



annual report

ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Report reflects activities from October 1, 2015
to September 30, 2016



Dear Friends,

Despite our small size we've prided ourselves on being an organization that can do a lot with a little. We have also worked hard to maintain long-term stability throughout the years. One of the reasons we have been able to remain relevant in an ever-changing world is our ability to balance flexibility in that changing environment while staying true to our core values and mission.

In 2016, we rejoiced in the fruits of our labor with remaining connected to thousands of Ohio adoptees who were able to meet family members after a lifetime apart due to antiquated laws. Hearing their stories of reconnection to their "Chapter One" – after they gained access to their original birth certificates – has been thrilling. The ripple effect of our work on that change in Ohio law continues to be felt. Our commitment to *be there* for support, education, and advocacy for the lifelong journey has continued to be strong and relevant as these adoptees face challenges along with the joys of knowing their own truth. We also continue to *be there* for adoptive families, birthparents, and youth in foster care who rely on us for guidance and a principled and compassionate approach to handling the ups and downs of their journeys.

When things change – laws, public understanding, funding streams – we change. Although we are reinventing ourselves at times, we steadfastly continue to advocate for the people we serve with a lifelong connection to the world of adoption and foster care. Thank you for being with us along the way. Your continued support of our work is at the heart of our success.

In the spirit of truth,

Betsie
Betsie Norris
Executive Director
Adoption Network Cleveland

Anita
Anita Miller
Board Chair
Adoption Network Cleveland



*Continuing
the Journey*



Adoption Network Cleveland 2016 Year in Review

(October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016)

Highlights

- 3,277 contacts were supported through our Adoption Helpline, via phone and email.
- 381 individuals were assisted in the adoption process by Adoption Navigators.
- 202 individuals attended General Support and Discussion Meetings, with a total annual attendance of 764.
- 151 volunteers completed over 7,632 hours of service, valued at over \$168,362.

Programs

- Supported 186 adoptive parents through Post Adoption services with monthly meetings, social support activities, and workshops.
- Served 119 youth in foster care through our *Permanency Champions* Mentoring Program.
- Held 22 *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 72 youth.
- Hosted the 24th Annual Birthmother's Day Ceremony with 26 birthmothers plus 47 supporters participating, including friends, family, and others.
- Invited by *St. Luke's Foundation* to become certified in Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support – implementing standards in our family-serving programs.
- Participated in many community partnerships, including:
 - * *Community Endeavors Foundation* (focusing on fatherhood) – Wellness and Men of Color sub-committees.
 - * *YWCA's A Place For Me* (focusing on ending youth homelessness) – Community Partnership Board
 - * *CASA of Cuyahoga County* (Court Appointed Special Advocates) – Steering Committee
- Supported 71 adoptive parents with educational advocacy.
- Partnered with the *Junior League of Cleveland* for 2 life skills programs designed for youth in foster care – *Cooking With Cuyahoga's Kids* – with a total of 18 youth participants.
- Continued the *Weaving Cultures Transracial Adoptive Family Group*, with a total annual attendance of 56 adults and 84 children participating in potlucks and activities.
- Produced 18 *Digital Me's*, a unique multi-media recruitment tool for teens in foster care.

Advocacy

- Continued implementation of Ohio's adoptee records law, through which over 9,000 records have been released. We also have been:
 - problem solving implementation glitches as needed
 - managing the "Ohio Adoption Search and Reunion" Facebook group with nearly 600 members.

- Participated in the *National Conference of State Legislators*, convening in Chicago in session on Access to Records, organized and moderated a panel presentation; helped to secure event funding; attended by 40 representing 15 states.

Awareness – Local, Statewide, National

- Participated in the successful effort to reject a proposal for Ohio to charge premiums to Medicaid recipients which would have had a negative impact on youth emancipated from foster care
- Presented at: NJ CARE in New Jersey, Indiana State Adoption Conference, Progressive, Medical Mutual, Sherwin Williams, Ohio Family Care Association Conference in Columbus, Cuy. Cty. Division of Children and Family Services Parma Collaborative, MetroHealth, CWRU Mandel School, Bellefaire JCB, and John Carroll University.

- Featured in the media 58 times and mentioned an additional 129 times. Highlights include:

October 7, 2015 – *U.S. News and World Report*: When Adoptees Uncover Their Medical History

March 15, 2016 – *Columbus Dispatch*: A year later opening of birth records still solving mysteries

March 17, 2016 – *90.3 Ideastream*: Adoptees share reunion stories; Ohio adoption records one year later

Fund Development

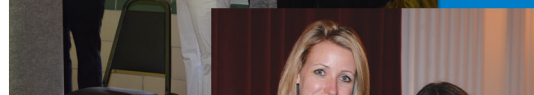
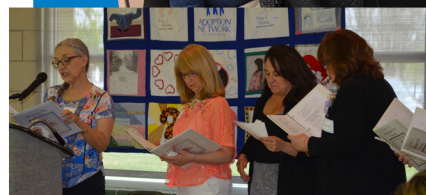
- Raised funds to support a budget of \$969,507 – including \$85,588 from individuals, \$307,573 through foundations, \$21,787 through corporations and \$66,748 from events.

Of Special Note

- Held the first *Annual Adoption Gathering*, a weekend conference, on the first anniversary of the opening of Ohio's adoption records – with 100 in attendance.
- Selected in the inaugural group to receive data collection and review services from the *Partnership for Evaluation, Research, and Implementation (PERI)* at Case Western Reserve University.
- Met with the cast of *Luna Gale* at the *Cleveland Play House* to provide the actors and directors with insight into the foster care experience as well as the social work role.
- Celebrated with Judge Kristen Sweeney and board member Lisa Buescher in Nov. 2015, and board member Cathy Belk and mentor Jim Belk in Sept. 2016, for receiving *Congressional Angels in Adoption Awards* in Washington, DC.

- Co-Sponsored the 8th Annual *Foster Care Alumni Thanksgiving event*.

- Continued board service by Executive Director on the national *Donaldson Adoption Institute* Board of Directors.



2016 Donations

Report reflects donations of \$100 or more from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

thank you!



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Dottie Klemm
Luanne and Ken Lashutka
Anita Miller
Betsie Norris

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Medical Mutual of Ohio
Mutual of Omaha
North Olmsted Urgent Care / Rebound Physical Therapy
Ockerman Consulting
Sherwin Williams

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— also includes donations in Honor of Betsie Norris

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Luanne and Ken Lashutka
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Todd and Minda Norris
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Lisa and Brendan Buescher
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Murray and Susan Van Epp

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Breakfast Club of America, Inc.
CareSource Foundation
The Children's Guild
Citizens Banks
Cleveland Automobile Club
Orphan Outing Fund
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Cohen & Company
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Ideastream
MCPc
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Mutual of Omaha
North Olmsted Urgent Care / Rebound Physical Therapy
Ockerman Consulting
Sherwin Williams

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Cleveland Improve Comedy Club and Restaurant
Cleveland Indians
Cleveland International Film Festival
Cleveland Magazine
Cleveland Metroparks
The Cleveland Orchestra
Cleveland Play House
Cleveland Pops Orchestra
Cleveland Public Theatre
Cleveland Zoological Society
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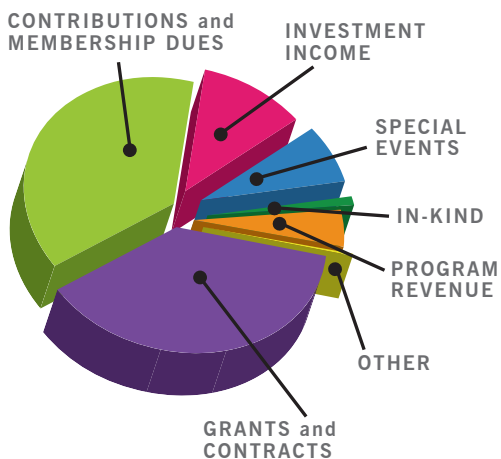
John and Denise Vinton

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

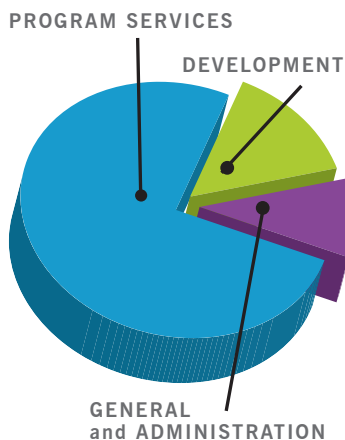
Statement of Activities

OCTOBER 1, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



EXPENSES



REVENUE AND SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Grants and contracts	\$427,824			427,824
Membership dues	12,251			12,251
Contributions	159,776	\$250,250		410,026
Special events	80,214			80,214
In-kind revenue	10,731			10,731
Program revenue	54,756			54,756
Interest income		27,706		27,706
Dividend income		16,434		16,434
Realized gain on investments		80,413		80,413
Unrealized loss on investments		(40,090)		(40,090)
Other	1,174			1,174
Net assets released from restrictions	200,758	(200,758)		
	947,484	133,955		1,081,439
EXPENSES				
Pre and Post Adoption Services	263,020			263,020
Youth Connections	240,049			240,049
Triad Services	160,571			160,571
Advocacy	54,041			54,041
Total Program Services	717,681			717,681
General and Administrative	94,653			94,653
Development	133,808			133,808
Total Supporting Services	228,461			228,461
	946,142			946,142
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,342	133,955		135,297
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	565,453	372,002	793,009	1,730,464
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	566,795	505,957	793,009	1,865,761

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