

2018 Year in Review

Celebrating 30 Years of Impact in the Community



CELEBRATING THREE DECADES
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY • 1988-2018
Advocate • Educate • Support

1,406 *families, children
and individuals*

2,187 *Helpline
inquiries*

Adoption Network Cleveland supported 1,406 families, children and individuals through direct service and responded to 2,187 Helpline inquiries.

165 *dedicated and
valued volunteers*

2,145 *hours of service*

165 volunteers provided 2,145 hours of service to Adoption Network Cleveland, including facilitating programs, providing childcare for family events, working fundraising and organizational events, contributing to committee and board work, and providing administrative support — a **\$53,000 value**.

Highlights and Accomplishments



Launched a new website based on the organization's new program hub model with dynamic content and integrated event registration, email communication system and donation portal.

Introduced the new electronic newsletter, The Hub, delivered monthly to more than **7,000** individuals.

Celebrated two Board members who were presented Congressional Angels in Adoption Awards in Washington, D.C., for their advocacy work on adoption issues, Krysia Orłowski and Dan Gisser.

Awarded two full time Americorps VISTA positions to build organizational capacity through a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services.

Participated as a host for Common Ground, a day of community conversations on the theme "Place Matters," organized by The Cleveland Foundation.

Participated in the Cleveland International Film Festival as a nonprofit community partner for the showing of *Three Identical Strangers*.

Conducted a successful 30th anniversary membership campaign to re-engage former members and promote membership to program participants.

Maintained a successful partnership with Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services and other community partners.

Met and exceeded **\$1.1 million** budget to successfully support our programs and service, including **\$40,406** in program revenue, **\$105,008** in investment income, **\$357,674** in VOCA funds, and **\$616,173** in fundraising revenue from individuals, corporations, foundations and events.

Awareness: Local, Statewide and National

Featured in the media **12** times and delivered **34** community presentations, including:

ideastream Radio and television segment highlighting Adoptee Journeys series.

WKYC *This Is Us* tie-in with local transracial family.

Feature articles in **Foster Families Today** and **Grand Magazine** about the organization and its programs.

Presentation to Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland on **Ohio Open Records Law**.

Advocacy

Worked with the Ohio legislature to formulate HB 448 the Fostering Sibling Connections Act as the primary advocate, sponsored by Reps. Sarah LaTourette (R) and Janine Boyd (D).

Continued implementation of Ohio's adoptee records law, through which **12,500** records have been released; continued moderating the Ohio Adoption Search and Reunion Facebook page with more than **875** members.

Actively supported HB 137 to make municipal and county peace officers mandated reporters, and HB 139 which will open historical records over 100 years old, including adoption records and others.



Family Hub



Served **514** children, parents and professionals connected to adoptive, foster care and kinship families.

Hosted **213** parents and **110** children within the Family Ties program, including a monthly support meeting, social outings and one-on-one support.

Held **16** Parent Advisory Team meetings to guide the implementation of the Family Ties programming.

Provided support and held monthly social outings for the Weaving Cultures Transracial Family group through a private Facebook group with **91** members.

Hosted a Winter Ball for families, with **84** guests enjoying good food, dancing and community.

Established a community garden to encourage families to use gardening as a platform to build strong family relationships and talk about nurturing, nutrition and volunteering.

Continued certification of Family Support Coordinators in the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening adopted by the National Family Support Network.

Established and successfully launched the EMBRACE (Enhanced Mentoring, Building Relationships, and Cultivating Experiences) Mentoring program, matching youth in adoptive and kinship families with a caring adult mentor with similar life experiences. **15** mentees were interviewed for the program, **28** potential mentors attended orientation and **4** matches were made during the pilot year.

Provided one-on-one consultation for **51** parents supporting their child at school through Educational Liaison program and attended **8** meetings with parents at school to advocate for their child. Provided **27** educators with information on the impact of adoption and foster care on children's success at school.

Assisted **113** individuals in the adoption and foster care process through Permanency Navigator services with one-on-one support.

Educated **31** prospective adoptive parents through attendance at Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin and **12** individuals at Adoption 201: Adopting Infants Domestically.

Facilitated **20** Parent Trainings on a variety of topics for adoptive, foster and kinship parents, with a cumulative attendance of **287** people.



Adult Adoptee and Birthparent Hub



Supported **402** adoptees, birthparents, siblings and adoptive parents.

Supported more than **200** adoptees and birth family members directly in their quest to reconnect after separation, and maintained an average of **31** active cases per month.

Expanded our search program to assist adoptees using DNA and genetic genealogy.

Led **23** adoptees through the Adoptee Journeys program with workshops by Dr. Zoë Breen Wood and Dr. Tom Rogat.

Supported adoptees, birthparents, siblings and adoptive parents in General Discussion Meetings at eight locations around the state, with a cumulative attendance of **680**.

Hosted the 26th Annual Birthmothers' Day Ceremony with **19** birthmothers plus 40 supporters participating, including family, friends and others. **21** birthmothers attended Birthmother Support Groups throughout the year.



Foster Youth and Alumni Hub

Facilitated **24** Get Real Support Groups with a cumulative attendance of **68** youth in foster care, providing a safe space for youth to discuss issues they face and ideas around permanency and adoption.

Partnered with the Junior League of Cleveland for Cooking with Cuyahoga's kids to provide **9** teens in foster care with life skills.

Developed and launched two new pilot programs focused on youth in foster care or who have aged out of care:

Reconnections Provides support and guidance for teens and young adults who have aged out of care and are seeking to reestablish relationships with select members of their birth family.

Mediation Brings together all the caring and supportive adults in a child's life to discuss and jointly determine how best to meet the needs of the child.

Professional and Stakeholder Hub



Facilitated and proctored **40** child welfare professional trainings in partnership with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program with cumulative attendance of **644** individuals.

Led the Adoption Awareness Coalition with **22** organizational members in a learning community format.

Mentored to **2** students in the Scholars Program and **4** undergraduate and graduate interns.