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Media Contact

Anthony Moujaes, Communications Manager

P (216) 482-2313

M (419) 239-2701

E anthony.moujaes@adoptionnetwork.org

Adoption Network Cleveland Annual Meeting to highlight 30 years of impact

Case Western professor Dr. Jennifer King to highlight impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in keynote remarks

CLEVELAND (November 7, 2018) — Adoption Network Cleveland: The Ohio Family Connection, will celebrate its accomplishments and accolades when the organization commemorates its 30th anniversary during its 2018 Annual Meeting (Nov. 29).

“We’re looking forward to sharing stories together about our successful advocacy, education and support for the individuals and families we have impacted for our three decades, while also looking forward to the future as we expand the scope of our work to reach more people and expand our footprint throughout Ohio,” said **Betsie Norris**, founder and executive director of Adoption Network Cleveland. Earlier this year, Adoption Network Cleveland reframed its programming into a new model that grouped its programs into four hubs based on the children, families and individuals the organization serves.

In addition the event will have two special features – a keynote on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which has become an increasing and important public health issue amid Ohio’s growing opioid concern, and a book signing with the author of a new book on adoptive parenting published by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Keynote speaker **Dr. Jennifer King**, assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University and assistant director of the school’s new Center on Trauma and Adversity, will deliver her remarks on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the Importance of Relationships, an important, timely topic relative to the ongoing opioid crisis and its impact on child welfare and public health. Dr. King has more than a decade of clinical practice experience working directly with traumatized individuals, families, and communities with the goal of addressing trauma impact to help them move from surviving to thriving.

The ACEs quiz quantifies abuse, neglect and other traumatic events experienced by individuals under 18 years of age. A landmark CDC-Kaiser study determined that a high ACEs score has a significant lasting impact on both physical and emotional health and well-being throughout an individual’s life.

Dr. Elaine E. Schulte, M.D., M.P.H., author of *Caring for Your Adopted Child: An Essential Guide for Parents*, published by The American Academy of Pediatrics, October 2018, will

sign books during the reception 5:30-6:15 p.m. Dr. Schulte is one of the nation's foremost adoption medicine specialists, with more than 25 years of experience. She is the founder and former medical director of the adoption program at the Cleveland Clinic. She is currently the medical director of the adoption program at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, where she is also vice chair, academic affairs and faculty development. In addition, she is professor of pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y.

Caring for Your Adopted Child offers wisdom to adoptive parents. Whether a child joins a family through domestic adoption, international adoption, or foster care, he or she may have needs that require additional consideration, and this new book is a valuable resource.

Adoption Network Cleveland's Annual Meeting also includes the presentation of the 2018 Triad Advocate of the Year Awards, which recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the adoption field, and the 2018 Founder's Award to a volunteer who exemplifies the values of Adoption Network Cleveland.

Three individuals will be honored as Triad Advocates of the Year:

- **Elaine Schulte**, M.D., M.P.H., author (*Caring for Your Adopted Child: An Essential Guide for Parents*, 2018) and adoptive parent from New York City, formerly from Shaker Heights.
- **Lori Scobee**, birthparent counselor at Caring For Kids, Inc., and birthmother from Wadsworth.
- **Elizabeth Swenson**, Ph.D., J.D., professor of psychology and law in the Department of Psychology at John Carroll University from Shaker Heights.

The individual being honored with the Founder's Award:

- **Dottie Klemm**, L.S.W., volunteer with Adoption Network Cleveland since its founding in 1988, and former adoption administrator, Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services, from Cleveland Heights.

When: 5:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29

Where: Ford Room, Jerry Sue Thornton Center, 2500 E. 22nd St., Cleveland

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About Adoption Network Cleveland Adoption Network Cleveland: The Ohio Family Connection™ (ANC) is an innovative non-profit organization that fulfills unmet needs for adoption information, advocacy, education and support for members of the adoption triad (adoptees, birthparents and adoptive/kinship parents), youth in foster care, foster parents, siblings, and related professionals. ANC is a member of Greater Cleveland Community Shares.