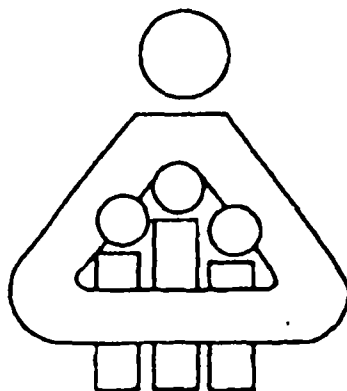
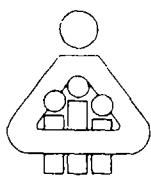




NATIONAL ADOPTION CENTER

1500 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 • (215) 735-9988

"There are no unwanted children . . . just unfound parents."



CAROLYN L. JOHNSON

Executive Director

NATIONAL ADOPTION CENTER

1500 Walnut St., Suite 701, Philadelphia, PA 19102

(215) 735-9988

FAX: 735-9410

**PHOTOCOPY
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NATIONAL ADOPTION CENTER

Carolyn L. Johnson
Executive Director

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rec'd - ps mel h me re: PMS

March 27, 1997

Melanne Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne,

The National Adoption Center is delighted with the leadership that President and Mrs. Clinton have taken in the adoption of U.S. children who are waiting for permanent homes. We have reviewed the Adoption 2002 Report, support it and view it as a valuable blueprint for much-needed change. We were especially pleased that the issue of geographic boundaries that keep children from being adopted has been addressed. It is critical to keep emphasizing that states do not "own" these children and must be willing to place them across state lines with interested and appropriate families. It is no longer acceptable to use geography--any more that it is to use race-- as a barrier.

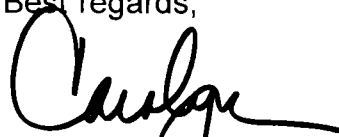
Call We do have a couple of concerns that we'd like to share with you: Although the President's directive, issued on December 14, 1996, pointed out the need for public awareness and the use of Internet technology, the Adoption 2002 Report makes little mention of either of these activities. Even the modest sum of \$1 million that the President requested in the Administration's budget for a public awareness campaign was not spelled out in the Report.

As a result of having created families for waiting children for the past 25 years, we know that the public responds to a strong, thoughtful message about the children's availability. The message must include a response mechanism (a toll-free telephone number and URL) and be directed to audiences likely to include potential adopters. When we place waiting children on national television shows, for instance, we receive anywhere from several hundred to several thousand responses. Our most recent TV show which Maury Povich aired in November, 1996 during National Adoption Month brought 13,000 responses through the telephone and the Internet. More public awareness is critical if we are going to find homes for the waiting children.

Our FACES of ADOPTION site on the Internet, which provides a wealth of adoption information as well as pictures and descriptions of waiting children, receives an average of 1.5 million hits each month from prospective adopters. We are especially pleased that 14 children have found homes as a direct result of families seeing them on our Internet site. One child--a teenager from Pennsylvania who has cerebral palsy and mild mental retardation and who is legally blind--found a permanent home with a family from Anchorage, Alaska. Last month, four children from Missouri were placed in adoptive families--a 14 year old girl whose new home is in Iowa and a sibling group of three who are now living with their adoptive parents in the state of Washington. (see attached photos)

We would be happy to work with anyone you designate to share our ideas and help design productive public awareness programs, using traditional techniques as well as new technology. We appreciate our ongoing relationship with the First Lady and with your office, and look forward to talking with you about how our ideas can become a more substantial part of the President's initiative.

Best regards,



Carolyn L. Johnson
Executive Director

CLJ:pp

cc: Nicole Rabner

Attachments

Adoption 2002

Submitted by: Carolyn L. Johnson
National Adoption Center
1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Phone: 215-735-9988
Fax: 215-735-9410

I. CREATE AND MAINTAIN A PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

In order to double the number of adoptions by 2002, people must know that they exist, who they are, how to go about the adoption process, what life in an adoptive family will be like, and what benefits and other resources exist to support adoptive families.

A pitfall to avoid is a public awareness campaign that raises interest, but gives little valuable information or creates awareness without providing a responsive mechanism.

A successful public awareness and education program should be all of the following:

*** Involve a team of people in the planning, support and visibility of the program:** President and Mrs. Clinton are in a position to convene a top level group of people from the corporate, media, religious, entertainment, advertising and child welfare arenas. The Ad Council can be approached for support. Highly visible and well respected spokespeople can be asked to be involved. Suggestions include: Colin Powell, Oprah Winfrey and Bryant Gumbel. Dave Thomas and Wendy's International has made a tremendous contribution in public awareness, are focusing on the kinds of children who are waiting, and have some new minority initiatives.

*** Targeted to the appropriate audience:** The message, the media, the format and the timing will be different for reaching the Latino community as opposed to recruiting families for developmentally disabled teenagers. A variety of resources should be utilized, including collaboration with existing local and state adoption agencies and parent groups. Existing adoptive and foster families and even children who have been or are waiting to be adopted are excellent and credible spokespersons and often have access to the targeted audiences. A public awareness program should not be limited to a mass marketing appeal.

*** Continuous and repetitious:** Some of the best campaigns visible today come out of the Partners for a Drug Free America. Drug use in the overall population has declined. Their message is continuously and repetitiously heard. Marketing

National Adoption Center 1/10/97

experts remind us that an average person has to hear something at least seven times before even thinking about responding to it. Thus, a one-shot, or seasonal media blitz will not serve our purposes well.

* **Educational in focus:** People need real, usable information about the actual children that are available and how to move ahead in the process. They also need a realistic presentation of the issues and challenges they will face. Adoption information can be provided in a diverse array of venues, making use of materials and resources already in existence. Adoption agencies are an important, but not the only gatekeepers the information. Offering adoption seminars through church and community groups, on public television, over the Internet, and through community continuing education programs and community colleges are all viable options. Adoption information can be as available at the community level as driver's ed or family planning.

* **Interactive:** When a person's interest in adoption is sparked, they need a resource to turn to ask their own specific questions and receive personalized responses in a timely, friendly and efficient manner. The toll-free number at the National Adoption Exchange and state and regional adoption exchanges are excellent resources. However, adequate funding must be provided for appropriate staffing to allow for timely and efficient responses.

* **Make all the children visible via the internet:** The numbers of people using the internet is growing exponentially as more people access it at home, in the workplace and in their communities. Photolisting on the internet is replacing or augmenting photolisting books because of the timeliness of updating and the wide exposure for the children. All states need to make their waiting children visible throughout the country to increase their chances of placement by establishing their own websites and/or listing their children on the national website, FACES of Adoption.

II. REMOVE GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS TO THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN: Just as the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA) addressed the removal of racial and ethnic barriers preventing permanency for children, strenuous efforts must be made at the federal level to remove geographic barriers to the placement of children. Many of the barriers are created at the home study phase of the adoption process and can be remedied by the following steps:

* **Home study portability and reciprocity:** A home study completed and approved by any licensed adoption agency in the country should be available to and recognized by any other adoption agency in the country. Public agencies should not be able to claim "ownership" of home studies. Currently, most public agencies will not share their home studied, approved families across state lines, or even across county lines. Public and private agencies should be provided with incentives to share families and penalized for a failure to do so. It makes no sense for an enthusiastic

and approved Missouri family to become frustrated as their home study expires a year later with no child placed in their home while just up the river in Illinois a child continues to wait for permanence.

* **Expedited home studies:** Families who make inquiries about adoption in response to public awareness campaigns are often frustrated and lose heart when their overburdened local public agency is not able to engage them in a home study process for weeks, months or even years. The federal government can play a role by providing incentives to states for providing home studies to all inquiring families in a timely manner. While the social work and legal aspect of a home study needs to be completed at a local level, regional and national exchanges can be a resource to assist families in preparing for adopting and creating the file of required documentation. With the use of technology, several stages of the home study could be completed at the regional or even national level, which would both expedite and standardize the process.

* **Better use of regional and national adoption exchanges:** Children's caseworkers, CASA and GAL volunteers should all have training and knowledge about how to register their children on their state, regional and national exchange; and how to complete an interstate or intrastate cross-county placement. Caseworkers should be required to document recruitment efforts that are not confined within geographically restricted areas and rewarded for doing so. Agencies across county or state lines who cooperatively work together towards effecting the placement of a waiting child should be acknowledged and rewarded. Those agencies who keep children waiting in their caseload without aggressively pursuing cross-jurisdictional placement options should be penalized.

III. PROMOTE INNOVATION AND REWARD SUCCESS: Some of the greatest barriers to providing permanence for waiting children lie in worker attitudes (i.e. "These children are unadoptable"; or "There are not any families") and in "turf" issues. The federal government has the opportunity, particularly by innovative use of a fully-funded Adoption Opportunities Act, to promote innovation and reward success. Grants could be given to programs - including large public agencies as well as small, private, specialty agencies and exchanges, which demonstrate successful outcomes. Allow states to "do what works" and then reward them for it. If states know that their pool of money will be increased as they demonstrate success in the placement of children, they will find innovative ways to motivate workers, shape worker attitudes and break down artificial "turf" barriers. As these innovations are publicly acknowledged and rewarded, they will become the models upon which other states and agencies will build.

IV. INCREASE ACCESS TO AND AVAILABILITY OF POST ADOPTION SERVICES: Permanence for children is not achieved when a child is placed into an adoptive home if that adoption ultimately disrupts. Adoptive parenting children who have

experienced multiple moves, abuse, neglect, and/or other traumas in their lives is uniquely challenging. Post placement services are vital to the success of any adoption plan. As more and more emphasis is placed on recruitment of families and placement of children it is critical to provide a corresponding increase in the availability of and access to quality post adoption services. Once again, incentives and rewards can be offered to states demonstrating the creation and maintenance of successful post adoption services.

V. INCREASE ACTUAL PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN, NOT JUST FINALIZATIONS OF ADOPTIONS:

Whenever the focus of an adoption initiative is on numbers, there is a temptation to get those numbers up by simply finalizing the adoptions of children already in permanent settings. There is, indeed, a value to legally completing adoptions. Permanence remains an illusion for many children who remain in foster care simply because no one has the time or resources to tie up the legal loose ends required to legally recognize their place in their family. Yet we must avoid the pitfall of scrambling around to finalize a lot of foster parent adoptions simply as a means of getting numbers up, while the children who have no permanent resource at all continue to wait and to move from one temporary placement to another. The goal of the president's initiative should be to double the actual number of permanent placements for children, not simply to double the number of finalized adoptions. We need to be careful how we count success.

VI. ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR ADOPTION BENEFITS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES:

An executive order that would implement adoption benefits for all federal employees would be the most efficient way to provide equity for government employees, whether they choose parenting through adoption or birth. Presently, there are no provisions for the reimbursement of adoption-related expenses for federal employees and there are inconsistencies in what is received by those who are entitled. An executive order would obviate the need to go through the lengthy process of legislative approval. An order would mandate a designated level or reimbursement to cover adoption costs, paid and unpaid leave time and resource and referral services which are offered prior to and following an adoption. By issuing this order, the President clearly makes adoption a top priority, joins with employers in the private sector who have already made the commitment, and encourages state governments and others to follow suit. It is a bold move that will garner much positive feeling from families, at a minimal cost to the government.

VII. PROMOTE CORPORATE ADOPTION BENEFITS AND INVOLVEMENT IN FINDING HOMES FOR US WAITING CHILDREN:

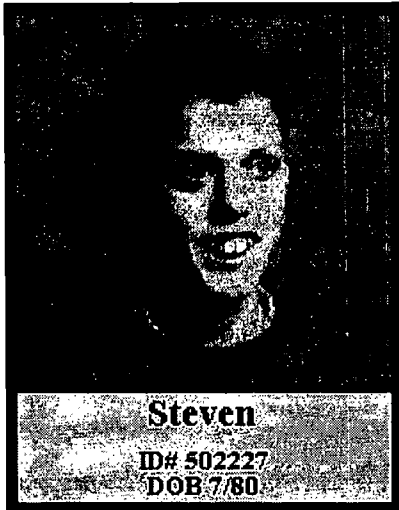
The National Adoption Center has a plan through the Kelloggs Families for Kids initiative to name and recognize corporations who are "Champions of Adoption." Criteria to receive this award include 1) providing the entire array of adoption benefits (paid leave, pre and post adoption resource and referral services and reimbursement for adoption expenses) and 2) support and involvement in adoption services for US waiting children on the local,

state and/or national level by, for example, financial or in-kind contributions to adoption agencies or adoptive parent groups recruiting families in their company, taking a leadership role in their corporate community in promoting adoption benefits and providing employees access to the internet to gather adoption information.

VIII. PROVIDE FULL FUNDING (\$30 MILLION) FOR THE ADOPTION

OPPORTUNITIES ACT: Many of the above suggestions can be carried out if there are additional funds offered through the Adoption Opportunities Act. The incentives to states can be done on a demonstration basis with a limited number of states participating to see if this is an effective way to increase adoptive placements.

Faces of Adoption

[Next](#)[PLACED](#)[AdoptionQuest](#)[Home Page](#)[E-Mail](#)[PLACED](#)[Download Picture](#)

Steven

Born: July, 1980**Age:** 15**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

DISABILITIES

Physical: Mild**Emotional:** None**Mental:** Moderate**Learning:** None

Residence: Pennsylvania**ID Number:** 502227**Updated:** 12/30/95

Steven is a cheerful, energetic young man who thoroughly enjoys outside activities, especially those which utilize his large motor skills. He is very sports oriented. All of his interests help him release his energy, yet leave him very bouncy and upbeat.

Steven has Cerebral Palsy, is considered Legally Blind, and has mild to moderate (trainable) Mental Retardation. He has difficulty expressing himself and his problem solving skills are impaired. He also wears a brace on one leg.

In school he attends special education classes where he functions below his age level, but is cooperative and cheerful. He is most comfortable with children younger than himself, adores babies, and is not aggressive.

Structure and medication have helped Steven focus his attention and control his impulses. At times he has to be reminded to think before he acts. He will continue to need special education to learn life skills, but hopefully he will be able to work as an adult in a semi-supervised environment and live in a community living facility.

None of his setbacks have had an effect on Steven's spirit. He is animated and playful and enjoys affection, especially from his foster mother. His social worker is looking for a one or two-parent family with the energy to keep up with him. Steven is eligible for financial subsidy.

If you are interested in adopting, please call one of the numbers listed below or send us e-mail. Make sure you refer to the child's ID Number.

Faces of Adoption

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Christina

ID# 346802
DOB 2/82

[Download Picture](#)

Christina

Born: February, 1982

Age: 14

Ethnicity: Caucasian

DISABILITIES

Physical: Mild

Emotional: Moderate

Mental: None

Learning: Mild

Residence: Missouri

ID Number: 346802

Updated: 10/16/96

Christina is a friendly, talkative young lady who likes to help her foster mom with the other children in their home. A typical adolescent, Christina likes clothes, going shopping and talking on the phone. She enjoys playing video games and her favorite television show is "Sister, Sister".

Due to her premature birth and poor care, Christina spent extra time in the hospital after she was born and was also hospitalized for failure to thrive when she was about one and a half. At that time, she attended a day treatment program to help overcome some developmental delays.

Christina is in special education classes. She presents behavioral difficulties at school. Christina gets into fights, uses inappropriate language, and does not like to do her school work.

Christina has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and she takes medication to mediate some of the symptoms. She is also small for her age and receives medication on a daily basis for this condition.

As a result of many kinds of abuse, Christina will need ongoing counseling to help her deal with her past experiences. She would also like to be able to keep in touch with her siblings who have already been adopted.

This young girl needs a stable, committed family who has some knowledge of the ramifications of early abuse and neglect. While she needs the love and stability that all children need, Christina also needs structure and limits that are consistent. As an adolescent, she is probably struggling with defining who she is; being part of a family who values and cares for her could help her in this struggle.

If you are interested in adopting, please call one of the numbers listed below or send us e-mail. Make sure you refer to the child's ID Number.

Faces of Adoption

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Thomas

ID# MO314833

DOB 10/92

Jariel

ID# MO285203

DOB 5/91

Dianna

ID# MO346091

DOB 3/94

[Download Picture](#)

Thomas

Born: October, 1992

Age: 3

Ethnicity: African
American

DISABILITIES

Physical: None

Emotional: None

Mental: None

Learning: None

Residence: Missouri

ID Number: MO314833

Updated: 02/18/96

These three beautiful children need to be placed together.

Jariel is a little guy with an impish grin that could win over anyone. He is currently attending a Head Start program and has been doing very well. Jariel was a full-term baby; however, he was born exposed to cocaine.

During his infancy, he experienced frequent ear infections, but they became less frequent and eventually presented few problems. Currently, Jariel is healthy, except that he needs a circumcision to correct a condition called phimosis which is an extremely tight foreskin. Jariel has not experienced any adverse reactions to this condition.

Jariel is a friendly, playful child who is very inquisitive and asks a lot of questions. Jariel needs a family that can nurture his curious nature. While he does not exhibit any physical needs, he has a continued need for counseling to deal with the separation, loss, and grief issues related to his placement.

Thomas, has sparkling brown eyes and a gorgeous smile. He is a loving child who is bonded to his brother and sister. Thomas was born drug exposed and there is little information about his early developmental history.

Thomas has a heart murmur that was recently diagnosed as Ventricular Septal Defect which is an abnormal passage between the left and right ventricles of the heart. The diagnosing physician assured that Thomas will have a normal, active life and that 60% of Ventricular Septal Defects close spontaneously.

Thomas needs antibiotics prior to any dental work or any procedure that might result in infection. Thomas also needs a follow-up with a cardiologist around his 5th birthday. Otherwise, there is no evidence of any other medical problems.

He is an affectionate child who requires a lot of attention. Thomas' new family needs to provide some structure in a positive and reassuring manner.

Dianna, is a beautiful little girl with short, brown, curly hair, big brown eyes and an adorable smile. She has a terrific personality and is a happy child. Dianna enjoys playing with her brothers as well as playing games. She loves "ring around the rosy", and she even tries to sing as she plays.

Diana has a great appetite and loves food. She is a pleasure to be around and her favorite things are coloring and books.

Dianna was a full-term, healthy infant who is developmentally on target. She began sitting up by herself at six months and took her first steps at approximately ten months. Dianna really began walking at thirteen months. She has recently begun talking quite a bit. Dianna gets along extremely well with both of her brothers.

It is important for these three children to be placed together. They need a secure, stable family who can provide Thomas with the structure and reassurance he needs. Dianna with the tenderness she requires, and Jariel with a place to explore his curiosity in all areas. All of these children need a caring, supportive and loving environment in which to grow into healthy adults.

Dianna

Born: March, 1994

Age: 2

Ethnicity: African
American

DISABILITIES

Physical: None

Emotional: None

Mental: None

Learning: None

Residence: Missouri

ID Number: MO346091

Updated: 02/18/96

Jariel

Born: May, 1991

Age: 5

Ethnicity: African
American

DISABILITIES

Physical: None

Emotional: Mild

Mental: None

Learning: None

Residence: Missouri

ID Number: MO285203

Updated: 02/18/96

If you are interested in adopting, please call one of the numbers listed below or send us e-mail. Make sure you refer to the child's ID Number.

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FACES OF ADOPTION

FACT SHEET

Faces of Adoption is an exciting new way for families to learn about children waiting to be adopted. This easy-to-use, computerized "photo listing book" located on the World Wide Web of the Internet enables families to read about children who need permanent homes.

A special section of the web site called AdoptionQuest provides families with information on adoption-related topics including: How to adopt; issues in adoption; lists of corporations offering adoption benefits; financial assistance available and book reviews.

Faces of Adoption went on line in October, 1995. Since then:

- ◆ The site has received over 1.5 million "hits".
- ◆ While hits are primarily from the United States, ***Faces of Adoption*** has been accessed in 44 other countries.
- ◆ The average daily hits has increased to over 15,000 hits.
- ◆ Usage in March increased by 46% over February.
- ◆ 265 Children have been featured.
- ◆ The number of children added in March more than doubled the number added in any prior month.
- ◆ NetGuide Magazine gave ***Faces of Adoption*** a ***FOUR STAR*** Rating: "Outstanding in its field. A must-see if you're interested in the topic at hand."
- ◆ Several children have placements pending as a result of being seen by families on ***Faces of Adoption***.

What People Are Saying About Faces of Adoption...

"This is a very well done site and very impressive. I have recommended your site to other webmasters as an example of how to do things right. You not only are doing a good technical job but it is a good 'human job' also!"

A Technology Consultant



"Very good informational sections on disabilities, subsidies, etc. Keep up the good work!"

Prospective Adoptive Parent



"I think that this is a great service to provide and I'm glad to see this available. After reading several of the children's profiles, I find myself wishing I was in a situation where I could adopt one of these wonderful children. I want to help spread the word about your service."

A Friend of Adoption



"I'd like to see every child in America who is waiting for adoption to be listed on the Internet."

Adoptive Parent



"...The children's stories are poignant, but the copy is never sensational or sentimental. The descriptions of the children and the challenges prospective parents would face are detailed with honesty....This is a welcome online home for kids who are looking for a 'forever' family."

Net Guide Magazine



"I have learned so much from your adoption information and have told many people in our foster parent/adoptive parent association about this service. Thanks very much for your help and your effort to bring families and children together."

Member of Parent Support Group



"You're doing a great job, keep up the good work! Not only are we actually getting solid and detailed information on children we inquire about, the timeliness of the contacts with children's caseworkers is unbelievable. Pat yourselves on the backs!"

Adoptive Parent



"Just wanted to commend you for this page. Its a bright spot in a sometime darkened world."

A Surfer



LOOKING FOR LOVE
Dave Thomas with some of the kids he wants to help find homes.

I never thought of myself as anybody special. As a child, I mostly thought of myself as alone. You see, I was born out of wedlock and adopted when I was 6 weeks old. I never got to meet my birth parents because by the time I learned who they were, they had passed away.

My adoptive mother died when I was 5. I lived with my adoptive father then, but the person who influenced me the most was my adoptive grandmother—Minnie Sinclair.

She taught me early on about doing the right thing, working hard, doing a job well and having fun, all values I have instilled in my own five children, as well. Most of all, she taught me that everyone has an obligation to put back into life more than they take out.

That's why I feel so strongly about adoption, especially now, since November is National Adoption Month. There are 650,000 boys and girls in the foster-care system in this country. Their stories could break your heart.

Recently I met a little boy in South Carolina. He had been in so many foster homes that he literally couldn't remember his own name. In Chicago I met another boy who was only 9 years old and had lived in 17 foster homes.

Unfortunately, these children are not unusual. In the Chicago area alone, 36,000 children entered the child welfare system this year, and just over 1,000 were adopted. Many of these kids have "special needs"—that is, they're older, have disabilities or were abused. Chicago's children have counterparts throughout the country.

At the same time, there are thousands of families who would love to adopt, but they either can't afford it or they have given up after months of red tape. Even sadder, sometimes they just don't know these children exist.

The problem is that adoption laws vary from state to state, and states and counties don't have the resources to share information. This means that families may not know about kids just a state—or even a county—away.

Dave Thomas is founder of Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers. Proceeds from his books, "Dave's Way" and "Well Done!" go to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Full Circle Every Child Deserves a Family

By Dave Thomas

Through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, I'm working to raise awareness and to make adoption simpler and more affordable. The average adoption costs \$9,000, mostly because of legal fees. In January I testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of a \$5,000 tax credit for parents who adopt. I also asked Congress to support an additional \$5,000 tax credit for families that adopt children with special needs. This initiative passed the House and is now in committee in the Senate. I encourage all of you to write your senators and ask them to support this legislation.

Believe me, I know how important it is for every child to have a loving family. Because without a family, I would not be where I am today. I was lucky. And I know it. ■
For a free copy of A Beginner's Guide to Adoption, call the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption: 614-764-3009.

What do you think? Send letters to: Full Circle, FAMILY CIRCLE, 110 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011.

Can You Open Your Heart?

The children pictured here are all in the foster-care system and are waiting for loving homes and families to call their own. For information on these and other children who are eligible for adoption nationwide, call the National Adoption Center: 1-800-TO-ADOPT.



Julisa, 4; Jennie, 3

Jerry, 8

James, 10

Sarah, 14

Rick, 14

Paul, 10; Keith, 13

Photo: Robert Levit (top).

Business and related services

Bell Atlantic Information Systems

FedEx Corp.
Tying into the customer fulfillment process

MCI Communications Corp.
Round-the-clock telecom
network capability that
borrows public voice network
capacity as needed

SpeakEZ
Using voice patterns to identify individuals for credit cards, security systems and automated teller machines.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Sharing detailed sales data
with 10,000 vendors

Education and academics

**Saginaw Valley
State University**
High school students access
supercomputers to carry out
environmental research

Stevens Institute of Technology
Making computing pervasive throughout its college curriculum

The Computer Museum
Exhibits that provide
perspective on the impact of
computers on our planet

**University of California,
Los Angeles**
Computer simulation of
apparatus such as
telescopes and
spectrometers.

**Warren Consolidated
Schools/Amoritech, Inc.**
See story, page 102

Environment, energy and agriculture

Adam Opel AG
Reducing use of hazardous
waste-causing materials

**Consortium for International
Earth Science Information
Network**
Providing a gateway to
databases to help with public
policy decision-making

**Marine Environmental
Technology Operation**
Monitoring to protect the
aquatic ecosystem

Chesapeake Bay Program
See story, page 102

Weyerhaeuser Co.
Modeling 80-year timber-
harvesting scenarios to
protect owls and keep jobs

Finance, insurance and real estate

Bank of America
Automating the handling of 8 million transactions a day

Chicago Board of Trade
Handheld units let traders
write in trade data, reducing
paper.

Fannie Mae
On-line financial analysis for low-income clients who want to buy homes

Содержание 102

7th Annual Computerworld Smithsonian Awards



Awards, which honor applications
that improve society and our lives.

Information technology is helping the innovative heroes among us do the awe-inspiring. And when all is said and done, perhaps that is technology's greatest gift.

Database pairs kids and adoptive families

Patty was in foster care for two years before she was matched with a family via the computerized database system of the National Adoption Exchange (NAE), a program of the National Adoption Center. Typically, a child/family placement takes from several months to a few years, but the NAE was able to place Patty with her permanent family in only three months. No longer the withdrawn, timid child she was two years ago, Patty today participates in choir, jazz, ballet and tap dancing.

★ Karen Colalongo, regional child adoption coordinator at the NAE and Patty's social worker.

FINALIST "When we first started out, we actually had a recipe file box where we kept color-coded index cards

National Adoption Center

and electronic mail for social workers nationwide to access.

Via E-mail, social workers can easily find information about interstate adoption, nontraditional adoption (such as single parents and transracial parents), disabilities and child welfare. They can also look beyond their local jurisdiction and place children in other states.

The NAE is working on an on-line program called "Faces of Adoption," which will be available on the Internet this summer at <http://www.adopt.org/adopt>.

— By Joyce Chutchian-Ferranti, managing editor, special projects

**★
FINALIST
National
Adoption
Center**

	FEMALE NAME	UNDA B	MALE NAME	
	RACE	B	RACE	
	DISABILITY ACQUIRED			
	PHYSICAL	NONE	BLIND	MODERATE
	MENTAL	NONE	DEAF	MODERATE

Levine always wanted to go to Africa for her children. As an entrepreneur, wife, mother, and philanthropist, she always needed a child to raise a successor. Her son from her first marriage, a nonmarital union, the daughter, Gloria, 10, in Chicago, was adopted in 1977, when she had already established an independent disposition and was placed in her home. Today, she is the eldest of four children and her brother, two years old, is the youngest, said to be a child from having been born to Gloria in her mother's womb. Levine and her children are engaged in the family's preference to include an African American on board. It is worth noting that Levine and her husband are Jewish.

• Split-second database searching enabled social workers to match Linda Bates Jones' profile (see screen above) with that of Patty (see screen at right). In just three months, Patty (above, center) joined her new adoptive family (from left to right), Jones, Sherita and Raquel.



NAME	BARON
MALE	BL
SEX	F
BIRTH DATE	10/23/51

DISAPLACES 214

Florida is an old and historic state with a simple and warm humanism. She is very generous on things and a simple life. Singing and dancing are the love of all. And in Florida, I was exposed to culture in singing and dancing and playing sports. I feel that that she has very concentrated and a little change of something AIDS. She has a history of sympathy and infectious, but in good health. One or two years ago, I had an American family with a child and another child in their house.

Welcome To

Faces of Adoption



America's Waiting Children

[Welcome](#) | [Photolisting](#) | [What's New](#) | [AdoptionQuest](#) | [About NAC](#) | [About CAP](#)

[Text Only Browsers](#)



Welcome to *Faces of Adoption*

Rating in **NetGuide**



[News Flash](#) • [Adoption Information](#) • [Children](#) • [Guest Book](#)

• [New Photo Listings of Children](#)

This site is enhanced for Netscape 2.0. [Download Netscape Now](#)



Edited by: [Sue Flaxman \(nac@inetcom.net\)](mailto:nac@inetcom.net)

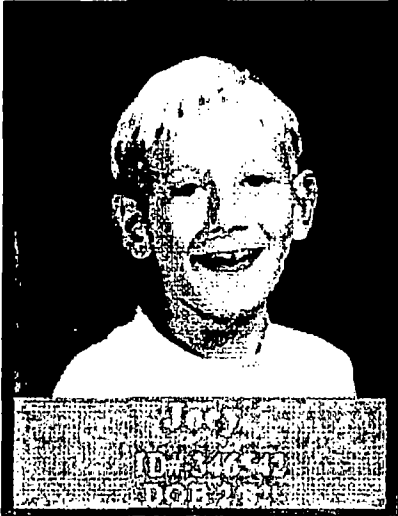
Supported by:



Faces of Adoption

[Next](#)[Previous](#)[AdoptionQuest](#)[Home Page](#)[E-Mail](#)

29 of 102

[Download Picture](#)

Joey

Born: February, 1982

Age: 13

Ethnicity: Caucasian

DISABILITIES

Physical: None

Emotional: Moderate

Mental: None

Learning: Moderate

Residence: Kentucky

ID Number: 346542

Updated: 10/09/95

Joey, born February 1982 is an adorable, bright eyed young man with beautiful blonde hair, a winning smile and an enviable tan after some time in the sun. Joey very much needs a permanent family to call his own.

Joey has symptoms of a child with fetal alcohol syndrome. This probably accounts for his small head and petite stature. His facial features also appear characteristic of someone with fetal alcohol syndrome.

Joey takes medication for seizures and has been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). He is in a class for children with behavior problems and functions between the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) grade level. Joey does not yet know how to tell time and school and homework are a challenge.

He likes to watch television and loves outdoor activities. He especially enjoys going camping and taking trips to the lake with his foster family.

He has a good appetite! Joey even loves vegetables.

Joey functions best in an environment with alot of structure. He is used to a large family but would also adjust well to being part of a small family.

Subsidy and purchase of service are possibilities.

If you are interested in adopting, please call one of the numbers listed below or send us e-mail. Make sure you refer to the child's ID Number.

Faces of Adoption

[Next](#)[Previous](#)[AdoptionQuest](#)[Home Page](#)[E-Mail](#)

42 of 121

[Download Picture](#)

Nicole

Born: November, 1986

Age: 9

Ethnicity: African
American

DISABILITIES

Physical: None

Emotional: Moderate

Mental: None

Learning: None

Residence: Georgia

ID Number: 346729

Updated: 02/18/96

Nicole, born November 1986, is a pretty little girl with a bright smile. She has been in foster care since she was 9 months old and has had a number of placements including an adoption disruption.

Her severe behavior problems have improved somewhat, but she continues therapy and recently began taking medication at the request of her therapist. She has been diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Behavior.

Nicole is an excellent student. She can be sweet and loving and is helpful with younger children and has done volunteer work in a senior citizen home with her previous foster mother.

Nicole likes to sing in her church choir. She is artistically inclined and loves to draw. In her leisure time, she enjoys watching cartoons and the Fresh Prince of BelAir on television.

This little girl deserves the permanency and consistency of a warm, loving adoptive family which can provide structure and be tolerant of her behavior problems.

Subsidy and purchase of service are possibilities.

If you are interested in adopting, please call one of the numbers listed below or send us e-mail. Make sure you refer to the child's ID Number.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

U.S. National Debt Clock

You won't believe how fast the national debt is rising! The longer you wait ...
World Wide Web: http://www.brillig.com/debt_clock

How Would You Spend the National Budget?



Want to cut defense and give all your tax money to the National Endowment for the Arts? This interactive poll lets you do the allocating.

World Wide Web: <http://ux1.cso.uluc.edu/~kundert/taxes/taxdollar.html>

Institute for Better Education Through Resource Technology

Peruse line-item details of the federal budget, and afterward—if you're angry enough—you can download IBERT's budget simulator and submit your own.

World Wide Web: <http://ibert.org>

Third Millennium

See the national debt updated every minute and learn its history, test your perceptions of the national budget, and e-mail fellow citizens to help mobilize them to solve our country's problems.

World Wide Web: <http://www.sitespecific.com/3m/index.shtml>

NRA's Eddie Eagle Program

The National Rifle Association-sponsored Eddie Eagle gun safety program aims to teach kids who come across a firearm to "Stop! Don't touch! Leave the area. Tell an adult."

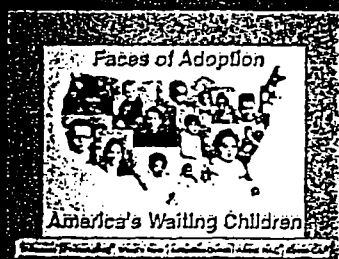
World Wide Web: <http://users.aol.com/Tavares/Eddie-Eagle-1/eddiemain.html>

SMILING FACES PUBLIC DOMAIN

A toddler smiles shyly at the camera. He's wearing a crisp white shirt with a round collar, a plaid bow tie, and a blue vest.

His is among the many faces of children registered with the National Adoption Center, a non-profit group working to expand adoption opportunities for kids with special needs.

The Center's Web site, *Faces of Adoption: America's Waiting Children*, co-sponsored by the like-minded organization *Children Awaiting Parents*, contains photos and bios of hundreds of children, most between the ages of 7 and 16.



Many are siblings who need to stay together, and some have physical, emotional, or learning disabilities.

The children's stories are poignant, but the copy is never sensational or sentimental. The descriptions of the children and the challenges prospective parents would face are detailed with honesty.

While the *Faces of Adoption* home page could be better organized, it also contains valuable adoption information, such as how to interview an agency, personal stories of adoptive parents, and pending legislation. This is a welcome online home for kids who are looking for a "forever family."

World Wide Web: <http://www.inet.net:80/adopt>
★ ★ ★ ★

—LG

NRA Firearms Page

Just what do the gun laws say? Check out federal regulations on interstate transport of firearms or click on one of the 50 states, Washington, D.C., or New York City.



World Wide Web: <http://www.nra.org/NRA-FALAWS.html>

The File Room Censorship Archives

This logically organized, easily accessible archival site was developed to promote discussion and bring attention to censorship throughout history.

World Wide Web: <http://fileroom.aup.uic.edu/FileRoom/documents/homepage.html>

Legislation of the 104th Congress

Scan all legislation introduced since January 1993, accessible by date, subject, sponsor, chamber and type, words in title, words in text, or what's hot.

Internet: gopher.gopher.legislate.com/hh/legislation/104

RELATIONSHIPS

Leslie's Guide to Wedding Planning

With Leslie's big day only a few months away, she knows what she's talking about! It's a virtual wedding checklist.

World Wide Web: <http://acm.vt.edu/~lfowler/wed/wedding.html>



Help Me Harlan!

Harlan will try his best to help love-sick or confused college students. What a guy!

World Wide Web: <http://ezinfo.ics.indiana.edu/~hdcohen/>

See back
for fun
kids'
games.



Alphonso, 13 and Evette, 11.
Alphonso dreams of growing up
to be a carpenter or mechanic.
Evette yearns to be a nurse,
in her pursuit to
help people.



Antonio, 15,
loves roller-blading,
playing video games
and watching movies when he
isn't pursuing his real love, art.

LaQuinta, 4 & Travis, 3.
When LaQuinta isn't singing and
dancing, she can be found with
her dolls. Her brother, Travis, is
typical of most boys his age with
his love of cars and trucks.



Matthew, 11,
is a diehard
Dallas Cowboys
fan, although his
talents, so far, lean towards
basketball and baseball.



Carole, 6,
is a bright, engaging,
and talkative little girl.



Marie, 12,
enjoys watching
Nickelodeon,
riding her bike
and playing
with dolls.

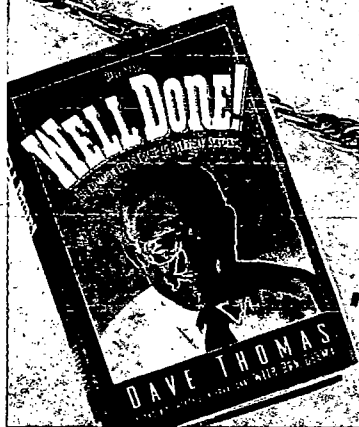


Michael, 5,
is currently living on
a farm and loves to
take care of the
animals.

Can you find a place in your heart for these children?



When people think of
adoption they often think of
newborns. Well, the fact is,
there are thousands of older
kids and special needs children
who need the love and security
only a family can provide.
I should know, I was adopted.
So, if you've ever considered
adopting, consider adopting a
special child. They grow up to
be special people.



"READ MY NEW BOOK"
Now at your favorite bookseller!
All Dave's proceeds donated to the
Dave Thomas Foundation For Adoption

For more information on adopting these,
or other special needs children, please call

NATIONAL ADOPTION CENTER
1-800-TO-ADOPT

printed on recycled paper



**DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION**

8 6 2 3 6 7 8
© 1994 Wendy's. All Rights Reserved.

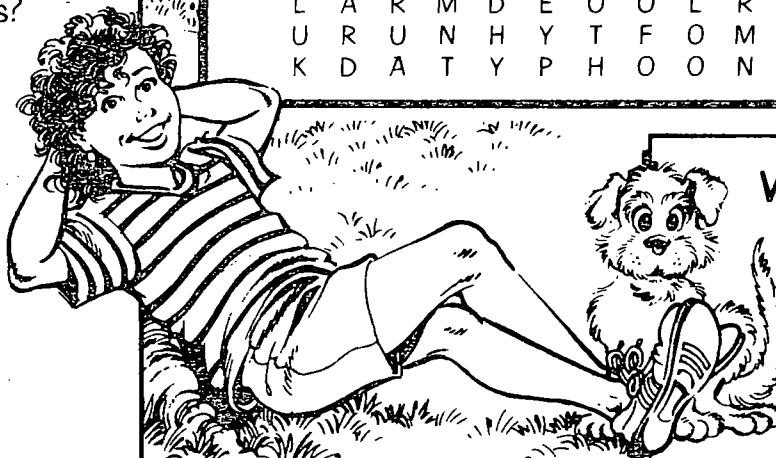
Wendy's

WEATHER WATCH

CLOUD WATCHING

On lazy summer days, Carrie-Ann loves to look for cloud shapes. Can you help her spot the following items?

Hamburger,
fries,
Frosty Dairy Dessert,
spoon,
potato



SUPER STORMS

Search the puzzle below to find some storms that can pack a tremendous punch.

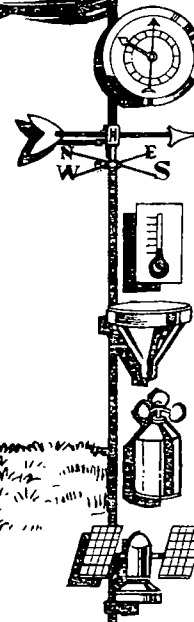
blizzard	cyclone	hail
hurricane	monsoon	tornado
typhoon	rain	

E	N	A	C	I	R	R	U	H	P
N	K	H	N	D	H	V	E	A	N
O	B	J	A	B	X	S	O	I	M
L	L	C	M	A	D	W	A	L	T
C	I	T	B	O	F	R	Z	N	E
Y	Z	O	D	A	N	R	O	T	M
C	Z	E	B	V	X	S	L	I	D
L	A	R	M	D	E	O	O	L	R
U	R	U	N	H	Y	T	F	O	M
K	D	A	T	Y	P	H	O	O	N

WHAT'S THE WEATHER?

How does a meteorologist (a professional weather watcher) know we're going to have a sunny, rainy or snowy day? He or she uses these instruments!

1. A barometer to measure atmospheric pressure.
2. A wind vane to indicate which direction the wind is blowing.
3. A thermometer to measure temperature.
4. A rain gauge to indicate the amount of rain that has fallen.
5. An anemometer to measure wind speed.
6. A satellite to watch storm movements from space.



WACKY WEATHER RIDDLES

Use the spellings of the words pictured to solve these riddles.

1. What grows in winter, dies in summer, and grows roots upward?



-e +



-e +



-g

2. What can blow on a balloon all day and never get tired?



-ell +



-p +



-og

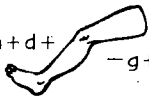
3. When it's raining cats & dogs, what can you find on the ground?



-ig +



-mn + d +



-g +



-un

Thursday, March 21, 1996

CyberSurfingWhere the
Children
Are

Perturbations, pleasures and predicaments on the information superhighway:

Once you've made the profound decision to adopt a child, there are loads of sub-choices to make. I've joined an adoption listserv, where I lurk and listen to the pros and cons of everything adoption-related while I'm figuring it out.

Sometimes in all the talk of Romania vs. Bulgaria, the benefits of adopting a 3-month-old vs. a 3-year-old, the expense, and how to cope with mental and physical disabilities, I start to think about maybe just skipping the whole thing and going on my merry way. I sometimes need to remind myself of what exactly the point is.

The Web helps there. I still carry around a picture I cut out of the newspaper of kids left at an orphanage, watching as a newly adopted friend leaves them behind. But now there are sites that show pictures of kids who need to be adopted. One browse will kill you. Their faces are young and hopeful with agreeable smiles and a look of innocence that belie the information that is often in their biographies about the neglect, long-term institutionalization, mental and physical disorders, abuse, separations and losses that have shaped their lives so far.

If you're interested in international adoption, the Precious in His Sight Web Page is extensive and well-organized. You can designate the age, country or sex of the children's pictures you would like to view. The home page also features one or two children who urgently need adopting, such as Nikita, who is 3 and needs an operation that is common in the United States but unavailable to him in Russia, without which his leg may be amputated.

The Faces of Adoption Web Page

Faces of Adoption

Home Precious Adoption About Us Links

Joshua is an attractive, comable, and affectionate child who loves basketball, animals, and playing outdoors. Joshua is presently in a class for children with behavior problems. His cognitive functioning is in the educationally handicapped to borderline range. He also receives speech and occupational therapy.

This child was a victim of severe abuse and neglect. His daily behavior is reportedly excellent, however, Joshua has tantrums when he is angry and can be impulsive with caregivers during those times. He has made solid progress in a structured family setting.

Although Joshua may experience difficulties with emotional attachment, he has the capacity to be a good family member who will join in most activities. Joshua expresses the desire for a family of his own in which to raise. He has no siblings who have already been adopted.

Donated Photo
Joshua

The Faces of Adoption Web page provided photos and biographies of foster children, such as Joshua, who are available for adoption.

lists available foster children in the United States. Only children ages 5 through 16 are included. Along with the pictures are four-paragraph bios that include the children's hobbies, interests, how they relate to others and how they are doing in school.

All of the sites offer addition information about adoption in general and how to proceed with inquiries about a particular child. Many bios end with a variation of "all that is needed is a stable home and unconditional love," and these pictures make you believe that it is that simple.

—Dianne Weeks
weeksd@washpost.com

■ **GETTING THERE:** To join the adoption listserv, send an e-mail to listserv@sjuvn.stjohns.edu. Faces of Adoption is at <http://www.adopt.org/adopt>. Precious in His Sight: <http://www.adoption.com>. New York State Department of Social Services: <http://www.state.ny.us/dss/adopt>. Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services: <http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/tdprs/homepage.html>. Gladney Center in Fort Worth: <http://www.gladney.org>.

SATisfaction

'Tis the season for all good students to cough up enough accumulated knowledge to prove their future value to humankind, and assign the results a number. We're talking about the Scholastic Assessment Test, the SAT. And you can hunker

down and study for it in front of your favorite computer.

Engineer Pardner Wynn ("Yes, I'm from Texas, and yes, my parents actually named me that") designs and sells SAT prep course software, and also puts it all up on the Internet for free. The set-up is funded by the sale of CD-ROMs on the site—about one out of a hundred visitors buys one, and he says the site gets 10,000 to 15,000 hits a day. His real return is student feedback, which is helping him develop better virtual test preparation materials.

I stumbled around on the site, trying to find the test and see what I'd score. Thinking I was unconsciously avoiding finding it (memories of the LSAT, twice taken), I called Pardner. "No, you take the sample test at your high school," he said. "You then go to the Web site, type the answers in, and the test is scored." Knowing your weak areas allows you to concentrate on the most valuable lessons and practice tests the site offers, he said. But I didn't go back.

—Karen Marrero
marrerok@washpost.com

■ **GETTING THERE:** Use your Web browser and <http://www.testprep.com>.

Found something intriguing, improbable, insane or especially useful on the Net? Write it up and send it to Karen Marrero, marrerok@washpost.com, or Joel Garreau, garreau@well.com.

National Adoption Center

The National Adoption Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand adoption opportunities throughout the United States for children with special needs and those from minority cultures.

Founded in 1972, the Center works with social workers and other adoption professionals to bring children and families together. Through its telecommunications network, the National Adoption Exchange (NAE), adoption professionals list their available children and interested families and make "matches" between them. In this way, a child in Oregon, for example, can be matched with a family in Florida.

Children registered with NAE are featured in national publications, on television and radio programs. *Essence* magazine, *Healthquest* magazine, Wendy's restaurants and the Dave Thomas Foundation encourage families to adopt children with special needs. The National Adoption Center's 800 number is listed on a number of public service announcements that regularly appear on television. Children have also been featured on the Maury Povich Show, Phil Donahue Show, Sally Jessy Raphael Show and Good Morning America.

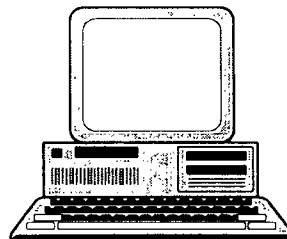
The Center offers information and referral services and provides written materials on a variety of topics. Among them are special needs adoption, single parent adoption, military adoption and open adoption.

About CAP

Children Awaiting Parents (CAP) is dedicated to finding adoptive families for America's waiting children. *Faces of Adoption* is part of its continuing effort to fulfill this mission. Formed in 1969, CAP publishes *The CAP Book*, the national photo listing of children with special needs, conducts parent recruitment and provides adoption information and referrals for families seeking to adopt waiting children.

The CAP Book contains photographs and descriptions of children with special needs who can be placed across state lines. Subscribers include adoption agencies, adoptive parent groups, libraries and individuals.

For more information, contact CAP at (716) 232-5110.



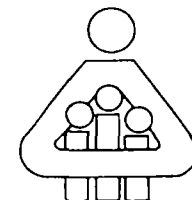
Faces of Adoption: America's Waiting Children

*A computerized "Photo Listing" and Adoption
Information Service
on the Internet*



National Adoption Center

1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
(215) 735-9988 Fax (215) 735-9410
URL: <http://www.adopt.org/adopt>
E-Mail Address: nac@inetcom.net



Introducing... *Faces of Adoption*

Faces of Adoption is an exciting, new way for families to learn about children who need permanent homes. Through this easy-to-use, computerized "photo listing book" on the Internet, millions of families can "meet" children who are waiting to be adopted. By accessing *Faces of Adoption*, hundreds of photographs and descriptions of children from throughout the United States are at your fingertips. This innovative program is administered by the National Adoption Center (NAC) and Children Awaiting Parents (CAP), nationally recognized adoption organizations, who coordinate the up-to-date listings that give potential adoptive parents a chance to search for specific types of children or browse through the full listing.

In addition, a wealth of adoption-related information is available. Topics include:

- How to Adopt America's Waiting Children
- Issues in Adoption
- Bibliographies and Book Reviews
- Agency and Organizational Resources
- Financial Assistance
- Postings of Conferences and Seminars.
- Links to Other Adoption Resources on the Internet

The Internet

Adoption has entered the computer age and you can take full advantage by going on-line through the Internet.

All you need is a computer, a modem, and an Internet account (either through a local or national Internet service provider, or through an on-line service such as CompuServe, Prodigy or America Online), and specialized software that is usually provided when you sign up with the Internet Service. To cruise the World Wide Web, for example, you will need a browser, such as Mosaic or Netscape.

What Is the World Wide Web?

Faces of Adoption can be found on the **World Wide Web** of the Internet. It is a global network of documents, including text, graphics, video and sound. Each document is called a Home Page (actually, it can be made up of many pages). Each Home Page has an address called a URL (Uniform Resource Locator).

Faces of Adoption:
America's Waiting Children's
URL is: <http://www.adopt.org/adopt>

Who are the Children Registered on *Faces of Adoption*?

The children who are listed are not the healthy infants most people associate with adoption, but are children with special needs and children from minority cultures. Some have emotional, physical or learning disabilities. Many are brothers and sisters who need a home together. More than half are African American. They are all legally free to be adopted.

To protect each child's privacy, no last names or addresses are listed. If you are interested in learning more about a child, the National Adoption Center or Children Awaiting Parents will provide further information.

How Do the Children Get Listed ?

Children who are registered with the National Adoption Exchange (NAE) and those listed in *The Cap Book* are featured in the *Faces of Adoption* photo listing. State adoption exchanges, public and private adoption agencies are asked to send descriptions and photos of available children so that families throughout the United States can learn about them.

WHAT ARE ADOPTION BENEFITS?

comprehensive adoption benefits package will help employees by defraying adoption costs, providing leave time with the child and offering resources that aid in a smooth transition for all members of the family.

Adoption benefits give employees:

- Information and referral services
- Reimbursement for adoption expenses
- Paid/unpaid leave time



A SPECIAL INITIATIVE

The **Adoption and the Workplace** project is made possible through a grant from the **W. K. Kellogg Foundation** through its **Families for Kids** initiative. The National Adoption Center and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption are working together to promote adoption benefits and provide information to employers committed to supporting adoption.



The **National Adoption Center**, created in 1972, is a private, non-profit organization that expands adoption opportunities for children throughout the United States, especially for children with special needs and those from minority cultures.



NATIONAL ADOPTION CENTER

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's Restaurants, established the **Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption** to help the thousands of children waiting to be adopted. The Foundation, a public charity, works to raise awareness about the children and to provide direct support for adoption programs.



DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION



ADOPTION BENEFITS ARE GOOD BUSINESS

**"Our daughter
has brought
us great joy.
With employer
support, many
more families
could adopt."**



**"Children
who don't have
homes or families
aren't somebody
else's responsibility;
they're
our responsibility."**

**Supporting
adoption
is important to
all of us."**

Adoption is a personal thing for Dave Thomas. Adopted when he was six weeks old, he has said, "I wouldn't be where I am today without a family."

Dave has a lot of company. Each year, American families adopt more than 100,000 children. They come from the United States and other countries; they may be babies or older children; brothers and sisters; children with disabilities.

No matter what type of child is adopted, the adoption process demands time and money, and creates stress that can affect job performance.

The National Adoption Center and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption have launched the **Adoption and the Workplace** initiative to encourage you to offer adoption benefits. You can ease the burden, maintain productivity and provide equity for all of your employees creating families, whether through birth or adoption.

And with less than one-half of 1% of any employee population using these benefits in a year, the package is extremely cost effective.

**The bottom line is
that adoption benefits
are good business.**

Marcia Silverberg, Assistant Vice President
Human Resources at Mutual of New York (MONY)

"We have received excellent feedback from employees about our adoption assistance program. Adoption benefits are cost effective and family friendly. All employees, even those unlikely to use the benefits, appreciate that MONY is supporting adoption as part of its work/life package."

A WIN-WIN SCENARIO

EMPLOYERS BENEFIT BY:

- Providing equity for all employees, whether they choose parenthood through adoption or birth
- Recognizing that stable families mean responsible, productive employees
- Becoming an industry leader in a pace-setting, family-focused effort
- Generating good will among employees and throughout the community

EMPLOYEES BENEFIT BY:

- Receiving financial assistance that can make the difference in their ability to adopt
- Knowing their employer is supportive
- Obtaining leave time to be with their child before/after adoption

THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS WHEN:

- Employers take the lead in supporting adoption
- Employers are committed to family/life issues
- Families adopt children who live in foster or group care settings*

*More than 100,000 children are waiting to be adopted in the United States. Widespread adoption benefits could encourage more adoptions and bring children who need homes together with prospective parents.

Pat Eden, Manager

Corporate Benefits at Fel-Pro, Inc.

"One of the greatest gifts a family can give is a home to a child who needs one. Fel-Pro is happy to do whatever small part it can for employees who choose adoption. This has been an excellent addition to our benefits package."

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

The EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO ADOPTION BENEFITS, developed by the National Adoption Center, can answer your questions and help you implement an adoption benefits package that fits your organization's individual needs. This free package includes:

- The rationale for employer-supported benefits
- Components of a model policy
- Specifics on implementing the plan
- Sample adoption benefits policies and recommendations
- Lists of employers that provide benefits

To receive a copy of the **Employer's Guide to Adoption Benefits** and more information, please contact:

Adoption Benefits Coordinator
National Adoption Center
1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701
Philadelphia, Pa 19102
(215) 735-9988



Adoption groups building families via the Internet

Method provides more data on children

By Mark Potok
USA TODAY

Adoption advocates across the country, working to find permanent homes for thousands of hard-to-place U.S. and foreign children, are trying a new marketing tool.

They're going on the Internet.

This trend started in late 1994, when a Waco, Texas, homemaker became the first to create a computerized photo listing of children up for adoption. Major adoption agencies have since set up listings on the World Wide Web, a global communications network that is part of the Internet.

Texas and New York were the first states to create sites. By April 1, eight Western states will go on line through a photo listing set up by the Denver-based Adoption Exchange, says director Dixie Davis. The states are Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

"This has the potential to revolutionize adoption," says Gloria Hoch-

man of the National Adoption Center in Philadelphia. "It is going to demystify the process and bring much-needed information into the homes of people who are interested in adoption. And we think more people will adopt."

So far, fewer than 20 children have been adopted through the Internet, which allows people to interact with other computer users worldwide. There are 100,000 U.S. children and uncounted foreign children who need permanent families.

"The Internet has changed our lives," says Trish Maskew, of Columbia, Tenn. She found the 8-year-old Vietnamese boy she and her husband are adopting while on the Net. "My neighbors came over and started looking at it and now they're considering a Russian adoption."

Typically, users will find an introductory page on the Internet, which often includes general adoption information. From there they can access the main listings, which contain photos and text descriptions supplied to Net sites by adoption agencies.



In Independence, Ky.: Joe and Julie Fugazzi hold their 5-month-old adopted son, William 'Will' Fugazzi, who they found via an Internet adoption program.

By Craig Ruttle, The Cincinnati Enquirer

People who find a child can contact the agencies directly.

Would-be adopters still must go through a social worker's study of their family and meet other requirements to be approved for adoption. But once those steps are completed, the Net listings can make it much easier to find a desired child.

The hundreds of children whose faces may be seen on the Internet generally are not healthy infants who are easy to place. Most are "special needs" children. They are older, have physical, mental or emotional disabilities, are in sibling groups or come from minority cultures. Many are from foreign countries.

"This gives people (visual) access to many children, and maybe they'll think about children they hadn't considered before," says Ember Stine of the Ethiopia program for Family Connections, a California adoption agency. "It also allows them to look at the information at their leisure."

Still, some worry that posting information about children may create problems. Typically, only a first name or ID number is used. "There are a lot of people surfing the Internet, and not all of them have the best intentions," says Patrick Purtell of the National Council for Adoption. Like Purtell, Robert Ellis Smith, publisher of the Rhode Island-based *Pri-*

SOME INTERNET ADOPTION SITES

<http://www.adopt.org/adopt>

"Faces of Adoption," listing American children, is produced by the National Adoption Center in Philadelphia and Children Awaiting Parents in Rochester, N.Y.

<http://www.adoption.com>

The "Precious in His Sight" listing was the nation's first, and carries pictures and descriptions of kids handled by several international adoption agencies in the USA.

<http://www.webstreet.com/cs/orphans>

The "Little Friends" directory lists children who mainly come from Eastern Europe.

<http://www.dcb.du.edu/~drichard/RMAE/rmae.html>

The Adoption Exchange's site now offers information on the Denver-based agency's services. Starting April 1, it will carry photo and text listings on adoptable children from Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Missouri, Montana and South Dakota.

<http://www.america.net/~amrex1/aanaa.htm>

The Association of American Nonprofit Adoption Agencies, in Jacksonville, Ark., lists mainly children from Eastern Europe and China.

<http://www.state.ny.us/dss/adopt/>

New York's "Adoption Blue Book" lists about 40 of the Department of Social Services' hardest-to-place kids, along with general information.

<http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/tdprs/homepage.html>

"Dare to Love" is created by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange.

<http://www.gladney.org/>

The Gladney Center, a nonprofit adoption agency in Fort Worth, posts text descriptions and some pictures of children from abroad.

vacy Journal, thinks the listings have great potential but worries about abuse. Besides the dangers of stalking or abductions if kids are identifiable, he says some people could download and alter photo images.

But none of that bothers Julie and Joe Fugazzi. The Independence, Ky., couple spent years struggling with infertility treatments before going on line last fall. There, they found the "Precious in His Sight" listing run by

Annette Thompson in Waco. The site includes kids from several international adoption agencies.

The Fugazzis took their South Korean son home Feb. 11, six weeks after spotting him on the Internet.

"Joe was always playing on the computer, and it drove me totally bananas," says Julie Fugazzi, 27. "But I guess I can't complain about it any more. I never dreamed we'd find our child on a computer."

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National Adoption Center



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Adoption Center of Delaware Valley
Annual Report 1994-1995 _____



*"There are no unwanted children,
just unfound families."*

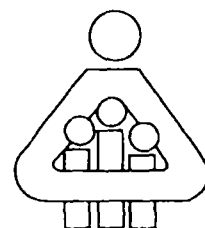
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*National
Adoption Center*
Annual Report 1994-1995



Family waiting to adopt teenager, siblings

Debra and Michael have always enjoyed the rewards and challenges of parenting. They each bring parenting experience to their marriage, having raised children from previous marriages.

Together, they are foster parents to two young siblings and are eager to expand their family through the adoption process.

Debra and Michael have had positive experiences caring for teenage girls and are interested in adopting an adolescent girl or sisters. They are able to consider children with mild disabilities, excluding mental retardation.

Debra is a stay-at-home mom and Michael works as a stockbroker. They enjoy many family activities, such as cooking, swimming and gardening. Both Debra and Michael come from family-oriented backgrounds and have the commitment, support, and stability needed to parent a waiting child or children.

If you would like further information on this family, please contact Debbie Spinks at the National Adoption Center, E-mail debbie, or call (215) 735-9988.

Technology Conference... (from p. 3)

- * **Linda Williams**- South Carolina Seedlings & SEEUS (Southeastern United States Adoption Exchange)
- * **Ann Cutler**- Kentucky Adoption Resource Exchange
- * **Wynn Hollingshead**- Ohio Adoption Resource Exchange
- * **Marilyn Panichi**- Adoption Information Center of Illinois
- * **Kathy Karp**- My Turn Now (GA)

Introducing Russell Heid: Marketing Specialist

After five years of keeping Russell Heid's considerable talents to ourselves, the National Adoption Center has decided to share his abilities with our Exchange members. Russell played an integral role in the Center's Finance and Administration Departments and assumes his new position as NAE's Marketing Specialist with tremendous enthusiasm.

"I'm looking forward to talking to members and helping them utilize more of the features of the National Adoption Exchange," Russell explains. For members who are still feeling tentative about their first foray into the computer world, Russell will be happy to "hold your hand" and provide technical support as you explore the many services of the Exchange.

In addition to providing technical support to members, Russell will be explaining the innovations to the Exchange that will allow members to use the Internet. Right now, you can register children on Faces of Adoption, the Center's Internet site, as well as on the Exchange. This will tremendously expand the children's chances of finding a placement.

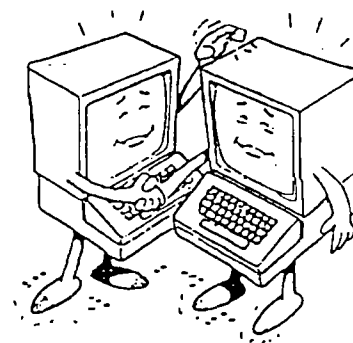
One Church, One Child... (from p. 5)

Through a recent grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's Families for Kids project, One Church One Child will be working with others to establish an African American Adoption Center for the recruitment, assessment and approval of adoptive families for special needs children.



The Friendly User is published bi-monthly by the National Adoption Exchange (NAE), a program of the National Adoption Center. The NAE is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Children and Youth Services.

Executive Director: Carolyn L. Johnson
Deputy Executive Director: MariAnne Clarke
NAE Marketing Specialist: Russell Heid
Editor: Mady Prowler
Contributors: Sue Badeau, Sue Flaxman, Anna Huston, Marty Jones, Debbie Spinks and Doug Weber



The Friendly User

Newsletter of the National Adoption Exchange
A program of the National Adoption Center
1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701, Philadelphia PA 19102, (215) 735-9988
Login: (215) 735-9717, (215) 735-9724 at 14,400 baud; E-mail: Admin
Faces of Adoption: <http://www.adopt.org/adopt>

Volume 36

February 1996



The "Tech Team" (back l. to r.): MariAnne Clarke, Russell Heid, Doug Weber (front l. to r.): Sue Badeau, and Sue Flaxman

Tech team tuning up

New faces abound at the National Adoption Center, as the computer "Tech Team" grows to meet the Center's expanding use of computers to create families. Our "techies," who bring a wealth of adoption and computer experience to their positions and are working together to incorporate the Exchange onto the Internet.

MariAnne Clarke, the Center's Deputy Executive Director, has been with the Center for 15 years. Her interest in technology has led the Center to find new ways to utilize computers to match children and families and provide up-to-date information to adoption professionals and parents.

Sue Flaxman, Project Manager of Faces of Adoption, is actively adding photographs and descriptions of waiting children to our Internet site. To date, there are more than 125 listings. She oversees AdoptionQuest, a feature con-

taining valuable adoption-related information that is frequently updated and expanded. This work is being done in conjunction with CAP (Children Awaiting Parents), who share this two-year grant with the Center.

Sue Badeau, Project Manager of the Exchanging Technologies Program, has surveyed Exchanges throughout the country to find out about their use of technology and is sharing that information with the Center's Tech Team.

Maggie Marshall, Information Specialist for the NAE, has been uploading interesting information onto the Bulletin Board. Members are encouraged to add information that they would like to share; a step-by-step guide on how to do this is included on page 4.

Russell Heid, Marketing Specialist, has begun contacting NAE members to help with any problems and discuss new services being developed.

Doug Weber, Management Consultant, is organizing the new database design and installation plan that will allow the Exchange to be seen on the Internet.

Placement News

A recent placement has been made as a direct result of an NAE computer-generated match.

Jonathan, 6, and Matthew, 9, siblings from Texas, were placed with a single mother in Indiana. Jonathan has cerebral palsy. Matthew is legally blind. Their new mom is a physical therapist and has adopted other special needs children.

In the spotlight: The New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services

The New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services has had its most successful year in finding families for many of its hard-to-place children. Kay Pride, the state's Adoption Exchange Coordinator, believes that much of their success is due to their use of all available outlets to find families. They actively seek families through the NAE, Faces of Adoption, newspaper, magazine and television features, match parties and videotapes and photographs of children that are distributed.

After families have been recruited, Pride takes an open-minded approach. "I look at **all** the families who've expressed an interest in our children — many are non-traditional. Like Peter's family, for example," she points out.

Peter, 15, was adopted by the Young family in Lakeland, Florida, after spending nearly three-quarters of his life in foster care. "A lot of agencies would have automatically disqualified this family because of its size — they have 20 children! But, it's been a successful placement," Pride explains.

New Jersey does not hesitate to place children out-of-state, but sometimes it takes a little convincing on Pride's part to win the consent of the child's social worker. "Some workers have legitimate reasons for wanting to keep a child in state. Perhaps they to maintain contact with siblings," Pride says. "But, 'there's too much paperwork' should never be an acceptable reason."

New Jersey has been a regular user of the Exchange since January, 1987. Pride's only frustration is not having more time to use the system. Once a match is made, her next step is to advocate on behalf of the placement with the child's social worker, particularly in the case of non-traditional families.

"I don't want a child to lose a chance at having a permanent home because of someone's personal biases," says Pride, who notes that she has won more than she's lost in advocating for her matches.

What's new in technology?

by Sue Badeau

(Note: This column will be a regular feature of The Friendly User, highlighting creative and/or innovative ideas from members to show that using new technology can be fun, painless, and rewarding. If you have a product, technique, or service that you would like to see featured in this column, please contact Sue Badeau at the Center.)

AASK Midwest creates custom calendar

In 1994, an AASK Midwest employee and self-described, "computer whacko" approached the director with the idea for creating a customized color calendar. The goal was to present it as a gift and motivational tool for board members and field representatives. The idea caught on and became a reality in time for Christmas giving.

January features a photo of the field reps and their families; and the remaining months feature photos of children registered with AASK Midwest. The final product is stunning.

Everyone loved the calendar. Who wouldn't? With gorgeous color photographs of children on every page, it is truly a masterpiece and will not be thrown out on December 31st. Anyone who uses photo-listing books or "Faces" on the Internet clearly recognizes the value of seeing real kids' faces.

The entire project was created in-house, using a computer, scanner and color laser-jet printer. An excellent software package for creating custom calendars is "Calendar Creator Plus" version 2 for Windows, produced by Spinnaker through SoftKey International. It is "user friendly" and offers a great deal of versatility.

A sample will be available for review at the "Exchanging Technologies" conference, September 26-28 in Hilton Head, SC.

NAE welcomes One Church, One Child Membership on the Exchange has its privileges

We are delighted to welcome One Church One Child of South Carolina to the Exchange. For Edna Faust, the organization's Executive Director, this membership continues a very satisfying relationship. While working at the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Ms. Faust used the Exchange to match their waiting children. When she accepted her new position, she knew the value of NAE membership and advocated joining to list the organization's studied families.

One Church One Child was originally established by Chicago priest Father Clements to encourage churches to recruit adoptive families for African American children in foster care. Local organizations work with churches in their community.

Since its inception in 1986, the South Carolina group and the state's Department of Social Services have joined forces to feature more than 200 children in church bulletins. Member churches have provided financial assistance to prospective families to help them meet state guidelines for home heating or to pay for physical examinations. *(continued on p. 6)*

Twins, 5, need adoptive family

Kandice's routine is the same every school day. She gets off the bus and awaits the arrival of her twin sister Katrice. When she arrives, Kandice helps her with her coat, makes sure she has a snack and does her best to entertain her.

The most remarkable thing about these twins is their bond. Katrice is autistic and she shows a blank, expressionless face to the world. Kandice is extremely protective of "Treecy," as she calls her twin.

Kandice is a bright and bouncy little girl. She has some developmental delays, but is in a regular kindergarten class this year.

For more information, contact National Adoption Center Adoption Coordinator Becky Birtha at (215) 735-9988 or via E-mail at becca.

Membership on NAE has its benefits. You have the unique ability to match children and families via computer, to communicate with other members and to access information on various topics of adoption. If you haven't taken full advantage of these services, now is the time. And, you can list your children on Faces of Adoption at no additional cost.

"Faces of Adoption"

This program is an exciting new way for families to learn about children who need permanent homes. Through this easy-to-use, computerized photolisting book on the Internet, millions of families can "meet" children who are waiting to be adopted. Any child registered on NAE can be put on the Internet. To access "Faces," the URL is <http://www.adopt.org/adopt>

"Search Feature of NAE"

Through this feature of the NAE database, members can search nationwide for a waiting child or family. The feature provides extensive search criteria and detailed information about cases. The system will automatically print a letter addressed to the appropriate social worker once a match is made.

"Communications and Information"

Through the E-mail component, members can send messages and information to other members or several members simultaneously.

Members can access the latest adoption information choosing from more than 50 topic areas. Once the information is found, it can be viewed on screen or printed on your printer.

Training and walk-throughs are available to any member. If there is a new person in your organization or you just need a "brush-up" session, call Russell Heid, NAE Marketing Specialist, to find out more about the advantages of being an NAE member.

How can I post items on the Bulletin Board?

A number of Exchange members have expressed an interest in posting information on the Exchange bulletin board. Here's how to do it...go ahead, it's easy!

1. Dial into and log on to the NAE
2. Arrow down to Bulletin Boards
3. With the menu highlight on **VIEW**, press **ENTER** (or just press "V" for view)
4. Arrow down to the main (capitalized) bulletin board that represents the primary topic area under which you want to post an item and press **ENTER**.
5. Now you need to select a sub-bulletin board topic. Arrow down to the topic and press **ENTER** (or "V" for view)
6. To post your item, select the **ADD** option from your menu. (Either arrow over to "ADD" and press **ENTER**, or just press "A" on your keyboard).
7. You will be presented with a screen where the first option is to type in a "Subject" heading, which becomes the title for your posting on the bulletin board.
8. Once you have entered a Subject title, press **TAB** to go to the Text Source choices for creating a posting.
9. Spacebar over to the upload option (so it is highlighted) and press **ENTER**.
10. Your screen should look like this:

Subject: (You already typed this)

NAE Upload Options

Destination: text

Transfer mode: Xmodem

Conversation: (blank)

Additional Information for Attachments Only

Attachment type: undefined

Attachment Description: (blank)

Number Already Prepared: 0

11. Press **ENTER** to continue with the upload process.
12. At the bottom of the screen, you are asked to enter a file name. This must include the "path" to the file, such as C:\dougs\thisone.dos. Type in the file name, with path if necessary, and press **ENTER**.
13. Your system will now find the file and proceed with the upload procedure. You will need to wait until it completes sending the number of blocks of data representing the total file size (in blocks).
14. The system will return control back to you when the upload is done. You can now see your the title of your posting among the list of items for the bulletin board you selected. To look at your results, you can highlight your item title and press **ENTER** or "view."

User-Friendly Communication: Taking Exchanges into the 21st Century

The National Adoption Center and the Adoption Exchange Association are pleased to announce the first *Exchanging Technologies Conference* to be held at the Radisson Resort in Hilton Head, South Carolina on September 25, 26 and 27, 1996. This conference will be part of the biennial Adoption Exchange Association Conference--one registration fee will apply for both. This gathering will provide an exciting opportunity for adoption exchanges and other adoption professionals and advocates from around the country to gather and talk *technology*. Exciting hands-on technology demonstrations and exhibits will be offered, as well.

An advisory committee will assist in conference planning and other aspects of the project. "I am especially delighted at the diversity we have within the committee," Badeau explains. "We have representation from both public and private exchanges, large and small, from many regions of the country. We really have a range of technological backgrounds, from technology whizzes to true neophytes."

The advisory committee met in Chicago in February to define the September conference and develop the applications for 40 or more travel stipends to be awarded to exchanges needing assistance to attend the conference.

Committee members are:

- * **Jennifer Richey** - Adoption Exchange Association
- * **Colleen Ellingson** - Special Needs Adoption Network of Wisconsin
- * **Ella Zamora** - Texas Adoption Resource Exchange
- * **Kirsta Grapentine** - Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
- * **Anita Ivy** - Family Builders Minority Adoption Exchange

(continued on p. 6)

Interface

by Sue Flaxman



(This will be a regular feature in The Friendly User.)

We are proud to report to you that Faces of Adoption has been rated!

NetGuide Magazine, a "must read" for Internet users, has announced that Faces of Adoption has received a four-star rating in its February issue as a primary resource for on-line users. We know that this recognition will boost the number of users and bring adoption information to many who were previously unaware of our website.

More exciting news! The search feature, that allows users of "Faces" to search for children based on a specific criteria, is finally up and running. This much-awaited feature has been eagerly accepted and is being continuously used.

Word of mouth travels fast. We are hearing from people who have never used computers before but who want to get on-line because they have heard about our cutting edge technology. While computers and technology can be intimidating, people from all over the country are using this medium to learn about adoption and to search for children.

Your E-mail messages let us know that you like our work and want more. Congratulations on developing "Faces" and inquiries about featured children have filled our screens. The most frequent request is, "Please put more children on-line." We are continually working on that.

If you have not put your registered children on-line, it's time to act. A few minutes of paperwork can make a difference in a child's life. If you have any questions, please contact me at the National Adoption Center, (215) 735-9988.

A Special Thank You To...

Everyone who helped to make the 12th Annual Celebrity, Sports, and Vacation Gala and Auction a success, especially:

- * Auction Chairman Brian Gail for his superb leadership.
- * Honorary Chairpersons Dick and Carol Vermeil.
- * Corporate Committee members.
- * Our three fabulous auctioneers-Don Tollefson, Jack Brayboy, and Stan Hochman.
- * The Philadelphia Phillies for donating the raffle prize--a trip to Phillies Dream Week in Clearwater, FL.
- * Wendy's International, Inc.-Eastern Division, their friends and vendors.
- * The auction co-sponsors: American Airlines, ARAMARK Corporation, Centennial Printing, the Philadelphia Phillies, and Wendy's International, Inc.-Eastern Division.
- * Celebrities who donated sketches to the auction.
- * Ad buyers, auction item donors and bidders, sponsors, guests, and the many volunteers who supported us.
- * The 1995 Planning Committee for its commitment and ideas.

The Arcadia Foundation for its generous support of the Center's public education and family recruitment efforts.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption for enabling us to bring "Faces of Adoption" to prospective families nationwide via the Internet.

ARAMARK Corporation for donating boxed lunches for waiting children and prospective families at the Center's Match Party last spring.

The Connelly Foundation and The Philadelphia Foundation for their support of the Center's campaign to find homes for African American boys.

The following corporations and foundations for their generous donations:

- * Children's Charities of America
- * Commonwealth Risk Services
- * Independent Charities of America
- * Superior Restaurants, Inc.
- * Target Foods, Inc.
- * The Marcus Family Foundation
- * The Claneil Foundation
- * The Barra Foundation

- * The Intelligent Electronics Foundation
- * The Philadelphia Foundation
- * Union Benevolent Foundation
- * W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- * Wendy's International, Inc.
- * Wendy's International, Inc.- Eastern Division

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The Adoption Update is a publication of the National Adoption Center and the Adoption Center of Delaware Valley. Questions and information for the newsletter can be sent to the Editor, 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215-735-9988.

Executive Director:
Carolyn L. Johnson
Deputy Executive Director:
MariAnne Clarke
Director of Communications and Marketing:
Gloria Hochman
Director of Development:
Elaine Angert
Director of Finance and Administration:
Jane Ruck
Editors:
Mady Prowler
Anna Huston

National Adoption Center
1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701
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Adoption Update

Summer/Fall 1995

A publication of the National Adoption Center & the Adoption Center of Delaware Valley



The Inglese family, from Tobyhanna, PA. L. to R.: Nick, 13, Larry, and Jason, 14, shared their adoption story with families who attended a Center-sponsored Match Party in Allentown, PA.

Family Talks of Adjustment to Adoption

When Larry Inglese saw 12-year-old Jason at a Center-sponsored Match Party, he knew immediately that he wanted to make Jason a part of his family.

"I had absolutely no plans of adopting a teenager two years ago," remembers Inglese. "I was interested in adopting a child with severe physical disabilities or mental retardation--someone whom I thought nobody wanted."

But what Inglese found at the party, where families approved for adoption met waiting children, was another group of children--teenage boys who have been in the foster care system for too long and are usually the last to be adopted. From this group, Inglese spotted Jason. "I fell in love with Jason the moment I met him."

This love was tested often during the stormy first months after Jason's arrival at his new home. He was having trouble following the rules of the house, trouble getting along with his new brother, Nick, and a lot of trouble in school.

"It was a difficult adjustment," says Inglese. "I was getting daily calls from the school telling me that Jason was completely out of control."

He was verbally abusive to his teachers and classmates, aggressive and disruptive. The school was preparing to move him out of classes for children with learning disabilities and have him reclassified as "socially and emotionally disturbed."

During this turbulent time, Inglese was in constant contact with social

(continued on p. 2)

"Faces of Adoption" on the Internet

Interested families have yet another tool in their quest to adopt--their home computers. An innovative program, "Faces of Adoption: America's Waiting Children," allows families to "meet" children through a computerized photo listing book on the Internet. Families can search for specific types of children or browse through the listing of the hundreds of available American children.

In addition, users can find a wealth of adoption-related information, including articles, "how-to guides," bibliographies, resource lists, and postings of conferences and seminars.

All that's needed is a computer, modem and an Internet account (i.e. America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe), and the specialized software received from the on-line service. "Faces of Adoption" can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.adopt.org/> adopt. See you on-line!

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Executive Director's Message



Carolyn L. Johnson

Dear Friends,

Tears welled up in my eyes as I listened to Jason, whom you met on p.1, recount his story of years spent in foster homes, waiting for a family of his own. He told prospective adopters about his struggle at a recent adoption Match Party.

Two years ago, he attended a similar party, sure that no one would be interested in meeting him. Who would want a teenager who tested anyone who tried to get close? One man decided to take a chance. Their road has had its challenges, but they have forged a solid bond. Jason is one of the lucky ones.

What will happen to the others who remain mired in the foster care system depends, unfortunately, on the mood of Congress. Right now, there is a debate raging about the block granting of child welfare programs.

Included is the Adoption Opportunities Act that supports creative ways of bringing families and children together, like Match Parties and the Center's computerized National Adoption Exchange, on which a child from one part of the country can be matched with a family from another.

Funding for the Center's 1-800-TO-ADOPT number that allows families, like the Ludwigs above, to respond to a national television program or public service announcement and be directed to local services is jeopardized.

Also slated to be block granted is the subsidy given to families who have adopted children with special needs under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The loss of this funding seriously threatens those caring for challenging children.

We've seen how adoption can dramatically change a child's life. Jason's story renews our commitment to do all we can to maintain the programs that will allow every waiting child a chance to know the love and security of a permanent family.

Florida Family Adopts Five Featured on Povich

Last summer, the Center's telephones rang continuously as families wanted to know how to adopt an irresistible group of four sisters and a brother who had been featured on the *Maury Povich Show*.

The Ludwig family, from Port Richey, FL, had their wish realized as Monica, Amy, Angela, Carla, and Brandon joined their family just before the winter holidays.

According to their proud mother, the children are "blossoming" in their adoptive family that now numbers 15!

News flash: A second *Maury Povich Show* focusing on older children who need adoptive families will be broadcast this fall. Updates will be given on the children who appeared last year and have since found families. Additionally, a new group of waiting children from throughout the country will be featured.



The Ludwig family of Port Richey, FL, adopted a sibling group of five featured on the *Maury Povich Show*.

Jason's Story...continued from p.1

workers seeking their input about how to help.

"I was really afraid that they would take him away from us if I said I was having problems," says Inglese. "But, things couldn't go on the way they were. The kid was in a lot of pain."

On the suggestion of the social workers, the family began counseling and started on the road to healing. It was during one of his therapy sessions that Jason, for the first time, spoke openly of why he was having difficulty adjusting to his new home. He felt guilty and disloyal to his birth mother by being happy.

Jason's early life was one of constant uncertainty and change. He was shuttled back and forth between foster homes and his birth family, living in nearly a dozen different homes from the time he was a toddler. Ultimately, Jason's birth mother voluntarily relinquished her parental rights, but Jason never had the opportunity to say good-bye to her.

Jason's therapist believed that he needed closure in his relationship with his mother if he was ever going to find contentment with his new family.

"Now that we knew what the

problem was, we began trying to fix it," says Inglese. The therapist had suggested a face-to-face meeting with his birth mother, but because the adoption wasn't finalized, such a meeting was not advisable. A letter would have to do.

Jason "poured out his heart" in his letter to his mother, asking her permission to move on with his life. There was no guarantee that she would respond, but there was a noticeable turnaround in Jason's behavior soon after its writing. "For the first time, Jason was able to express what he was feeling," remembers Inglese. "It was like a giant weight being lifted from the kid." A greater burden was lifted when Jason's birth mother wrote back, giving him her blessing to move on with his life.

Since that time, Jason has shared his story with prospective adoptive parents, urging them to consider older children when they think about adoption. He speaks honestly about the problems he had and lovingly about his adoptive father, who never gave up on him.

He also plans to have that face-to-face meeting with his birth mother now that the adoption is finalized. Jason's father has promised to do whatever it takes to put Jason's mind at ease.

Center Happenings...



Adoption in the Workplace was on the agenda at the 1995 NACAC conference. Working together on this W.K. Kellogg Foundation initiative are (l. to r.): Paul Vander Velde, Program Associate, and Valora Washington, Vice President-Programs, Kellogg Foundation; Suzanne Camp, Adoption Benefits Specialist and Mady Prowler, Project Director, National Adoption Center; and Jann Heffner, Executive Director, The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.



The Adoption Center was honored with a Smithsonian/Computer World award for its use of technology in human services. Pictured (l. to r.): Project Officer for the National Adoption Exchange Roland Sneed; Exchange Administrator Mary Ehart; Center Executive Director Carolyn L. Johnson, and KPMG Peat Marwick representative Craig Fox.



The 12th Annual Celebrity, Sports, Vacation Gala and Auction raised more than \$100,000 for the Center. Pictured (l. to r.): Auction Chairman Brian Gail; Center Board President Sally Stetson; Auctioneers Don Tollefson, Stan Hochman and Jack Brayboy, and friends.



Among the participants at the Region III Minority Adoption Conference in Virginia Beach (l. to r.): Center Communications Specialist Marty Jones; Family Therapist Dr. Joseph Crumbley; Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Carol Williams; NACAC Public Policy Analyst Jacquelyn Bailey-Kidd; and Children Welfare Specialist, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Delores A. Smith.



U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) gets a demonstration of the Center's computerized Exchange during his recent visit.



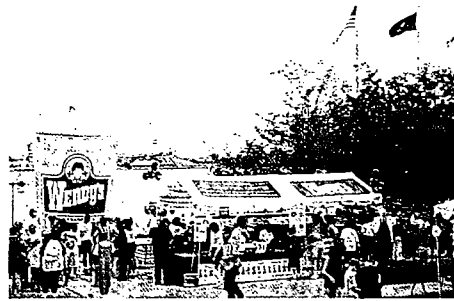
KPMG Peat Marwick was awarded the Center's Alison Award for its assistance in the development of the National Adoption Exchange and "Faces of Adoption" projects. Pictured (l. to r.): KPMG representatives Steven Shear, Denise Albrecht, and Allan Frank; Center Deputy Executive Director MariAnne Clarke; and KPMG Peat Marwick Managing Partner-Philadelphia Office Charles Hopkins.

Wendy's Fall Line-Up

For Wendy's, every season offers a unique opportunity for promoting adoption. This fall is no exception. A poster featuring the smiling faces of children with special needs waiting to be adopted will greet Wendy's patrons at restaurants throughout the country. A popular decoration, the poster encourages interested families to call the Center's 800 number for further information.

Halloween excitement is doubled with the Safe Treat Family Coupon book that is a special treat for many youthful tricksters. This year's book, valued at \$60, will be on sale for one dollar at all Philadelphia, Harrisburg, southern New Jersey, Delaware, and New York area Wendy's stores beginning October 1, 1995. All proceeds from the coupon book sales will go to Center programs.

Golf enthusiasts are counting the days until the National Adoption Center's Third Annual Golf Classic to be held on Monday, November 6, 1995 at White Manor Country Club in Malvern,



Wendy's Inc.-Eastern Division participated in Philadelphia's "Welcome America" celebration at Penn's Landing, raising more than \$2,000 for the Center.

PA. This tournament, held during National Adoption Month, is sponsored by Wendy's-Eastern Division. Craig Schultz, Eastern Division Franchisee Director, is once again chairing the event. The tourney is a great way to show off your summer form while supporting the Center's programs. If you are interested in participating or in becoming a sponsor, contact Elaine Angert at the Center.

Adoption and the Workplace Project Underway

Do you have adoption benefits where you work? Paul Meringolo, an employee of Johnson & Johnson, did when he and his wife adopted a baby girl from China in 1994, and they virtually made the adoption possible.

"My company recognizes that families come together in different ways," stated Meringolo, after hearing about the newest National Adoption Center initiative, *Adoption and the Workplace*. By providing resource and referral information, financial help and leave time, my wife and I were able to successfully complete the adoption of our daughter."

Michael Jim, a service representative at Mutual of New York, was unprepared for the stress and delays surrounding the adoption of his son, Alexander, in 1994, from Brazil. What was to be a three-week stay in that country became six weeks for him--and a total of 10 months for his wife.

Jim spent an additional six weeks in

Brazil when the adoption was finalized. He was able to use vacation and time without pay to cover his time away from work. As Jim explained, "My company did everything possible to support me during the adoption process. I am grateful for the understanding my supervisor had for my work and my family."

The *Adoption and the Workplace* initiative, a joint project with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, is designed to establish and/or improve adoption benefits for employees in the private and public sectors. This three-year project, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, will provide a comprehensive information package on adoption benefits for employers and materials for families who want to advocate for adoption benefits at work. A national database of employers offering adoption benefits is being compiled.

For more information about this project, contact Suzanne Camp.

Remembrances

All gifts are acknowledged with a card sent to the person or family remembered.

In memory of Stan Hochman's mother, Rose:

- * Fran Metzman
- * Joan Leof
- * Carolyn Johnson

In memory of Polly Toll's mother:

- * Fran Metzman

In memory of Sophie Katz:

- * Don and Mady Prowler

In memory of Agnes Simko:

- * Richard W. Nichols

In memory of Sylvia Granite:

- * The Metzman and Weirman families

Legislative Update

As of late August, the following programs have been approved for block granting by the House and are scheduled for further debate in the Senate before action is taken:

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act:

An entitlement program that provides adoption assistance to families adopting children with special needs. Presently, the federal government reimburses 50-80% of the states' adoption assistance.

Adoption Opportunities Act:

This act provides for essential national services, including: training, recruitment of families for minority children and children with special needs*, matching of children and families on a national exchange*, dissemination of information and technical assistance to states.

Contact your representatives and senators for more information about these programs and to express your opinion.

* vital services of the National Adoption Center

Annual Giving Boosts Center's Mission

Thanks to the federal and state employees, and military personnel who generously support the National Adoption Center through the Combined Federal Campaign and state employee payroll deduction campaigns, the Center is helped to continue its efforts to find homes for the thousands of children who need permanent families.

Here's how you can help. To become a donor through:

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) asks federal employees and military personnel to select charitable organizations to support through payroll deductions. The National Adoption Center participates as a member of **Children's Charities of America**. Our number is **1524**.

STATE EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGNS

The National Adoption Center participates in states' employee campaigns as an agency/member of **Independent Charities of America**. The designated number varies from state to state.

UNITED WAY

The Adoption Center of Delaware Valley, an affiliate of the National Adoption Center, is eligible to receive

funds through the Donor Choice Program. You must request a **Donor Choice** form from your employer and indicate that you want to contribute to the Adoption Center of Delaware Valley by checking the box marked **Specific Care** and writing the code number **N00556**.

CITY CAMPAIGNS

City of Philadelphia employees can make a contribution through the City of Philadelphia Employees Combined Campaign. The code number is **N00556**.

Your pledge through these campaigns will make a real difference in the life of a child. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Angert at the Center.



Annual giving helps children like James find families. For more information about James or other waiting children, turn to p. 4.

Adoption Experts to Speak at Conferences

Two of the most highly regarded figures in adoption will be featured speakers at upcoming conferences, sponsored by the Adoption Center.

Zena Oglesby, Executive Director of the Institute for Black Parenting and an expert in minority adoption, will deliver the keynote address at the "Adoption Works!" conference for families and professionals on Saturday, November 18, 1995, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Philadelphia College of Bible in Langhorne, PA. He will be leading a workshop for professionals on the recruitment and retention of minority families and one on issues in transracial adoption for families.

Vera Fahlberg, M.D., a celebrated pediatrician and psychotherapist who has written several books about adoption-related issues, will be the keynote speaker at the conference, "Forging Connections: Attachment, Mental Health, and Adoption" on Friday, March 8, 1996 at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

Fahlberg will conduct a morning training session and then be joined by other adoption professionals for a variety of workshops focusing on adoption and mental health.

For more information, please contact Linda Wilson at the Center.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 1, 1995:

Wendy's Safe Treat Family Coupon Books go on sale until Halloween in Wendy's locations in Southeastern PA. Harrisburg, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.

Wednesday, October 11, 1995:

The 1st Annual Howard Eskin Golf Challenge, Ashbourne Country Club, Cheltenham, PA. Co-sponsored by Ashbourne Country Club and Somerton Springs Golf Shop.

Wednesday, October 18, 1995:

"Make A Difference Day" at 13 Philadelphia area Strawbridge and Clothier stores.

November 1995:

National Adoption Month and Match Party. Details will follow.

Monday, November 6, 1995:

The National Adoption Center's Third Annual Golf Classic, sponsored by Wendy's, Inc.-Eastern Division, White Manor Country Club, Malvern, PA.

Saturday, November 18, 1995:

"Adoption Works!" conference, featuring Zena Oglesby, Executive Director of the Institute for Black Parenting, at Philadelphia College of Bible, Langhorne, PA.

Friday, March 8, 1995:

"Forging Connections: Attachment, Mental Health and Adoption" conference featuring Vera Fahlberg, M.D., at Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA.

For more information about any of the upcoming events, please contact the Adoption Center at 215-735-9988.

Waiting Children...Waiting Children...Waiting Children

The following children are among the 100,000 nationwide who are waiting for permanent families. The National Adoption Center works to promote and expand adoption opportunities for children with special needs and children from minority cultures. The children are older; some have physical, emotional, or learning disabilities. More than half of the children who wait are African American. To find out more about making any of the featured children a part of your family, please contact an Adoption Coordinator at the Center.



James, age 10

James has a flare for performing. He takes acting and singing lessons weekly. He also enjoys dancing and is a member of his church's bell choir. Always hungry for knowledge, James likes to visit museums and participate in cultural events.

James attends special education classes because of his emotional problems. He entered foster care as an infant and has experienced many moves. James is receiving counseling to help him understand his past. His social worker is looking for a one or two-parent family who is willing to provide James with the one-on-one attention he needs.

Sherry, age 10

Precocious Sherry is a talkative child who does best with individual attention. She likes to play on the swings at a nearby playground or to spend time coloring and painting. She enjoys giving her artwork to people who have been nice to her.

Sherry comes from an abusive background and is receiving counseling to help her deal with her feelings. She receives medication to control impulsive behavior.

Her worker is seeking a family with experience parenting children with severe emotional problems.



Bobby, age 12

Bobby is happiest when he is outside playing ball--whether it is soccer, football, baseball, or basketball. He is able to perform well in school with the help of medication for attention deficit disorder and hyperactivity.

Bobby entered foster care for the first time at age 2 and has experienced many losses. He is receiving therapy to help him learn to trust again. He needs parents with patience and the ability to help him build a loving relationship.

Waiting Children...Waiting Children...Waiting Children



Laquetta, age 10

Laquetta is a bright girl who thoroughly enjoys school. In addition to being consistently on the Honor Roll, she is active in many school-related activities, including writing for her school newspaper and playing the violin in the orchestra.

In her spare time, Laquetta can be found listening to music and reading fashion magazines. She also enjoys helping her foster mother with the household chores. Her foster mother describes Laquetta as "a joy to have around."

Coming from an abusive background, Laquetta will require counseling throughout her childhood and a supportive, loving family.

Michael, age 4

Michael catches everyone's eye with his big brown eyes, curly eyelashes and dimpled smile.

Michael has fetal alcohol syndrome that causes severe developmental delays in all areas.

He is making steady progress with the help of early intervention services, including physical, occupational, and speech therapy four times a week.

His social worker is looking for a family who will help him reach his fullest potential, while recognizing his limitations.



Natasha, 6, Victoria, 5, and Tracy, 4

Natasha can often be found playing school, teaching her sister and brother their ABC's and how to count. This sensitive youngster has a heart abnormality that is gradually improving and does not require surgery.

Victoria (don't call me Vicki. My name is Victoria!) is the most outgoing member of the group. Talkative and full of personality, she enjoys meeting new people and visiting places.

The baby of the group is Tracy. He is a whirlwind of energy and is in constant motion. Mealtime is the only time he will remain seated for awhile. According to his foster mother, "This boy can eat!"

All of the children are healthy and developmentally on target.