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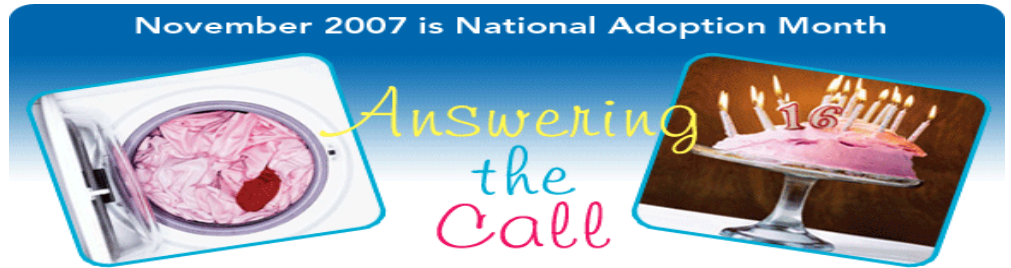
NJ•ARCH Features:

- Chat Rooms
- Lending Library
- Warm Line
- Resource Directory
- Buddy Mentors
- Support Group Advocacy



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

www.cafsnj.org



November is National Adoption Month, a month set aside to raise awareness about the adoption of children from foster care. This year's theme of adopting teens from foster care builds on the Ad Council's new public service announcement (PSA) campaign of the Children's Bureau, the Adoption Exchange Association, and The Collaboration to **AdoptUsKids**.

The new PSAs are designed to help prospective parents realize that "You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who would love to put up with you." These light-hearted PSAs take a look at some of the everyday situations that parents and teens encounter and reinforce the notion that these are the moments that really count. Teens don't

need perfection, but they do need parents.

Currently, there are 518,000 children in the U.S. in foster care. The majority of waiting children belong to racial minority groups. Older African American boys wait the longest for adoption. About 19,000 young adults age out of the foster care system without ever being adopted.

The "Adoption," campaign aims to significantly increase the awareness of the urgent need for parents to provide loving, permanent homes for children and teens currently in foster care. The campaign asks prospective parents to consider adopting a child from foster care and highlights the urgent need for families who can provide homes for these children.

To download resources for

families on foster care adoption, characteristics of children waiting for adoption, and post adoption services in sections of Child Welfare Information Gateway's website, log onto :

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/prospective.cfm>

For more information on National Adoption Awareness month, log onto www.adoptuskids.org or www.adopte1.org.

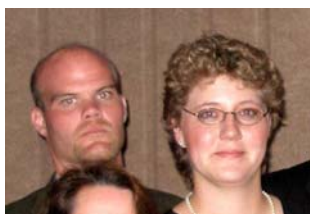


*Check out the PSA's
in November*

SOME OF NJ'S ANGELS:



Annette and Barry
Dambach



Raymond and Patricia
Dansen

ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARDS: THIRTEEN NEW JERSEY "ANGELS" RECOGNIZED

The Angels in Adoption Program is the Congressional Coalition of Adoption Institute's (CCAI) signature public awareness program that provides an opportunity to all members of the U.S. Congress to honor the good works of their constituents who have enriched the lives of foster and adopted children. The Angels in Adoption Awards and Gala took place in Washington DC, on October 4th. The ceremony highlighted ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

In addition to these "unsung heroes" chosen from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, "National Angels" were recognized for their adoption and foster care advocacy on a broader, nationwide scale. This year's national angels included Marcus Samuelsson, critically acclaimed chef and author; Alonzo Mourning, basketball player from Miami Heat, who grew up in the foster care system; as well as Patti LaBelle, award winning artist, who is an adoptive parent.

This year, New Jersey was the home of 13 Angels, 10 of which were foster or adoptive parent couples. The following are the brief descriptions of our state Angels.

We congratulate all the 2007 Angels and wish them continued success for their families in the years to come.

Bud and Michelle

Cannaveno

Senator Frank Lautenberg

Bud and Michelle became foster parents in 1994 when they already had three biological children. Since that time, they have fostered over 20 children and adopted five through foster care. Both have served as co-trainers for the DYFS pre-service training for foster, adoptive and kinship parents in the Morris County DYFS Resource Family Support Unit. Bud is on the Board of Directors of Foster and Adoptive Families (FAFS) and is the Chairman of the Morris County Child Placement Review Board. Michelle is the president of the Morris County Foster Parents Association, and she and Bud have volunteered their time as leaders of their local foster/adoptive family community for many years.

Barry and Annette Dambach

Senator Robert Menendez

Barry and Annette adopted their first two children from Romania in 1991; in 1997 they returned to Romania to adopt a third child and then adopted a child from Guatemala. Now a family of six, they have taken two trips back to Romania so their children could return to their birth country and meet their birth parents. The Dambach family has appeared on CNN and NBC News to talk

about their family. Annette has also contributed a chapter entitled "The Greatest Joy" in a book entitled *Adoption Means Love*. This chapter describes the family's trip to Romania to reunite their three children with their birth families.

Patricia and Raymond

Dansen

Representative:

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Patricia and Raymond have three birth children ages three to nine, plus one adopted child, age four, and have fostered eight other children over the past four years. They have fostered premature and developmentally-delayed children to the point where those children have become healthy, toddlers whom the Dansens have then helped transition into loving adoptive homes. Ms. Dansen has helped Children's Aid and Family Services to recruit others to adopt; she has also arranged meet and greet events at her church. Their positive experiences in adoption and fostering have led to at least one other adoption so far.

Dana Woods Fried

Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen

Ms. Fried began her career assisting foster children to find permanent adoptive

ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARDS:

families as a foster care case worker in Albany County Social Services, New York. As her career transitioned to the corporate world, she embraced adoption in her own family. She is a mother of a 14 year old biological daughter and a 9 year old son, whom she and her husband adopted from Guatemala. She is currently a board member of Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) and has served in many different capacities during her last 10 years as board member. In 2003, Ms. Fried joined Children's Aid and Family Services as NJ ARCH's Resource Development Coordinator. In this position, she works to develop and maintain more than 1,000 web pages of resource information on adoption, edits the quarterly newsletter and conducts workshops.

Frances O'Toole

Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.

After learning that she lived next door to three young boys whose father had been murdered and whose mother had abandoned them and whose elderly grandmother was taking care of them in a small apartment, Frances felt she had too much to give not to help out. After befriending the boys, taking them to school and after school activities, she decided she wanted to help even more. After a year of discussions with the grandmother and tracking

down the birth mother, Frances decided to adopt the boys. She is now working through the difficult process of getting the boys' citizenship papers. She is also paying for her oldest son's college tuition; she has truly changed their lives.

Maria and Miguel Perdomo **Representative Steven Rothman**

Maria and Miguel Perdomo have dedicated the past 10 years of their lives creating a safe and healthy environment for children in the foster care system. As therapeutic foster parents with Children's Aid and Family Services since 1997, the Perdomos have had the opportunity to share in the personal growth and development of seven foster children ranging from 6 to 19 years of age. In 2006 and 2007 the couple adopted three of their foster children and are working with DYFS on an adoption plan for the fourth.

Patricia Carter-Sage **Representative Jim Saxton**

For nearly 20 years, Ms. Carter-Sage has advanced her studies and worked towards uniting families throughout Southern NJ. Throughout her career, she has continually gone above and beyond in her duties to secure a better future for many children she has worked with in the NJ child welfare system. Patricia has become

an invaluable asset to DYFS.. Ms. Carter Sage has worked for DYFS as a consultant, therapist, then eventually becoming the Adoption Support Program Supervisor. In 2002 she became an adoption therapist then later began instructing classes for the then newly formed Adoption Certificate Program at Rutgers University.

Ronald and Jonelle von Autenried

Representative Scott Garrett

Ron and Joni have been actively involved for more than 15 years with Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc. Ron has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1990, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees since 2005. Joni serves on the Advisory Board of the agency's Children's Haven group home for teen boys in Park Ridge. For years they have given generously of their time, funds and hearts to the many children who need loving homes and the families that open their homes to those children. Their commitment to CAFS grew from their greatest joy as their two daughters, now in their twenties, were adopted through CAFS many years ago.

Congratulations to all!

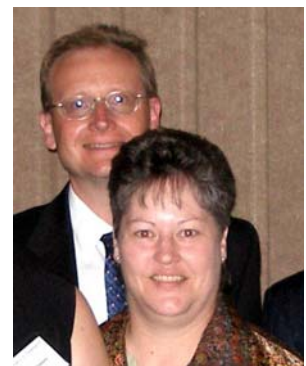
SOME OF NJ'S ANGELS:



Dana Woods Fried



Miguel and Maria Perdomo



Ronald and Jonelle von Autenried



Barbara A. Rall, LCSW

Have a question that needs expert advice? E-mail or call the warmline; we would be happy to assist you! Frequently asked questions and responses from the staff will be published in future newsletters.



ASK OUR EXPERTS

E-MAIL US YOUR QUESTIONS AT WARMLINE@NJARCH.ORG

We are DYFS foster parents. Over the past four years we have been caring for three children who have the same birth mother. We have adopted the two older children and the adoption of the youngest is pending. During this time, our children's birth mother has sent a number of letters for them and we have occasionally sent her photos. All of this is done through the DYFS caseworker. Recently the birth mother has requested visits with the children. We are not sure what to do. We don't really feel comfortable with the idea.

I can see that having visits with your children's birth mother would be an unsettling idea, particularly if, as in most DYFS situations, the children had been abused or neglected. Most adoptive parents, when first considering open adoption, feel very uncomfortable about allowing access to birth family. This is partially because we fear our children may have confused allegiance and we don't have confidence in our legitimacy as parents.

It's important to understand that our children's birth parents hold a major place in their lives whether or not they are in contact. Interviews with adopted adults reveal that adopted children think

about their birth parents nearly every day, even if they don't talk about it; I am sure you would not want to tell your children when they reach adulthood that their birth mother wanted contact and you did not permit it.

All of this aside, there are certain safety and boundary issues that must be addressed. The birth mother would need to have changed whatever behaviors caused her children to come into care. She would need to acknowledge that you are the primary parents and she would need to respect your child rearing philosophy and your limits on the time and places of contact.

I think the first step is to take time as a couple to discuss your feelings about open adoption. You may want to contract for a few sessions with an adoption savvy therapist to help you do this. Once you have sorted that out, I would recommend an adults only meeting with the birth mother, with or without the therapist, where you discuss the ground rules of openness as you see them. This will give you an opportunity to know the birth mother and to understand her motivations. I would enter this meeting thinking the birth mother has good intentions. Allow her to state her idea of how she sees

openness operating.

Open adoption works best when there is mutual respect and good boundaries.

All adults should have the best interests of the children uppermost in their minds. It also works best when the adults are able to "stretch" a bit in their thinking as compromise is key to success. But, most of all, the children's health and welfare is paramount. This means no meetings if the birth mother is using substances or does not respect your parental roles.

The NJARCH lending library has a number of good books about open adoption. I would recommend you read *The Open Adoption Experience* by Lois Ruskai Melina and Sharon Kaplan Roszia, *The Open Adoption Handbook* by Bruce Rappaport, or *Children of Open Adoption* by Kathleen Silber and Patricia Martinez Dorner. These books are available in the NJARCH lending library. Call to have one or more sent to you.

Open adoption is challenging but can also be a great gift to adoptive children. Knowing where one came from and having a relationship with biological relatives takes much of the mystery out of adoption. I wish you all the best as you embark on this journey.

NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

Hello, Readers! Welcome to Natalie's Library Corner!

As we are all aware, "bullying" and "school violence" are on the upswing across the nation. We read horrific stories about this in the headlines of our newspapers and hear it on our news broadcasts all too frequently. Youths are losing their lives because of the "rage" that permeates the hearts of some.

I have selected five titles for pre-teens and teens that are fictional portrayals of bullying behaviors. They are all available through the NJ ARCH lending library.

Caught in The Act by Joan Lowery Nixon (1988)

The Story of Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson (1991)

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher (2001)

The Prize by Marilyn La Court (2002)

Returnable Girl by Pamela Lowell (2006)

"The Warning Signs of School Violence --- Know how to Respond" is a booklet presented as a Public Service by The New Jersey Department of Human Services, The Division of Youth and Family Services, and The New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. To obtain a copy, contact the NJ ARCH Warm Line.

Each page addresses an important fact and provides detailed information about it.

- Violence can break out in any school.
- It's everyone's responsibility to help prevent school violence.
- Preventing violence starts with communication.
- School violence has signs.
- Know the early warning signs of violent behavior.
- Know when to take immediate action.
- Know what school staff members can do.
- Parents play an important role.
- Students can make a big difference.
- There are ways to make schools safer.
- There are sources of help.
- Help keep the peace at school.

Before Conflict: Preventing Aggressive Behavior by John D. Byrnes (2002) gets to the heart of the concept of aggression prevention. Byrnes chooses to look ahead, in order to prevent violence rather than simply to react to it. He uses a unique methodology of "Aggression Management," those responsible for the

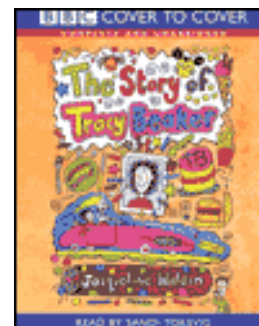
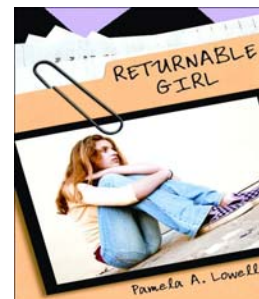
safety of others may circumvent the standard practice of "conflict resolution" by dealing with the problem before it creates conflict. Everyone experiences and manages anger differently. Aggression Management teaches us how to measure aggression in others and in ourselves. This book is recommended especially for people who work in the field of education, health care and social services, law enforcement, food service industry, and The United States Postal Service.

John D. Byrnes coined the phrase "Aggression Management." He is the leading authority on preventing aggression in the workplace and in schools. Among the organizations that came to him for workshop presentations were The United States Postal Service, NASA, The United States Department of Agriculture, and Disney Development. He has published articles extensively and has spoken before many national associations. This is his first book.



DID YOU KNOW?

The NJ ARCH Lending Library has a variety of books to borrow



DID YOU KNOW?

History of National Adoption Day

National Adoption Month roots can be traced back more than 25 years. In 1976, the governor of Massachusetts first proclaimed Adoption Week and, later that year, President Gerald Ford made it official nationally. The number of States proclaiming the observance of Adoption Week in November grew, and in 1990, National Adoption Week became National Adoption Awareness Month.



More than 230 DYFS children will have their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day in various counties throughout New Jersey



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY: NOVEMBER 17TH

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the 114,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. For the last eight years, National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies and advocates to finalize adoptions and find permanent, loving homes for children in foster care.

National Adoption Day is celebrated every year on the Satur-

day before Thanksgiving. For the first time in 2006, National Adoption Day was celebrated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In total, more than 250 events were held throughout the country to finalize the adoptions of more than 3,300 children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt.

In New Jersey, over 150 children will have their adoptions finalized in various Family Court Houses throughout the state. Some of these locations

include Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Union Hudson, Gloucester, Middlesex, Ocean and Salem Counties.

For more information about National Adoption Day log on to <http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/2007/index.asp>



DYFS FEATURED CHILD: Matthew, Born 6/18/03



Matthew is a charming, cheerful and sensitive four year-old little boy who loves to be tickled and play patty cake. He likes playing with toys that make silly sounds and light up.

He laughs a lot and enjoys attention from others. Matthew was born with multiple medical, physical and developmental challenges. Matthew is currently diagnosed with an encephalocele, which is a congenital gap in the skull that usually results in a protrusion of the brain material. He underwent surgery after birth to repair it, however, his developmental delays are the result of this condition. Matthew also is diagnosed with a seizure

disorder that is somewhat controlled with medication.

While Matthew requires assistance with all self-care skills, he uses vocalizations in order to make his needs known, and ambulates well with his pony gait trainer. Matthew truly deserves a loving, committed family who will advocate for him and facilitate the continued provision of the specialized services that he needs.

To learn more about Mathew, call 1-800 99-ADOPT.

A FAREWELL FROM NJ ARCH'S DIRECTOR BARBARA A. RALL, LCSW



We're approaching the fourth anniversary of NJ ARCH in November, National Adoption Awareness Month, and that's the right moment for me to bow out and leave our mission to others.

It's also time to reflect on how much we as a team have accomplished.

In 48 months, we brought to reality the vision of the staff of the Adoption Operations Department at DYFS.

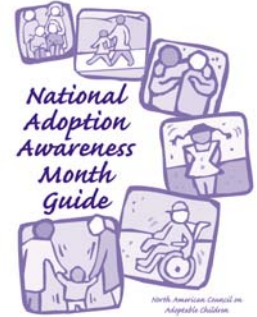
We created a web site that has become a vital, much-used resource, accessed over 8,000 times a month by users throughout the state. We set up a warm-line operation that answers 65 inquiries a month from people with adoption-related problems or concerns. Backing up those facilities are a staff of adoption specialists, a lending library of over 1,000 volumes and an extensive training program. Of course we owe deepest thanks to the members of the NJ ARCH Advisory Board, whose input

was a vital factor in shaping the program. And beyond them, I thank the entire New Jersey adoption community for its interest and support.

Saying good-bye is a bitter-sweet moment for me. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren—there are now six—but I will miss everybody at Children's Aid and Family Services, whom I have come to love and respect.

Barbara A. Rall, LCSW
Director, NJ ARCH

DID YOU KNOW?



To download this National Adoption Awareness Month Guide

log onto

<http://www.nacac.org/adoptalk/adoptionmonth.html>

A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS TO AIR DECEMBER 21ST; 8PM ON CBS

Each December, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Children's Action Network presents "A Home for the Holidays", a CBS network television special bringing together all-star talent to raise awareness for foster care adoption.

The goal of the one-hour broadcast is to increase public awareness about waiting children.



Sheryl Crow will be this year's host.

As the New Jersey State Wide Coordinator, NJ ARCH will again follow up on calls that originated from NJ to offer support and information on

For more information on this broadcast and other events, and/or to receive the Dave Thomas Foundation "How To" booklet, log onto www.davethomasfoundation.org.

To read NJ ARCH's *How to Adopt in New Jersey* handbook, log onto www.njarch.org and select "Handbooks" on the left side of the Home page.

Visit our Live Chat Rooms

Please notice our new times!

General : Sat. 11 am-12 pm
 Tues. 7 pm -8 pm

Spanish: 1st Sat. of the month
 10 am -11am

Search and Reunion
2nd and 4th Sat. of the month
 12pm-1pm

NEW JERSEY ADOPTION RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

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*The one-stop
resource
for those
touched
by adoption.*

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NJ-ARCH CELEBRATES FOURTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House officially opened for business in November 2003. It was then that our first *Under the ARCH* quarterly newsletter was published. We have come a long way since then and many of you have made use of our services.

Since the program was launched, over 2480 people have phoned the Warm Line, 175 them with book requests. At the same time, 825 people have e-mailed us questions about adoption, 430 of them

with book requests.

Our lending library now has over 1000 books, 800 articles and 95 videos. Would be borrowers have contacted us from as far as the Netherlands and Brazil.

In 2004, over 30,400 people visited the website. By 2005 that number increased to over 60,000 and now in 2007 we are up to over 79,000 visiting our website (viewing various pages throughout the site).

We offer an average of two to three training workshops per month and attend many state-wide adoption conferences to support the NJ adoption community.

In 2007 alone, we provided over 150 hours of live chat room services.

Thanks to all of you who have made use of our services; we look forward to being your *one stop resource for those touched by adoption.*