2,500 - \$3,000 to counsel a relinquishing birth parent

We've learned that donors do not simply give to institutions. They invest their time and money in programs and people they care about. Our fundraising efforts are successful when they provide opportunities for people to act on what is already in their hearts.

So we'd like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, and we hope you will join us as we celebrate next year's 30th anniversary with special events and fundraising opportunities. We will keep you informed as we finalize event plans for 2011, but first up will be a night at Cherry Creek's Canvas and Cocktails Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m. The fee is \$40 per person with \$10 donated to Adoption Options for each person registered. Bring your friends and learn the basics of acrylic painting while contributing to Adoption Options at the same time. Register now at canvasandcocktails.com or call 303-695-1601 for more information.

Finally, we are grateful for your consideration as you plan your year-end giving. The dividend you receive with a gift to Adoption Options cannot be measured by a tax deduction, but in the happiness it brings to new families. We thank you for making that possible.

**PLEASE CONSIDER
ADOPTION OPTIONS
FOR YOUR
END-OF-YEAR
GIVING!
OUR AGENCY
DEPENDS ON THE
SUPPORT &
GENEROSITY OF
OTHERS!
WE COULD NOT
DO WHAT WE DO
WITHOUT YOU!**

DIRECTOR'S PEN

By Carol Holliday Lawson, Executive Director



Yet another year is coming to an end and, again, it seems like only yesterday I was writing the end of year letter for 2009! This opportunity for reflection guides us to think of the wonderful placements we have made this year – 38 in all so far. It also reminds us, at the same time, of the sadness inherent in some of these decisions; the sadness of the birth parents, the sadness of the prospective adoptive families when the birth parents change their mind, and the sadness when a placement disrupts. We, at Adoption Options, are sensitive to all these situations and hope that we can be a support for everyone involved.

I was touched recently by a birth mother who returned to our agency to place another child. She remembered that we dealt with her with dignity, caring and support. She did not feel judged and, accordingly, she came back because of her positive memories at a time of great emotional distress. I was even more recently touched by an adoptive mom who sent me an email thanking the agency for helping them to realize a dream to become parents. Her compassion for the birth parents, her gratitude for the staff, and her overwhelming love for her child brought tears to my eyes, even after all the years I have spent in social work. This is what we work for and this is the dream we have for each and every one of our adoptive parents. We hope your wait for your child will not be too much longer.

One of the highlights of the year is Adoption Day in Court and this year was no exception. Seeing the joy and excitement of the families and the support of the Court staff is so satisfying for the staff. Channel 31 and the press were there to record the event and to promote adoption in general.

2011 is our 30th year! We will be highlighting the agency in many ways during 2011 with a variety of fundraising events and celebrations. We truly hope you will be able to attend at least one or more of the events and join us in celebrating families built through adoption.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, all our volunteers, the golf and gala committees, our Board of Directors, and the many friends of Adoption Options for all their support and commitment during the past year. I wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful Holiday Season and 2011.

Carol Holliday Lawson

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS



NIKKI

Nikki joined the staff of Adoption Options as the Placement Supervisor in May 2010. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Murray State University and served as a teacher for four years. She then earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Denver in 2005 and has worked primarily in the field of adoption and foster care in both private and public sectors. In her spare time, Nikki enjoys being outdoors and exploring all that Colorado and the mountains have to offer.



KATHY

Kathy Poole started as the Administrative Assistant in May 2010. She was born and adopted in Dallas, and has lived primarily in Colorado. Being raised in Evergreen, she loves wildlife, nature and taking hikes and day trips to the mountains. Kathy has 3 wonderful children, ages 7, 11, and 21. She volunteers with foster kids and kids with developmental delays. Currently, Kathy is working on earning her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She is grateful to be part of such a positive and caring staff here at Adoption Options!

OUR WISHLIST

- ☆ POSTAGE STAMPS
- ☆ GIFT CARDS TO STORES SUCH AS KING SOOPERS, TARGET AND WAL-MART
- ☆ 3-WICK CANDLES, 11.5 OZ., ESPECIALLY PINK or BLUE, FOR PLACEMENT CEREMONIES
- ☆ TEDDY BEARS

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WHILE YOU WAIT

Another year has passed, and parenthood remains elusive. You greeted the new year with a wish or prayer that you would usher in the next year as a mother or father. But you are waiting still.

Family gatherings in which children feature prominently may be particularly difficult. The juxtaposition of the joy with which you once greeted the holidays and the grief that now threatens to undermine it may isolate you from those you love. What we want most is to see the Chanukah or Christmas lights through the eyes of the one child who remains absent.

It is unsettling to feel increasingly anxious and depressed as the holidays approach. However, these feelings are quite common among those waiting to adopt.

Survey participants were asked to identify those activities that reduced their own anxiety and depression during the winter holiday season. Some may work for you:

- * Do something special for yourself and, if married, your spouse. Schedule a session at a spa or a weekend at a charming country inn.
- * Do something special for your family, so you contribute and feel appreciated. If you're creative, consider making personalized gifts (you may not have time once you are a parent!).
- * Find out who will attend a family event, and decide whether to go.
- * Join a waiting parent support group via your local infertility or adoptive parent group.
- * Focus on school or work.
- * Take care of yourself-exercise, get enough sleep and eat well.
- * Keep a journal.
- * Donate time or goods to a charitable organization.
- * Find an adoptive parent support group in your area and, however difficult, attend a family gathering-seeing other happy families may lift your spirits more than you can possibly anticipate.

**Adapted from an Article by Amy Rackear from Adoptive Families Magazine

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ADOPTION OPTIONS



30TH ANNIVERSARY

NEXT YEAR,
ADOPTION OPTIONS
WILL CELEBRATE
30 YEARS
OF BRINGING FAMILIES
TOGETHER!

8

LOOK FOR EVENT DETAILS IN
THE COMING MONTHS...

**ADOPTION OPTIONS NEEDS
BOARD MEMBERS! PLEASE CALL
CAROL LAWSON AT 303-695-1601
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!**

ADOPTION DAY IN COURT



This year's Adoption Day in Court, an annual tradition to mark Adoption Awareness Month, was held on November 4th.

Ten families participated in this special event; for four of these families, their adoption is now official and final. It was a great day—a fun and happily emotional day—and it was a very important day ...some even dusted off their best tux for the occasion!

THE SPECIAL AND UNIQUE CHILDREN
ADOPTION OPTIONS HAS PLACED SO FAR THIS YEAR...

MAXWELL RYDER VIVIENNE MAYA
MARIE HAYDEN PETER
QUINCY
GRIFFIN WILLIAM AERYN LILLY KAYLIE
ANNALIESE
JUDE MISGANAW SALEM ROBERT EMILIE
PAYTON
JACELYN LOUIS JESSICA BRADY JADYN
ELIJAH EVAN MICHAEL
ANALUCIA JORDAN AUSTIN JAMES CLARE ANAYA
FAITH MATTHEW EVA TILLMAN EMILIO GRACE



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



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