

# Monthly Calendar

## October 2021 Events and Programs

### ADULT ADOPTEE, BIRTH PARENT & DNA DISCOVERIES

#### General Discussion Meetings

Support and discussion groups for adult adoptees, birth parents, siblings, adoptive parents, prospective parents, professionals, and anyone interested in exploring the lifelong journey of adoption. October meetings will be virtual. Individuals from any location are encouraged to join. All meeting times are shown in Eastern Time. Preregistration is required. Visit our website calendar and click on the date of your choice to register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>. For more information on General Discussion Meetings and a list of upcoming special topics, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/GDMatANC>.

#### Virtual General Discussion Meeting Dates

October 7, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Elaine  
October 12, 7-8:30 pm ET led by facilitators Marni & Mindy  
October 13, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denice  
October 21, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Dottie & Estes  
October 28, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan

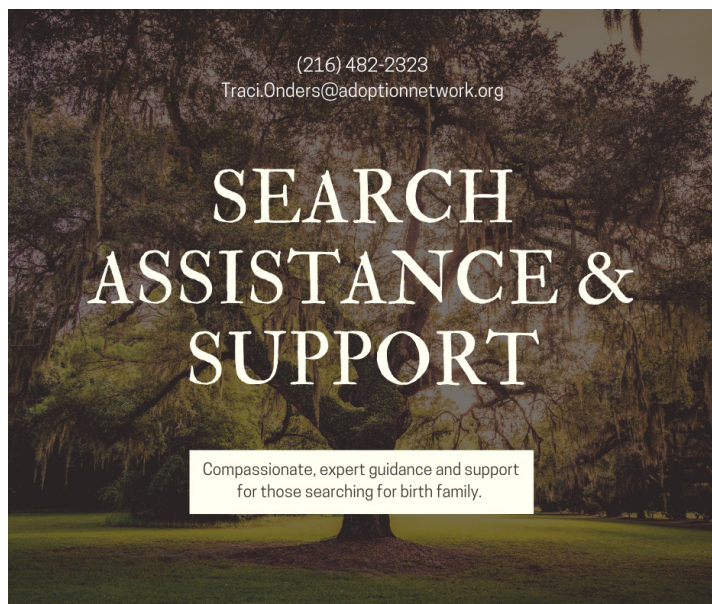
#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, October 6, 7:00-9:00 pm ET

Our Birth Mother Support Group is facilitated by Lindsey and Nikki and provides a safe and supportive environment to help with the complexities that are often part of the adoption experience. The meetings are open to birth mothers connected by the lifelong journey of adoption and are an opportunity for birth mothers to encourage one another in their healing process through discussion and interaction.

We invite birth mothers to join this group of women, who are at different places on the same journey, to give and receive understanding and support. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

#### DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, October 5, 8:00-10:00 pm ET

If you have either found family using commercial DNA testing or been found by family who used commercial DNA testing (examples of commercial DNA testing are Ancestry or 23&Me, etc.) then this is the group for you. You do not need to have a formal adoption connection to be in this group, but you do need to have a DNA discovery for this group to be relevant to you. Examples include individuals with a known connection to adoption but also, individuals with unexpected parentage results among those not adopted such as unknown child discovery, unexpected niece, nephew or cousin discovery, individuals discovering they are donor-conceived or adopted (late discovery adoptees); anyone who has found unknown siblings. international adoptees connecting to family including cousins, unexpected grandparent discoveries, and the many other scenarios that are surprising folks with today's widespread commercial DNA testing. **Please note that October's meeting will have a special topic: The Importance of Sibling Relationships, and will be open to a wider audience. A waiting list will be created if interest is high.** This meeting is led by facilitators Becky & Oliver. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.



Programs are provided free unless otherwise noted. Programs indicate whether they are offered virtually or in-person.

### Family Ties Program

This program includes a monthly group where adoptive, kinship, and foster families meet, share experiences, and learn from each other and featured presenters. To find out more: <http://bit.ly/FamilyTiesatANC>.

### Parent Discussion (Virtual)

**Thursday, October 14, 6:30-8:00 pm ET**

#### **Tough Talk: Drugs & Alcohol**

A part of supporting children is helping them grow and understand big ideas and tough topics. These topics may be awkward, or uncomfortable to start but we are here to help. Join us as we learn how to tackle these conversations with children of all ages.

October's discussion will center on issues concerning drugs and alcohol with Jessica Fisher MSW, LSW. In this discussion we will navigate how to speak to our children about drugs and alcohol and important information we may need to help our children understand the temptations and dangers. Certificates of Attendance will be available. Registration is required to receive the link: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

### Parent Training (In-Person)

**Monday, October 18, 6:00-9:00 pm**  
**ADHD among Children and Adolescents: Recognition and Intervention**

#983-2

Trainer: Stacy Simera

**Monday, October 25, 6:00-9:00 pm**  
**Everyday Ethics**

#950-32

Trainer: Anthony President

To register for either training: private agency foster parents should have their agency worker contact Nefertiti McKinney at (216) 881-4048; public agency foster parents should register online at the OCWTP website; adoptive and kinship parents can contact Julius Jackson directly at: [julius.jackson@adoptionnetwork.org](mailto:julius.jackson@adoptionnetwork.org) or (216) 482-2324. Trainings will be held in person at Adoption Network Cleveland, 4614 Prospect Avenue, Ste. 550, Cleveland 44103.



**MONDAY EVENING  
SPEAKER SERIES**  
Adoption Network Cleveland

**Monday, October 4, 2021, 8:00-9:00 pm ET**  
**"Who will hear me?" Ohio's campaign for a Youth Ombudsman to investigate abuse experienced by children and teens, presented by Juliana Barton and Kim Eckhart**

Current and former foster youth are advocating for a Youth Ombudsman to investigate abuse experienced by youth in biological, foster, adoptive, kinship, respite, residential and group home placements. Find out how the current safeguards failing to protect youth and how could individuals and organizations can support the campaign. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>

**Monday, October 18, 2021, 8:00-9:00 pm ET**  
**History, My Mother, and Me presented by Kim Heikkila**

In this talk, Kim will be joined by her sister who was placed for adoption at birth (also named Kim) as she shares her research into the history of Booth Memorial Hospital in St. Paul, and contemplates her mother's experience as a "Booth Girl," and the complicated legacy of adoption on her family story. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>



### Fall at the Zoo

**Saturday, October 23, 11:00 am-4:00 pm**

Join Adoption Network Cleveland at the Zoo. We would like to invite everyone connected to Adoption Network Cleveland to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for a Zoo Day! This includes all those who are members, participate in programs, volunteers, donors, and staff. Join us, we can't wait to see you!

- Tickets will be provided by Adoption Network Cleveland
- Families and Individuals can enjoy the park at their own pace
- Have fun connecting with old and new friends while enjoying the zoo

For Details and to Register: <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.