Adoption Network Cleveland’s mission is to connect and empower individuals, organizations and communities impacted by adoption and foster care, and to provide a source of healing for those in need.

2,239 individuals, children, parents and professionals impacted by services in 2019

160 dedicated and valued volunteers in 2019

2,545 hours of service in 2019
Supported 529 adoptees, birthparents, siblings and adoptive parents.

Supported more than 350 adoptees and birth family members directly in their quest to reconnect after separation, and maintained an average of 28 active search assistance cases per month.

Continued to build our expertise to assist adoptees and birth family using DNA and genetic genealogy, which now makes up more than half of our search assistance caseload.

Supported 173 adoptees, birthparents, siblings and adoptive parents in General Discussion Meetings at seven locations around the state, with a cumulative attendance of 627.

Hosted the 27th Annual Birthmothers’ Day Ceremony with 26 birthmothers plus 37 supporters, including family, friends and others.

Responded to 191 Helpline inquiries from adult adoptees, birth families and adoptive families for guidance, validation of feelings and accurate information.

Served 35 youth in or recently aged-out of foster care in programs promoting resilience and permanency.

Facilitated 15 Get Real Support Groups with a cumulative attendance of 33 youth in foster care, providing a safe space for youth to discuss issues they face and ideas around permanency and adoption.

Mediated 11 cases with families to promote permanency and bring together all of the caring and supportive adults in a child’s life to discuss and jointly determine how best to meet the needs of the child.

Facilitated and proctored 43 child welfare professional trainings in partnership with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, serving 249 individuals with cumulative attendance of 644.

Led the Adoption Awareness Coalition with 16 organizational members in a learning community format.

Mentored 3 students in the Scholars Program and 2 undergraduate and graduate interns.
Served 512 children, parents and professionals connected to adoptive, foster care and kinship families. Connected 231 parents and 64 children within the Family Ties program, including a monthly support meeting, social outings and one-on-one support.

Held 14 Parent Advisory Team meetings to guide the implementation of the Family Ties program.

Provided support and held monthly social outings for the Weaving Cultures Transracial Family group through a private Facebook group with 9 outings and 22 attendees.

Hosted a Winter Ball for families, with 105 guests enjoying good food, dancing and community.

Established two community gardens, one on the East Side and one on the West Side to encourage families to use gardening as a platform to build strong family relationships and talk about nurturing, nutrition and volunteering.

The EMBRACE (Enhanced Mentoring, Building Relationships, and Cultivating Experiences) Mentoring program maintained 13 active matches for youth in adoptive and kinship families with a caring adult mentor with similar life experiences. 11 new matches were made during the year. A total of 116 individuals were served, including mentees, mentors and parents.

Provided one-on-one consultation for 41 parents supporting their child at school through Educational Liaison program and attended 5 school meetings with parents to advocate for their child. Provided 32 educators with information on the impact of adoption and foster care on children’s success at school.

Assisted 81 individuals in the adoption and foster care process through Permanency Navigator services with one-on-one support.

Educated 41 prospective adoptive parents through attendance at Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin and 18 individuals at Adoption 201: Adopting Infants Domestically.

Facilitated 18 Parent Trainings on a variety of topics for 439 adoptive, foster and kinship parents.

Sent 2 parent leaders from our active Parent Advisory Team and 1 Family Support Coordinator to the national NACAC conference in Las Vegas, where they attended multiple workshops on supporting and preserving adoptive and kinship families, and parenting children in a trauma-informed manner.
Nominated adoptive parents Malia Lewis and Margot Damaser of Cleveland Heights - who were then chosen by Representative Marcia Fudge - to receive the Congressional Angels in Adoption Award for their advocacy work on transracial adoption and LGBTQ families.

Conducted a successful membership campaign, re-engaging 48 former members and promoting membership to program participants.

Maintained a successful partnership with Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services and other community partners.

Hosted a dynamic author event, Family Reflections - Authors Share Their Stories, featuring six nationally-known authors with personal connections to adoption and foster care.

Successfully supported our $982,609 operational budget for programs and services through a mix of individual, foundation and corporate gifts, $530,407; government VOCA grant, $365,150; program revenue, $43,910; and endowment and miscellaneous income, $43,142.

Media Awareness
Featured in the media 12 times and provided 17 community presentations, including:
- Expert commentary for News Channel 5 segment on the Geauga’s Baby case.
- ideastream Sound of Ideas feature for Family Reflections, Authors Share Their Stories and author interviews on Cleveland FOX 8 News in the Morning and Voices and Choices by WRUW, campus radio.
- Feature article in Northeast Ohio Parenting Magazine during National Foster Care Month highlighting our programs for children and families.
- Featured in the Cleveland edition of the Crain’s Giving Guide.

Advocacy
Championed Ohio HB 448, the Fostering Siblings Connection Act, to prioritize placement of siblings together and maintain contact through out their foster care and adoption journeys. We continue to lay the groundwork for its re-introduction.

Successfully orchestrated our annual Lobby Day coordinating teams who visited each legislative office to deliver advocacy materials and candy jars. Our 23 volunteers met in person with legislators and staff to discuss important child welfare and adoption issues in 96 of the 132 offices.

Continued implementation of Ohio’s adoptee access to records law, through which more than 13,570 records have been released; continued moderating the Ohio Adoption Search and Reunion Facebook page with more than 941 members.

Actively supported HB 137 to make municipal and county peace officers mandated reporters; HB 139 which opened historical records over 75 years old, including adoption records and others; and HB 420 designating November as Adoption Awareness Month in Ohio. All three bills were passed and signed into law by the governor.

*For service numbers and highlights from 2018, please refer to our 2018 Year in Review.*
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Kary Kandra
Aggie Nagy
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Authors Dan Chaon, Paula McLain and Barbara Raymond share their connections to adoption and foster care at our 2019 Family Reflections, Authors Tell Their Stories event.

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Statement of Activities FY 2018 & 2019

Revenue and Support, FY 2018–2019

Government Grants & Contracts $752,677.00
Contributions & Foundation Grants $984,937.00
Special Events (Net) $196,739.00
Program Revenue $46,344.00
Interest Income & Other $133,916.00
Total Revenue $2,114,613.00

Expenses, FY 2018–2019

Program Services $1,451,291.00
General Administration $227,333.00
Fundraising $277,948.00
Total Expenses $1,956,572.00
Change in net assets $158,041.00
Net assets at beginning of FY 2018 $1,923,552.00
Net assets at end of FY2019 $2,081,593.00