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
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 95 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 recruitment tool for teens in foster care waiting for adoptive families.

• 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:
  • March 19, 2015 – The Plain Dealer: Ohio Adoptees Can Unlock Their Past on Friday

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.
INDIVIDUALS
$1,000 and above
Carole Brachman
Lisa and Brendan Buescher
John and Pat Chapman
Molly Cissell
Thomas and Tricia Dent
Robert Ducatman
Ted and Colleen Grabowski
Elaine Hagan
Lauren and Willie Harbert
Dottie Klemm
Anita and Joseph Miller
Elaine Schulte and Kim Lawrence
Kathleen and Don Sokolik
Ellen Stephens
Susan and Murray Van Epp
John Wiedemann
Nicole Wilson
David and Catherine Yates

$500 - $999
Christine and Mike Banks
Cathy Belk
Vincent and Lisa Berardinelli
Barlow Buescher
Erica and Brian Curry VanEel
Daniel and Kathleen Gisser
Tracy and David Lindberg
Virginia Micaletti
William Nugent
Kyria Orlovski and Brian Hart
Stephen Petras
Elizabeth Swenson
Claire Shands Waag
Marcia Williams

$250 - $499
Adik Achas
Monica Banks Hines
Consi Bruno
Marissa Beechuck
Mario Ciano
Nanci and Jeff Dahnier
Lesa Evans
Gina Gayle
James Graham and David Dusek
Fred Greenman and Barbara Raymond
Richard Horvath
Michael Maher
Lei McCarthy
Phillip and Jennifer Molner
Matthew Morarfy
Peter Nagyko
Stephanie Niehaus
Richard Schmittgen
Jennifer and Kevin Sel
Joan Soucie
Mark and Annette Sutherland
Scott Villani
John and Sara Zareanc

$100 - $249
John Adams
Nancy and Walt Adams
Margaret Arndts
George Baker
Michal Becoat
Karen Beagle
Linda Bellini and Terry Evans
Jordan Boew
Zoe Breen Wood
Barbara Raymond
Michael Savage

FAMILY FUNDS
Brad Norris Memorial Fund
Rebecca Drinner
Maureen and James Hefterman
Alice and Reese Jenkins
Luanne and Ken Lashutka
Edie and Bob Nelson
Matthew and Leslie Nelson
Betsey Norris
Fred Greenman and Barbara Raymond
Karen Rosenegg
Linda Schellentraeger
Paul and Laura Soos Buescher Family Fund
Barlow Buescher
Jan Jones Katterheinrich Family Fund
Susan and Murray Van Epp Lasutchka Family Fund
Luanne and Ken Lasutchka

DONATIONS 2015

REPORT

IN MEMORY OF
Linda Bellini
Magalie Wendel and Family
Julie Caly

IN HONOR OF
Linda Bellini
Magalie Wendel and Family
Julie Caly

CORPORATE PARTNERS
Hilton Cleveland Hotel
Cohen & Company
Environserve, Inc.
Fairmount Sanitor
Forest City
KeyBank
McDonald Hopkins
MPc
Sherwin Williams
Thompson Hine

2015 Donations

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

1. Carol and Robert Flexer
2. Elizabeth Forrest
3. Vicki Furlan
4. Mark Geller
5. Robert Gibbons
6. Sheldon and Nan Gisser
7. Kelli Glenn
8. Korlin Grays
9. Anna Guy-Leach and Russell Leach
10. Amy Hanauer
11. Ray Harnikman
12. Jackie and John Maslanka
13. Deanna McCann
14. Jennifer Meyer
15. Chelsea Mills
16. Hoyt Murray
17. Daniel and Lorraine Nelson
18. Edie and Bob Nelson
19. Betsey Norris
20. BetsDorthea Pendleton
21. Robert Plantz
22. Ann Proudfoot
23. Patricia Rideout
24. Amy and Ken Rogat
25. Lynn and Joe Roman
26. Craig and Carmen Ruch
27. Christopher Scarcella
28. Linda Schellentraeger
29. Alison Scheible
30. Dawn Schweikert
31. Robert Shernin
32. Fareed Siddiqi
33. Jim Simler and Amy Zhang
34. Andrea Smith
35. Michael Smyth
36. William and John Spearman
37. Renee Staton
38. Mark Stirn
39. Elizabeth Sullivan
40. Kathryn Thompson
41. Beth Treccia
42. Jamie Tuss
43. John and Kelley Underdover
44. Sue Ellen Utley
45. John and Denise Vinton
46. Magdalene Wendel & Family
47. Joe Weisman
48. Danielle Williams
49. Caroline Wrebel
50. Ryan Zymler

IN KIND DONATIONS
Anonymous
Adventure Zone Big Adventure
AGC – The Creative Advantage
AMA Motorcycle Museum
Amazona Family Entertainment Center
Sherri Aiportin
Hai Hair Salon & Spa
Ballet Met Columbus
Bryan Tree
Bucktail Center for the Arts
Alison Bradford-Wilson
Linda Bellini
Blessed Trinity
Bloomoo Concerts
Nicolle Bourrillion
Bradford Renaissance Portraits Corp.
Marissa Brydle
Lisa Buescher
Don and Kathy Sokolik
Van Epp Family Fund
Susan and Murray Van Epp

THANK YOU!

The list on these pages include individual and in-kind donations. While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the list, we apologize for any misspellings or omissions. Please inform us of any errors, so that we can correct our records. Email: info@AdoptionNetwork.org

Thank you for your support!
Statement of Activities

OCTOBER 1, 2014 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants and contracts $414,378 414,378
Membership dues 12,650 12,650
Contributions 142,250 $73,000 $65,315
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
Realized gain on investments (79,918) (79,918)
Unrealized loss on investments (2,219)
Other 2,449 (230) 2,219

Net assets released from restrictions 294,760 (294,760) 1,003,672 (237,107) 166,400

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) (165,447)

NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR 577,893 609,109 793,174 1,980,176

NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR 585,453 372,002 793,009 1,730,464

Volunteers

2015 Board of Directors
Anita Miller, M.S., M.B.A.
Chairperson
Lisa A. Buescher, M.S.E.
1st Vice Chair
Marissa Beech, M.A.
2nd Vice Chair
Thomas W. Dent, Jr., CFA
Treasurer
Ted Grabowski

2015 Staff
Bettsie Norris
Executive Director
Ayanna Abi-Kyles
Cassandra Fye
Darlene Collins
Trish DeFabbo

Robert Gibbons
Sarah Hastings
Patricia Hill
Julius Jackson
Kara Laughlin
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Jennifer Zisk-Viton

Adoption Network Cleveland 2015 Annual Report

Educate • Support • Advocate
AdoptionNetwork.org

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ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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