



ADOPTION
NETWORK
CLEVELAND

THE OHIO FAMILY CONNECTION™

Advocate • Educate • Support
AdoptionNetwork.org

2017

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

Report reflects activities from October 1, 2016
to September 30, 2017

Dear Friends,

In our 29th year, we faced hurdles and challenges that we had never seen before, as a major funding source shifted. Through determination and nimble flexibility we met those challenges and emerged stronger than ever.

Primarily, due to changing priorities on the county level, our largest single funding stream ceased with limited advance notice. After a few trying months we were successful in replacing this funding through VOCA (Victims of Crime Act).

Our hearts were warmed through this transition when our community bolstered us through support of our Fill the Gap Campaign, which raised \$181,745 from seven organizations and 235 individuals. So many of you came forward to help – *thank you!*

Emerging from this year of change created the opportunity to refine our scope and our work, and we:

Reframed our mentoring program to strengthen families and mentor youth, age 10 to 18, many of whom are adopted from foster care or live in kinship families and would benefit from having an additional supportive, caring adult in their lives as they work through their pre-teen and teen years.

Explored our scope, name and brand. We have long struggled with geography in our name, especially after expanding some services around the state. Even the word “adoption” poses challenges because families we serve are formed in many different ways. We involved stakeholders in discussion to redefine our scope and rebrand our identity. Out of this process we are adding “The Ohio Family Connection” to our name and creating four service hubs: Family, Adult Adoptee and Birthparent, Foster Youth and Foster Alumni, and Professional and Stakeholder – each served with the underpinnings of advocacy, education and support.

We had another strong year involving media awareness, with 27 media features in print and broadcast. Each shared compelling personal stories while shining a spotlight on our important work. Topics included: the impact of the Ohio adoptee records law after two years; birthmothers of different eras in honor of our 25th Annual Birthmother’s Day Ceremony; adoptee/birth family reunions; and the needs of local youth in foster care.

Thank you for being with us through one of our most transformative years. Inside you will find more highlights, especially with our strong program areas serving families, adoptees and birthparents, youth, and the professional community.

In the spirit of truth,

Lisa

Lisa Buescher
Board Chair
Adoption Network Cleveland



Betsie

Betsie Norris
Executive Director
Adoption Network Cleveland

Denton Portrait Design



Adoption Network Cleveland 2017 Year in Review

(October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)

Programs

- Supported **2,783 contacts** through our Adoption Helpline.
- Utilized **167 volunteers** who had a cumulative **607** engagements of over **4,423** hours of service, valued at **\$106,772**.
- Maintained a partnership with the [Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services](#) to support youth in their care and the families that adopt them.
- Supported **144 adoptive parents** through Post Adoption services with monthly meetings, social support activities and workshops with a total **456** in attendance. Developed and implemented a Parent Advisory Team among parents participating in the Adoptive Family Support Group, engaging them in group planning and encouraging leadership.
- Served **56 youth in foster care** through our [Permanency Champions Mentoring Program](#).
- Held **9 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 **24** youth.
- Continued leading the [Adoption Awareness Coalition](#) – an alliance of **17** agencies and organizations committed to promoting understanding and visibility of adoption in Northeast Ohio. Developed a new Learning Community Format which utilizes Coalition members' strengths and professional backgrounds to facilitate an open discussion around a topic or a mini-training/workshop that the group finds relevant to their work. Hosted *Ethical Decision-Making in Adoption* workshop for adoption professionals.
- Assisted and supported hundreds of [adoptees and birth family members](#) in their quest to reconnect after separation.
- Hosted the **25th Annual Birthmother's Day Ceremony** with **26** birthmothers plus **47** supporters participating, including friends, family and others.
- Trained [adoption professionals and foster and adoptive parents](#) through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program sessions – with a cumulative attendance of **592** professionals (500% increase over 2016) and **349** parents.
- Participated in a partnership with the [Community Endeavors Foundation](#) (focusing on fatherhood) – Wellness and Men of Color subcommittees, Tickets for Kids, and Cuyahoga County DCFS.
- Assisted **359** individuals in the adoption process with our [Adoption Navigator](#); offered *Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin?* to **68** participants in four sessions throughout the year; offered *Adoption 201: Adopting Infants Domestically* to **41** participants.
- Supported **108 adoptive parents with educational advocacy** to benefit their children in school.
- Partnered with the [Junior League of Cleveland](#) for a life skills programs designed for youth in foster care – *Cooking With Cuyahoga's Kids* – with a total of **6** youth participants.
- Continued the [Weaving Cultures Transracial Adoptive Family Group](#), with a total annual

attendance of **64** adults and **64** children participating in potlucks and activities.

- Engaged **2** college students in our [Scholars Program](#) – an experiential learning program.
- Featured in the [media](#) **27** times and mentioned an additional 124 times. Highlights include:
 - November 1, 2016 – *WCPN Sound of Ideas* – The needs of youth in foster care
 - March 2017 – Second anniversary of adoption records law: three television and radio interviews in the markets of Dayton, WHIO; and Toledo, WTOL
 - March 12, 2017 – *The Plain Dealer, Cleveland.com* – One adoptee's quest for answers raises questions about Barberton Catholic agency adoptions
 - May 9, 10, 2017 – *Scene magazine* feature on three birthmothers and our Ceremony; followed by a collaborative story on *WCPN Sound of Ideas*

Advocacy

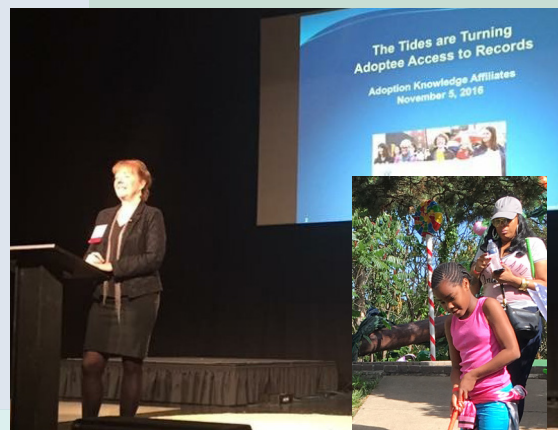
- Laid the groundwork to develop legislation to address sibling rights in Ohio.
- Continued implementation of Ohio's adoptee records law, through which over **10,000** records have been released; continued management of the "Ohio Adoption Search and Reunion" Facebook page with over **780** members.
- By invitation, Executive Director served on the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Task Force to help design a post adoption services model.
- Maintained active involvement in the Ohio Adoption Planning Group

Fund Development

- Raised funds to support a budget of **\$840,900** – including **\$125,677** from individuals, **\$378,146** through foundations, **\$20,856** through corporations and **\$67,097** from events.
- Re-imagined our summer fun(d) raiser and launched a successful Mini Golf Outing which sold out.

Of Special Note

- Hosted a [book signing with Academy Award winning actress Octavia Spencer](#) to promote *The Baby Thief* by Cleveland author and former board member Barbara Raymond.
- Served as a Community Partner with an adoption-related program at The City Club of Cleveland, which we initiated. This program included the Donaldson Adoption Institute.
- Executive Director presented as the invited keynote speaker at the [Adoption Knowledge Affiliates \(AKA\)](#) annual conference in Austin, Texas. Keynote entitled *The Tides are Turning – Adoptee Access to Records*.
- Executive Director participated in a [League of Women Voters panel](#): *What is the future for foster care in Greater Cleveland?*
- Executive Director and Genetic Genealogist Amanda Reno presented on [Adoption and DNA](#) at the Akron Public Library.
- Continued collaboration with [St. Luke's Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support](#) community.
- Celebrated with board member Anita Miller in September 2017 for receiving a [Congressional Angels in Adoption Award](#) in Washington, DC.



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2017 Donations *thank you!*

Report reflects donations of \$100 or more from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

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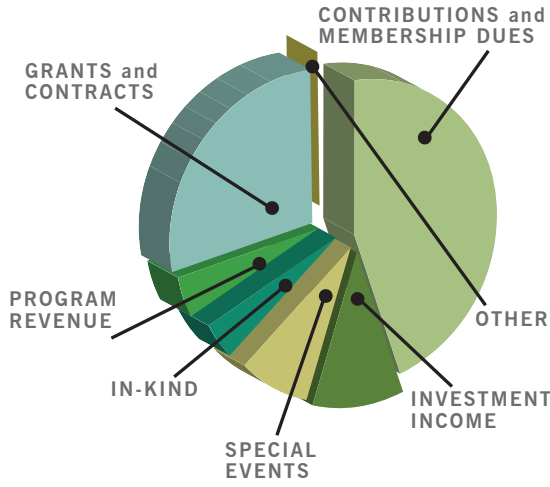
The lists on these pages include monetary and in-kind donations. While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the lists, we apologize for any misspellings or omissions. Please inform us of any error, so that we can correct our records. Email: info@AdoptionNetwork.org

Statement of Activities

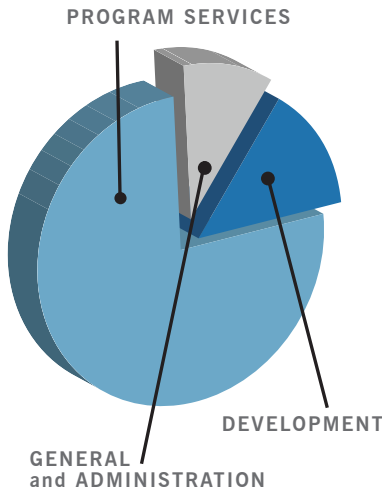
OCTOBER 1, 2016 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

As approved by the Board of Directors on Feb. 22, 2018

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



EXPENSES



REVENUE AND SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Grants and contracts	\$266,747			266,747
Membership dues	10,534			10,534
Contributions	163,736	\$258,684		422,420
Special events	80,470			80,470
In-kind revenue	39,105			39,105
Program revenue	43,876			43,876
Interest income		2,704		2,704
Dividend income		24,198		24,198
Realized gain on investments		38,369		38,369
Unrealized loss on investments		33,250		33,250
Other	737			737
Net assets released from restrictions	317,616	(317,616)		
	922,821	39,589		962,410
EXPENSES				
Pre and Post Adoption Services	259,917			259,917
Youth Connections	237,761			237,761
Triad Services	142,992			142,992
Advocacy	46,831			46,831
Total Program Services	687,501			687,501
General and Administrative	92,246			92,246
Development	124,872			124,872
Total Supporting Services	217,118			217,118
	904,619			904,619
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	18,202	39,589		57,791
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	566,795	505,957	793,009	1,865,761
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	584,997	545,546	793,009	1,923,552



THE OHIO FAMILY CONNECTION™
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