

ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND 2014 ANNUAL REPORT
– Covering Fiscal Year 2014: October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014

Dear Friends,

It happened! In December 2013, which was in the first quarter of our 2014 fiscal year, the legislation we had been working for since founding the organization in 1988 – the right for Ohio’s adult adoptees to have access to their original birth certificates – was signed into law.

This major legislative success happened because of the dedication of countless individuals over the years – if you were with us along the way, **Thank you!** – this is your success, too.

In January 2014, documentary filmmaker **Jean Strauss** came to Cleveland from her home in New York to film the organization and tell the story of the passing of Ohio’s law through a short film. She wanted to concentrate on Betsie’s personal story and lifetime of professional advocacy for this cause. The film *An Adoptee ROARed in Ohio: The Betsie Norris Story* debuted at the 39th Annual Cleveland International Film Festival in March 2014.

In the summer of 2014, we were incredibly honored to receive the **“Parent Group of the Year”** award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) at their annual conference in Kansas City. This distinction was for our Post Adoption program, which supports adoptive families and teens, many of whom have adopted from, or were adopted from the foster care system.

These were **some of our big stories** of the year (and the decade) yet, every week we can tell the story of lives who have been touched by our work. Some highlights of our work in 2014: we completed 60 adoptee/birthfamily searches; assisted in over 200 individuals on the adoption process; and continued our partnership with the Junior League of Cleveland to offer *Cooking with Cuyahoga’s Kids*, a life-skills program for teens in foster care. We were also featured in the media 76 times during the year telling those stories. One recently reunited adoptee was touched so much, that he came to our Rocky River General Support and Discussion Meeting, donning a tattoo with our logo - we think this is our first!

So, whether you are finding ways to volunteer or donate, or are supporting us through membership, or are even promoting us with a tattoo, **we appreciate you!** We wouldn’t be where we are today without you. Thank you.

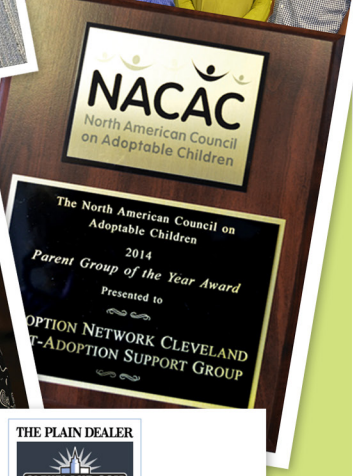
In the spirit of truth,



Betsie Norris
Executive Director
Adoption Network Cleveland



John M. Zaranec III
Board Chair
Adoption Network Cleveland



Bill granting 400,000 adoptees access to birth records clears General Assembly, heads to Gov. John Kasich for signing

By Robert Higgs on December 11, 2013

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Legislators in the Ohio House approved a bill Wednesday that would give the vast majority of adoptees in the state access to their adoption records when they reach adulthood.

Assuming the bill becomes law, it will mean that an estimated 400,000 Ohioans adopted between Jan. 1, 1964, and Sept. 18, 1996, will have access to official records, such as their birth certificates.

The legislation also sets up a mechanism through which adoptees can request information from biological parents about their medical history, but also gives the birth parents the option of whether to list personal contact information.

All adoptees have the right to request their post-adoption records. Nickerson said that it is important to have the post-adoption records.



Adoption Network Cleveland 2014 Year in Review

(October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014)

Highlights

- **2,760 contacts were supported** through our Adoption Helpline, via phone and email.
- **210 individuals were assisted** in the adoption process by Adoption Navigators.
- **208 individuals attended** General Support and Discussion Meetings, with a total annual attendance of 559.
- **146 volunteers completed** over 4,600 hours of service, valued at over \$103,000.

Advocacy

- Completed our longest running legislative goal with the passage of SB 23, allowing 400,000 Ohio adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates.
- Received over 100 local, state and national features about Ohio adoption record laws, during the work on the bill and after the signing (from January 2013 to March 2014).
- Participated in the creation of a documentary film by Jean Strauss – *An Adoptee ROARed in Ohio* – on Executive Director Betsie Norris' 24-year crusade to give all Ohio-born adoptees access to their original birth certificates.
- Featured documentary films – *An Adoptee ROARed in Ohio and A Simple Piece of Paper* – in the Cleveland International Film Festival.
- Created and distributed a pre-implementation plan and infographics to help Ohio adoptees and birthparents better understand the records release process – worked closely with Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio Department of Health.
- Supported the passage of HB 213 creating the opportunity for children in foster care to participate in normal childhood activities, and limiting the use of Planned Permanent Living Arrangements (long-term foster care).
- Influenced best practices to allow youth in foster care who are 16 years old and up into their Juvenile Court review hearings. Implemented by Judge Kristin W. Sweeney.

Programs

- Expanded our General Support and Discussion Meetings into the Dayton area.
- Supported 316 adoptive parents through Post Adoption services with monthly meetings, social support activities and workshops.
- Served 66 youth in foster care through our Permanency Champions Mentoring Program.
- Held 23 *Get Real* educational and supportive groups for teens in foster care, which provides a safe place for them to share their experiences and explore their feelings about foster care and adoption, with a total annual attendance of 71.
- Continued leading the Adoption Awareness

Coalition – an alliance of agencies and organizations committed to promoting understanding and visibility of adoption in Northeast Ohio – expanding the Coalition membership to 19, an increase of 72% over 2013.

- Assisted in 60 adoptee/birthfamily searches to completion.
- Hosted the 22nd Annual Birthmother's Day Ceremony for 78 participants including 25 birthmothers, friends, family and other supporters on the Saturday before Mother's Day.
- Trained 113 adoption professionals and 216 foster and adoptive parents through Ohio Child Welfare Training Program sessions.
- Continued a counseling program with steady appointments in a dedicated office space.
- Offered *Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin?* to 84 participants in four sessions throughout the year.
- Supported 63 adoptive parents with educational advocacy.
- Partnered with the Junior League of Cleveland for the life skills program designed for youth in foster care – *Cooking With Cuyahoga's Kids* – with 12 youth participants.
- Held the *2nd Annual Weaving Cultures Family Camp* for transracial adoptive families, which drew 27 families (111 participants, including 51 adults and 60 children) from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.
- Hosted three adoption finalization celebrations for 8 families who had completed adoption proceedings.
- Continued the Transracial Adoptive Family Group, with a total annual attendance of 50 adults and 35 children participating in potlucks and fun activities.
- Welcomed 16 participants to *Adoptee Journeys*, with a total attendance of 37.
- Engaged 8 college students in our Scholars Program – an experiential learning program about adoption.
- Produced 20 Digital Me's, a unique multi-media recruitment tool for teens in foster care waiting for adoptive families.
- Offered *Adoption 201: Adopting Infants Domestically* with a total attendance of 31.

Awareness – Local, Statewide, National

- Raised awareness of 7,015 individuals about our work through 71 presentations and resource fairs.
- Presented at the American Adoption Congress Conference in San Francisco.
- Featured in the media 76 times and mentioned an additional 70 times. Highlights include:
 - November 20, 2013 – *The Plain Dealer*: Ohio Should Open Birth Certificate Records to Adoptees: Editorial
 - November 28, 2013 – *The Plain Dealer*: Foster-Care Youth Need a Far Better Safety Net – Thanksgiving Day Editorial by John Chapman
 - December 12, 2013 – *The Plain Dealer*: Bill Granting 400,000 Adoptees Access to Birth Records Clears General Assembly, Heads to Governor Kasich for Signing

- December 20, 2013 – *HUFFINGTON POST*: Finding Family: New Ohio Law Will Unseal Old Adoption Records
- December 24, 2013 – *NPR* (Washington, DC) TELL ME MORE: New Ohio Adoptee Records Law
- December 25, 2013 – *WASHINGTON TIMES*: Adoption Reform Activists Buoyed by Ohio's New Birth Certificate Access Law
- January 1, 2014 – *WOIO, CHANNEL 19*: Jeanne Hood Birthmother Editorial
- February 18, 2014 – *WKYC Channel 3*: Ohio Considers Raising Age-Out Deadline to 21 for Foster Children
- March 11, 2014 – *Cincinnati Sun*: Krista: Living the New Adoption Law
- April 30, 2014 – *WOSU, Columbus NPR*: New Ohio Adoption Law
- April 30, 2014 – *VC STAR* (Ventura County, CA): Hoping for a Look at Her Beginning (Picked up by Cincinnati Sun)
- May 9, 2014 – *NBC Channel 4, Columbus*: Adoptee Has Vital Information for Birthparents
- May 10, 2014 – *The News Herald*: Mentor-on-the-Lake Mother Who Gave Up Baby Hopes New Ohio Adoption Law Leads to Reconnection
- June 2, 2014 – *The Plain Dealer*: Editorial – Adoption Network Cleveland Post Adoption Services are Critical to Creating Forever Families
- July 6, 2014 – *Columbus Dispatch*: Franklin County Probate Court Sting with Records
- August 17, 2014 – *Ashtabula Star Beacon*: Transracial Adoptive Family Camp a Success (two stories)
- August 19, 2014 – *WEWS NewsChannel 5 Morning News*: Parent Group of the Year Award – Betsie and adoptive mom interviewed live
- September 8, 2014 – *Columbus Dispatch*: Failed Adoptions Traumatic

Fund Development

- Raised funding to support a budget of \$1,144,503 – including \$80,508 from individuals, \$393,432 through foundations, \$33,393 through corporations and \$68,384 from events.

Of Special Note

- Celebrated long-term employee Linda Bellini's retirement.
- Co-Sponsored the 6th Annual Foster Care Alumni Thanksgiving event and the 5th Annual Adoption Advocacy Day.
- Worked to replace United Way funding after a shift in funding priorities.

Awards

- Received the Parent Group of the Year Award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children.
- Celebrated Executive Director Betsie Norris receiving an Executive Director of the Year for Community Service Pillar Award from Medical Mutual and *Smart Business* magazine.

2014 Donations

Report reflects donors October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014

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The lists on these pages include monetary and in-kind donations. While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the lists, we apologize for any misspellings or omissions. Please inform us of any error, so that we can correct our records.
Email: info@AdoptionNetwork.org

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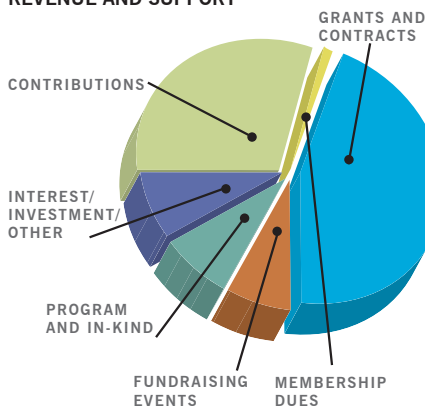
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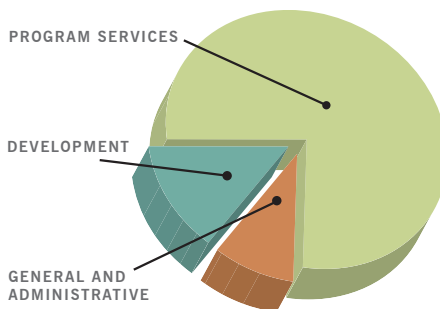
Statement of Activities

OCTOBER 1, 2013 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



EXPENSES



REVENUE AND SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Grants and contracts	\$353,112			\$353,112
Membership dues	\$14,050			\$14,050
Contributions	\$139,625	\$369,610	\$3,300	\$512,535
Special events – Gross	\$83,027			\$83,027
In-kind revenue	\$12,440	\$23,443		\$35,883
Program revenue	\$53,932			\$53,932
Interest income	\$185	\$22,248		\$22,433
Dividend income		\$16,072		\$16,072
Realized gain on investments		\$65,698		\$65,698
Unrealized loss on investments		(\$15,607)		(\$15,607)
Other	\$819			\$819
Net assets released from restrictions	\$450,175	(\$449,980)	(\$195)	
	\$1,107,365	\$31,484	\$3,105	\$1,141,954
EXPENSES				
Post adoption services	\$237,658			\$237,658
Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids	\$366,219			\$366,219
Triad Services	\$181,153			\$181,153
Advocacy	\$66,511			\$66,511
Total Program Services	\$851,541			\$851,541
General and administrative	\$98,366			\$98,366
Development	\$146,093			\$146,093
Total Supporting Services	\$244,459			\$244,459
	\$1,096,000			\$1,096,000
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$11,365	\$31,484	\$3,105	\$45,954
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$566,528	\$577,625	\$790,069	\$1,934,222
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	\$577,893	\$609,109	\$793,174	\$1,980,176



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