



Changing Lives ... Creating Futures

Betsie Norris
Adoption Network Cleveland
Executive Director



Betsie Norris, an adoptee, is Executive Director of Adoption Network Cleveland, a non-profit support and advocacy organization that she founded in 1988 to provide support and assistance to others who are touched by adoption. With a wide array of innovative programs and services, Adoption Network Cleveland serves as a successful national model for effective service and advocacy for members of the entire adoption community including adoptees, adoptive parents, birthparents, youth in foster care, foster parents and related professionals. Adoption Network Cleveland is a recipient of a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **2009 Adoption Excellence Award** and the **2005 Anisfeld-Wolf Memorial Award** which is presented annually to recognize a non-profit organization serving greater Clevelanders.



BETSIE NORRIS

2011 Adoption Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

2011/2012 class: Leadership Cleveland

2010 Inductee: Shaker Heights High School Hall of Fame from the Shaker Heights Alumni Association

Foster Care Hero Award from the Rona R. Carter Scholarship Fund

Hearts of Hope Award from Beech Brook

Angels in Adoption Award from the United States Congress

Woman of Note from *Crains Cleveland Business*

Emma Mae Vilardi Humanitarian Award from the American Adoption Congress

Betsie Norris is available as a resource to speak or be interviewed on any adoption-related topic. As Executive Director of Adoption Network Cleveland, Betsie:

- Speaks extensively throughout the U.S. as an expert on adoption practices, policy and law and about Adoption Network Cleveland's successful public/private partnerships to help find permanent, loving families for older teens and sibling groups in foster care.
- Works tirelessly to reform Ohio's adoption laws and meets regularly with Ohio legislators in an effort to educate policy makers about adoption and foster care issues.
- Served a 3-year term as a board member of the national American Adoption Congress.
- Has been interviewed by local, state and national media, including CBS News' *60 Minutes*.
- Is co-author with Jayne Schooler of *Journeys After Adoption: Understanding the Lifelong Process* (Bergin & Garvey, 2002).
- Is trained as an RN with a specialty in child psychiatry and earned a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Case Western Reserve University.



Betsie Norris accepting the Adoption Excellence Award in Washington D.C. on behalf of Adoption Network Cleveland in 2009