

1997 Adoption 2002 Excellence Award Winners

North American Council on Adoptable Children

Resources for Adoptive Parents

Post Adoption Resources of Athens County Children's Services

National Adoption Center

Jack Williams, Senior News Anchor, WBZ-TV 4

Sherrie Coy

Hector and Sue Badeau (baa-DOE)

Torin Scott

Bernell and Della Neal

Wendy's International and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

South Carolina Families for Kids

Lucas County Children's Services

BACKGROUND

On December 14, 1996 the President issued a directive to the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Labor, and Commerce and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to double, over the next five years, the number of children from the foster care system who are adopted or placed in other permanent placements. In response to the directive the Department of Human Services prepared a report, "Adoption 2002," with several proposed action steps would be implemented to achieve the goal. One of these proposed action steps was to collaborate with foundations and intergovernmental organizations to establish annual awards to recognize States, local agencies, courts, private organizations, employers and others who are making key contributions to this national effort to support adoption and to promote permanency for children in foster care. The first awards are to be announced this month to celebrate National Adoption Month.

DEVELOPING THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS/SELECTING THE NOMINEES

A planning group was established to develop recommendations for the award structure and process. The group included representatives from State and private non-profit agency adoption managers, adoption advocates, national child welfare advocate groups, adoptive parents, the foundation and business community, other governmental departments, and Children's Bureau/NCCAN staff. This group developed a nomination and selection plan/process, which included eligibility criteria for the awards. These materials were presented to the Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau for approval and then disseminated to more than 2300 adoption/child welfare advocates and organizations.

Over 130 nominations, in nine categories, were received by the deadline, October 13, 1997. Nominations were received from State agencies, city and county agencies, private non-profit adoption agencies, adoptive parents, adoption organizations, adoption staff, adoption advocates, adoption experts, foundations and media outlets.

Consistent with the plan, Children's Bureau staff, assisted by the staff from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget (ASMB) developed a review and scoring process, very similar to the one used to review and score discretionary grants. On October 23, 1997, the nominations were reviewed by panels, using the criteria contained in the guidelines, and recommendations were made for award winners.

A total of 13 recommendations, in six award categories, were forwarded to the Secretary Shalala for review and approval.

11/18/97 05:16PM FAXCOM

49412

3

1997 ADOPTION 2002 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

There are a total of 13 recommended awards, in six award categories. No awardees were selected in the "Increased Adoptions," "Increased Permanency for Children with Special Needs," and "Applied Scholarship and/or Research" categories.

INCREASED ADOPTIONS

There were twelve nominations reviewed. No awardee was selected.

INCREASED PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There were 17 nominations reviewed. No awardee was selected.

SUPPORT FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

There were 19 nominations reviewed. Three awardees were selected.

AWARDEE: North American Council on Adoptable
Children (NACAC)

ADDRESS: 970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106
St. Paul, MN 55114-1149
PH: (612) 644-3036
FAX: (612) 644-9848

CONTACT: Joe Kroll, Executive Director
Reverend Wilbert Talley, Board President

NOMINATOR: Torin Scott, President, Adoption Advocacy
Foundation, Inc., (602) 542-9410

Since it's inception twenty-three years ago, NACAC has provided direct support to over 200 adoptive parent support groups. It is responsible for hosting the largest adoption training conference in North America that brings together over 1,200 parents, children and professionals. They also distribute over 20,000 adoption fact sheets per month. Possibly their greatest contribution has been their involvement in providing information to the adoption community concerning subsidies. They have provided subsidy profiles for all 50 states on the world wide web and prepared a user's guide that explains all the federal rulings related to Title IV-E Adoption Assistance and Permanency programs.

AWARDEE: Resources for Adoptive Parents (RAP)

4

ADDRESS: 3381 Gorham Avenue #212
Minneapolis, MN 55426-4240
PH: (612) 926-6959
FAX: (612) 926-0519*2

CONTACT: Peggy Myer, Executive Director

NOMINATOR: Self-nomination

RAP is a non-profit organization that provides post-adoptive services to help families understand and deal with the complexity of adoption. They have become a national leader in the development and provision of responsive services for special needs adoptions. Their most significant program is their respite care camp and since it's inception in 1994 they have been able to provide 27,000 respite hours for families struggling with emotional and behavioral issues.

AWARDEE: Post Adoption Resources of
Athens County Children's Services

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1046
Athens, OH 45701
PH: (614) 592-3061
FAX: (614) 593-3880

CONTACT: Linda Well, Resource Unit Supervisor

NOMINATOR: Self nomination, Cheryl Proctor, Post Adoption
Caseworker, (614) 592-3061

The Post Adoption Resources program, formalized in 1990, has one goal: zero post legal adoption disruptions in Athens County. They have served over 1500 families with comprehensive supportive services and training and have met their goal to date. One of their unique programs is an annual adoptive family retreat weekend that now provides support and education to 80 families.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

There were sixteen nominations reviewed. One awardee was selected.

AWARDEE: National Adoption Center

ADDRESS: 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701
Philadelphia, PA 19102
PH: (215) 735-9988
FAX: (215) 735-9410

CONTACT: Carolyn Johnson, Executive Director

5

NOMINATOR: Alfred A. Outlaw, Board President, (215) 580-7164

"There are no unwanted children, just unfound parents." Since 1972, the National Adoption Center has been turning that conviction into reality. The Center has been able to find families for more than 7000 children...children with special needs and those who come from minority cultures. The Center has developed a strong liaison with the Maury Povich Show which now produces an hour-long special each year in November that features 20-25 waiting children and which usually results in 10,000 to 13,000 inquiries from interested families. Essence magazine has donated it's unsold advertising space to NAC to feature children who need families. They have produced public service announcements which feature President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton. Their website FACES of Adoption: America's Waiting Children now shows pictures and descriptions of over 300 children who wait for families - they now have over a million-and-a-half pages read each month.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

There were twenty-one nominations reviewed. Two awardees were selected.

AWARDEE: Jack Williams, Senior News Anchor
WBZ-TV 4

ADDRESS: 1170 Soldiers Field Road
Boston, MA 02134
PH: (617) 787-7049

CONTACT: Same as above

NOMINATOR: Carolyn E. Smith, Executive Director, MA Adoption
Resource Exchange, (617) 542-3678

Jack Williams is a news anchor for WBZ-TV 4 in Boston and has just begun his sixteenth year as host of "Wednesday's Child" - a weekly news segment promoting the adoption of children in the foster care system. To demonstrate the fact that "Wednesday's Child" procures placements, Mr. Williams also airs success stories that feature children after they've been adopted. In 1985, he and the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange began the Jack Williams' Ski Race for "Wednesday's Child" that has to date generated over one-and-a-half million dollars.

AWARDEE: Sherrie Coy, Adoptive Mother

ADDRESS: 4125 Wendy Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89115
PH: (702) 643-7574
FAX: (702) 244-8392

6

CONTACT: Same as above

NOMINATOR: Jeanette Wiedemeier Bower, NACAC, (612) 644-3036

Ms. Sherrie Coy is an adoptive mother who has worked persistently to affect legislative changes on behalf of other adoptive parents in Nevada. Her efforts resulted in the passage of a State Bill which allows parents to receive financial assistance if they adopt and later discover the child has special needs. The bill sets aside over \$100,000 in assistance for post-adoption services for eligible families.

FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS

There were eight nominations reviewed. Three awardees were selected.

AWARDEE: Hector and Sue Badeau, Adoptive Family (of 19)

ADDRESS: 30 Pelham Road
Philadelphia, PA 19119
PH: (215) 844-6641

CONTACT: Same as above

NOMINATOR: Sue Ann Badeau, Adoptee, (215) 844-3553

Hector and Sue Badeau have 21 children - 19 are adopted. Sue works at the National Adoption Center and Hector stays at home and takes care of the children and the home. Several of the children have special needs. The whole family is involved in adoption - speaking at conferences, writing letters to political leaders, and volunteering at events to make people aware of waiting children.

AWARDEE: Torin Scott, Adoptive Family (of 5)

ADDRESS: 8702 E. Malcomb Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
PH: (602) 951-8310

CONTACT: Same as above

NOMINATOR: Same as above

Torin Scott is a single parent of a grown foster daughter and five adopted children with special needs. The family has been featured in newspapers and magazines promoting the needs of special children and other adoption issues. Torin is the co-founder of the Adoption Advocacy Foundation which subsidizes costs of special needs adoptions and the co-founder of Advocates

7

for Single Adoptive Parents, a monthly support group.

AWARDEE: Bernell and Della Neal, Adoptive Family (of 11)

ADDRESS: 1300 Willard Street
Greensboro, NC 27405
PH: (910) 272-0082

CONTACT: Same as above

NOMINATOR: Ruth Amerson, Program Administrator, Another
Choice for Black Children, Inc., (919) 774-3534

Bernell and Della Neal have adopted eleven children, many with severe physical, emotional, and behavioral needs. They have met with adversity and many difficult situations but have demonstrated over and over again that nothing is impossible. Their family motto is "There's always room for one more".

APPLIED SCHOLARSHIP AND/OR RESEARCH

There were two nominations reviewed. No awardee was selected.

PHILANTHROPY

There were five nominations reviewed. Two awardees were selected.

AWARDEE: W. K. Kellogg Foundation

ADDRESS: #1 Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017
PH: (616) 966-3470

CONTACT: Valora Washington, Program Director

NOMINATOR: MaryLou Bax, President, MI Foster and Adoptive
Parents Association, (517) 321-7554

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation is a national leader in challenging reform in the child welfare system, to assure that every child has a permanent family in a timely manner. In 1990 they began an initiative known as Families For Kids and have committed 42 million dollars toward helping communities define solutions to the tragic problem of waiting children. They have awarded special grants that are dedicated to the creation of a legal system that is more responsive to the needs of children and birth families, as well as foster and adoptive families.

8

AWARDEE: Wendy's International and the Dave Thomas
Foundation for Adoption

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 7164
Dublin, OH 43017
PH: (614) 764-3319
FAX: (614) 764-6707

CONTACT: Jan Heffner, Executive Director
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

NOMINATOR: Carolyn L. Johnson, Executive Director, National
Adoption Center, (215) 875-0323

Dave Thomas has become a vociferous spokesman for the adoption of children with special needs. The Foundation has two major focus areas: working with its corporate colleagues to establish adoption benefits in the workplace for those building their families through adoption and raising public awareness about the children in foster care who wait for permanent homes. At more than 5,000 Wendy's restaurants during the month of November posters and trayliners feature photos and descriptions of waiting children. Wendy's International and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption have pledged to continue to create families for children and to commit their resources to seeing that every child has a loving home.

JUDICIAL OR CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

There were eight nominations reviewed. One awardee was selected.

AWARDEE: South Carolina Families for Kids

ADDRESS: 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 307
Columbia, SC 29204
PH: (803) 929-1006
FAX: (803) 256-8347

CONTACT: Kathleen M. Hayes, Program Director

NOMINATOR: Jan Heffner, Executive Director, Dave Thomas
Foundation, (614) 764-3319

South Carolina Families for Kids, which has been funded for more than 30 months by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, is a partnership between South Carolina's Department of Social Services and the United Way of South Carolina. Their goal is to reform foster care and adoption systems in South Carolina. Their central initiative, the Backlog Blitz is an effort to double the number of adoptions. As of June 1997, 403 foster children had been placed in adoptive homes compared to 206 in FY 94-95. This number is expected to increase to 500 this year.

DECREASE IN THE TIME CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE WAIT FOR PERMANENCY

There were four nominations reviewed. One awardee was selected.

AWARDEE: Lucas County Children's Services

ADDRESS: 705 Adams Street
Toledo, OH 43624
PH: (419) 327-3255
FAX: (419) 327-3291

CONTACT: Dean Sparks, Executive Director

NOMINATOR: R. F. Bumpers, Board Chairman, (419) 327-3255

The Lucas County Children Services leads the State of Ohio in the successful number of adoptive placements and legalizations of children. Once the parental rights have been terminated, LCCS acts quickly to complete the adoption. Compared to the state of Ohio as a whole, Lucas County children spend an average of 200 days less time between permanent custody and placement into an adoptive home. For the past four years, they have placed and finalized over forty percent of the waiting children within six months from the point of permanent custody disposition.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICESElena
Jenfyi re: adoption awards
Nicole

SEP 9 1997

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Colleague,

The United States Department of Health and Human Services' (USDHHS) Administration for Children and Families is pleased to announce the First Annual "Adoption 2002 Excellence Awards." In recognition of National Adoption Month and as part of the Adoption 2002 initiative, the Department will honor those States, organizations, businesses, individuals, and others who have demonstrated "excellence" in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. These awards will be made during National Adoption Month, November 1997.

In December 1996, President Clinton issued an Executive Memorandum to the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Labor, Commerce and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to increase the number of children who are adopted or permanently placed from the public foster care system. In response to President Clinton's Executive Memorandum, this Department prepared a report, "Adoption 2002*." The report outlines action steps to move children more rapidly from public foster care into adoptive homes and other permanent placements and to double the number of children adopted or permanently placed in legal guardianships by the year 2002.

One of the Department's action steps is to promote public recognition of outstanding, successful, innovative practices by establishing annual awards, to be made each November during National Adoption Month, to recognize individuals and entities who are making significant contributions to support adoption and to promote permanency for children in the child welfare system. It is our hope that the "Adoption 2002 Excellence Awards" will help us achieve this goal.

The Department invites you to nominate candidates for the awards. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations will be reviewed and awardees selected by a panel that includes members from Federal agencies involved in Adoption 2002, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Commerce and Labor and the Office of Personnel Management. To assist you in the nomination process, I have enclosed a description of the various awards to be made, selection and eligibility criteria, and a nomination form. All nomination forms must be received by Monday, October 13, 1997, and should be sent to: Adoption 2002 Excellence Awards, Children's Bureau, USDHHS, Room 2319, 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, ATTN: Ellen W. Carey.

Page - 2

The "Adoption 2002 Excellence Awards" represent one step toward reaching the target goals of Adoption 2002. We look forward to your assistance in identifying those individuals and organizations that have already made tremendous efforts on behalf of our Nation's children in foster care.

For more information about the awards, please contact our Adoption Specialist, Ellen W. Carey, at (202) 205-8652.

Sincerely,



for Carol W. Williams, D.S.W.
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

Enclosures: As stated.

*For a copy of "Adoption 2002" visit our website at:
"<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb>"

THE ADOPTION 2002 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Thank you for your interest in the Adoption 2002 Excellence Awards. To facilitate processing the many nominations we receive, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requests that you submit a nomination letter and the attached form with supplemental materials about the nominee to the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Health and Human Services, by **Monday, October 13, 1997**. The selection of the 1997 Adoption 2002 Excellence Awarders will be based on the contents of the nomination submission.

Nominees selected for an award in the following categories will be invited to a ceremony in Washington, DC during National Adoption Month, November 1997. The recipients must have demonstrated clear and measurable success in one of the award categories.

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. **Increased Adoptions** - recognition of a State(s) that has significantly increased the number of children adopted from the public foster care system.
2. **Increased Permanency for Children with Special Needs** - recognition of organizations that have contributed to an increase in the numbers of adoptions, guardianship arrangements, kinship care arrangements, and other permanency options for children with special needs in foster care.
3. **Support for Adoptive Families** - recognition of organizations that provide significant support to adoptive families through recruitment, preparation, training, post-placement and post-legal adoption services that help families adopt and support the stability of those adoptions.
4. **Public Awareness** - recognition of organizations that increase the visibility of children in foster care through public awareness activities that encourage and motivate families and individuals to adopt.
5. **Individual and/or Family Contributions** - recognition of the personal contribution of an individual(s), professional(s) or family(ies) that promotes the adoption of children in foster care.

6. **Applied Scholarship and/or Research** - recognition of research or practice findings that have been or can be applied to improve the rate of adoptions of children in foster care.
7. **Philanthropy** - recognition of gifts, support, scholarships, etc., that promote adoption and permanency for children in foster care.
8. **Judicial or Child Welfare System Improvement** - recognition of court or public child welfare agency systems change that resulted in fewer children coming into care or expedited the movement of children from foster care.
9. **Decrease in the Time that Children in Foster Care Wait for Permanency** - recognition of States and local public agencies that have achieved a decrease in the average length of time children stay in foster care.

Please use the following guidelines in completing your nomination form.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

Anyone may nominate one or more candidates. Self nominations are welcomed.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES

Unless specifically designated in the award description, nominees may include, but are not limited to, the following: States, local public agencies, private non-profit adoption agencies and organizations, businesses, universities, advocacy organizations, foundations, courts, the media, tribal courts and governments, State legislatures, faith communities and other community organizations.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Excellence of accomplishments which merit this award include, but are not restricted to the following:

- o Measurable impact or outcomes
- o Collaboration/Partnerships
- o Use of Technology
- o Innovation/Uniqueness
- o Leadership
- o Outreach
- o Use of Volunteers
- o Return on Investment
- o Ability to Replicate
- o Community Involvement

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Attach a nomination letter, not to exceed four double-spaced pages, that reflects the nominee's accomplishments and services in support of adoption and promoting permanency for children in foster care. The nomination must include information about the measurable impact and outcomes, as well as all other selection criteria that apply.

Supporting documentation, such as letters of support or newspaper articles, may be attached. Only letters of support submitted with the nomination form will be accepted. Audio and visual tapes cannot be viewed as part of the selection process.

The entire package, including supplemental information and letters of support, may not exceed 10 pages.

SELECTION PROCESS

Awards will be made from the categories listed above. Nominations will be reviewed and awardees selected by a panel that includes members from Federal agencies involved in Adoption 2002, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Commerce and Labor and the Office of Personnel Management.

ADOPTION 2002 EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Nomination Form

Information on Nominee:

Name: _____ **Title:** _____
Agency/Organization : _____
Address: _____

Telephone/Fax
Numbers: _____

Award Title: _____

Information on Nominator:

Name: _____ **Title:** _____
Agency/Organization: _____
Address: _____

Telephone/Fax
Numbers: _____

Signature of Nominator _____
(Date) _____

Deadline for Nomination Submission - Monday , October 13, 1997

Mailing Address:

Adoption 2002 Excellence Awards
Children Bureau, USDHHS
Room 2319
330 C. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
ATTN: Ellen W. Carey.