annual report

ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

- Covering Fiscal Year 2015: October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015



This year our organization stood witness as one of our founding goals was, finally, achieved.

Friday, March 20, 2015 was "opening day" here in Ohio and hundreds came to Columbus to celebrate and take part. This marked the culmination of 27 years of effort spearheaded by Adoption Network Cleveland to pass legislation giving Ohio-born adoptees access to their original birth certificates. The enacted legislation opened records to all 400,000 adoptees from Ohio's previously closed period of 1964-1996.

Opening Day was amazing. Hundreds flooded to Columbus the evening before to convene, share and prepare. Advocates, policymakers, and adoptees all shared from the heart. Together we viewed An Adoptee ROARed in Ohio: The Betsie Norris Story by documentary filmmaker Jean Strauss.

Hundreds got their records request forms in order and notarized. Jean Strauss and her son Jonathan filmed throughout. The next morning we led a procession from the hotel to Ohio Vital Statistics – instead of the old chant "What do we want? Open Records! When do we want them? NOW!" we chanted "What do we want? Open Records! When do we want them? TODAY!" The morning was spent in line, and for many in tears, as the Vital Statistics staff welcomed us in. In the afternoon press conference four adoptees were presented with their records in a moving ceremony (see videos on Adoption Network Cleveland's YouTube Channel). We think we are safe in saying that all who participated felt like they were part of something of epic proportion!

So many wonderful things took place this year. Please read this brief annual report for an overview of our achievements. Adoption Network Cleveland continues to touch the lives of thousands – adoptees, adoptive parents, birthparents, youth in foster care awaiting permanency, professionals in the field.

We could not achieve any of this without the personal passion of our staff, volunteers and, of course, donors and funders. Thank you for being a part of this special story.

In the spirit of truth,

Betsie Norris Executive Director Adoption Network Cleveland

Anita Miller Board Chair Adoption Network Cleveland

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Adoption Network Cleveland 2015 Year in Review

(October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015)

Highlights

- 4,793 contacts were supported through our Adoption Helpline, via phone and email.
- 142 individuals were assisted in the adoption process by Adoption Navigators.
- 258 individuals attended General Support and Discussion Meetings, with a total annual attendance of 741.
- 139 volunteers completed over 6,450 hours of service, valued at over \$138,417.

Advocacy

- Celebrated the implementation of Ohio's Adoption Records Law with hundreds of Ohio-born adoptees in Columbus with three events over two days in March.
- Received 177 local, state, and national features about the Ohio adoption records law – over a three month period, from February 15 to May 15, reaching an estimated audience of 197 million.
- Spearheaded the creation of a documentary film by Jean Strauss with the Ohio Department of Health – Walking Through Ohio's Adoption Records Laws. It has had over 9,000 views on our YouTube page - youtube.com/AdoptionNetCle
- Supported legislation in Ohio regarding Foster Care to 21 and worked on other important legislation.
- Reached out to Ohio's 132 legislators about adoption and foster care issues through our Annual Lobby Day.
- Launched An Ohio Adoptee ROARed: The Betsie Norris Story on our YouTube page, with over 2,000 views.

Programs

- Expanded our monthly General Support and Discussion Meetings into the Toledo and Cincinnati areas and began a meeting online.
- Supported 187 adoptive parents through Post Adoption services with monthly meetings, social support activities and workshops.
- Served 72 youth in foster care through our Permanency Champions Mentoring Program.
- Held 23 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 93 youth.

- Continued leading the Adoption Awareness Coalition – an alliance of agencies and organizations committed to promoting understanding and visibility of adoption in Northeast Ohio – expanding the Coalition membership to 18.
- Assisted hundreds of adoptees and birth family members in their quest to reconnect after separation.
- Hosted the 23rd Annual Birthmother's Day Ceremony including 18 birthmothers plus 27 participants, including friends, family and other supporters on the Saturday before Mother's Day.
- Trained 109 adoption professionals and 357 foster and adoptive parents through Ohio Child Welfare Training Program sessions.
- Offered Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin? to 66 participants in four sessions throughout the year.
- Supported 115 adoptive parents with educational advocacy.
- Partnered with the Junior League of Cleveland for the life skills program designed for youth in foster care – Cooking With Cuyahoga's Kids – with 13 youth participants.
- Participated in many community partnerships, including:
 - * Community Endeavors Foundation (focusing on fatherhood) Wellness and Men of Color subcommittees.
 - * YWCA's A Place For Me (focusing on ending youth homelessness) planning committee
 - * CASA of Cuyahoga County (Court Appointed Special Advocates) – steering committee
- Produced 22 Digital Me's, a unique multi-media recruitement tool for teens in foster care waiting for adoptive families.

Awareness - Local, Statewide, National

- Raised awareness of 3,628 individuals about our work through 59 presentations and resource fairs.
- Presented at Case Western Reserve University Schubert Center for Child Studies, American Association of University Women, Kent State University, and Chagrin Documentary Film Fest.
- Featured in the media 237 times and mentioned an additional 140 times. Highlights include:
 - February, 22, 2015 The Washington Times: State Law to Open Access to Adoptee's Birth Certificates.
 - March 19, 2015 The Plain Dealer: Ohio Adoptees Can Unlock Their Past on Friday

- March 20, 2015 The Washington Post: After Decades of Unanswered Questions, Ohio Adoptees ...
- March 20, 2015 The Columbus Dispatch: Long Lines of Adoptees Show Up Downtown ...
- April 29, 2015 ABC Nightline and Good Morning America: One Woman's Journey
- June 8, 2015 Al Jazeera America: New Ohio Adoption Law Changing Lives
- September 14, 2015 The Columbus Dispatch: Birth Certificate Redaction Questions Unanswered

Fund Development

Raised funds to support a budget of \$1,039,829

 including \$96,582 from individuals,
 \$508,641 through foundations, \$38,500
 through corporations and \$59,815 from events.

Of Special Note

- Co-sponsored the 7th Annual Foster Care Alumni Thanksgiving event.
- Celebrated with Executive Director being elected to the national Donaldson Adoption Institute Board of Directors.
- Invited to be a Community Partner with City Club of Greater Cleveland event featuring Jen Bricker.
- Worked with two year-long masters-level interns from Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

Awards

- Celebrated with Executive Director Betsie Norris for receiving the following awards:
 - * 2015 The Eleanor R. Gerson Leadership in Social Justice Award from Greater Cleveland Community Shares
 - * 2015 Virginia Colson Award for Service to Families and Children from the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies: OACCA
 - * 2014 Advocate of the Year Award from the Ohio Adoption Planning Group: OAPG
 - * 2015 Women Who Excel Award's Progressive Entrepreneur winner from Smart Business magazine
- Celebrated with board member and mentor Lisa Buescher for receiving the Most Treasured Volunteer award from The Center for Community Solutions and for being recognized nationally as a Congressional Angels in Adoption honoree.

2015 Donations

Report reflects donors October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

INDIVIDUALS

\$1,000 and above Carole Brachna Lisa and Brendan Buescher John and Pat Chapman Molly Cissell Thomas and Tricia Dent Robert Ducatman Ted and Colleen Grabowski Elaine Hagan Laureen and Willie Harbert Dottie Klemm Anita and Joseph Miller Elaine Schulte and Kim Lawrence

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Thankyou!

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

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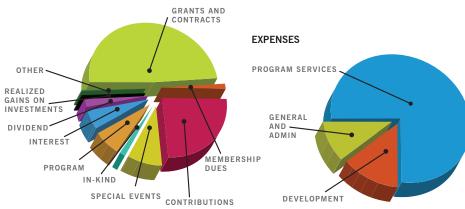
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Statement of Activities

OCTOBER 1, 2014 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



REVENUE AND SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Grants and contracts	\$414,378			414,378
Membership dues	12,650			12,650
Contributions	142,250	\$73,000	\$65	215,315
Special events – Gross	72,791			72,791
In-kind revenue	11,831			11,831
Program revenue	52,563			52,563
Interest income		43,610		43,610
Dividend income		17,950		17,950
Realized gain on investments		3,011		3,011
Unrealized loss on investments		(79,918)		(79,918)
Other	2,449		(230)	2,219
Net assets released from restrictions	294,760	(294,760)		
	1,003,672	(237,107)	(165)	766,400
EXPENSES				
Post adoption services	186,454			186,454
Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids	337,001			337,001
Triad Services	168,516			168,516
Advocacy	91,678			91,678
Total Program Services	783,649			783,649
General and administrative	101,518			101,518
Development	130,945			130,945
Total Supporting Services	232,463			232,463
-	1,016,112			1,016,112
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(12,440)	(237,107)	(165)	(249,712)
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	577,893	609,109	793,174	1,980,176
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	565,453	372,002	793,009	1,730,464



AdoptionNetwork.org













Volunteers

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