Dear Friends,

In our 29th year, we faced hurdles and challenges that we had never seen before, as a major funding source shifted. Through determination and nimble flexibility we met those challenges and emerged stronger than ever.

Primarily, due to changing priorities on the county level, our largest single funding stream ceased with limited advance notice. After a few trying months we were successful in replacing this funding through VOCA (Victims of Crime Act).

Our hearts were warmed through this transition when our community bolstered us through support of our Fill the Gap Campaign, which raised $181,745 from seven organizations and 235 individuals. So many of you came forward to help – thank you!

Emerging from this year of change created the opportunity to refine our scope and our work, and we:

- **Reframed our mentoring program** to strengthen families and mentor youth, age 10 to 18, many of whom are adopted from foster care or live in kinship families and would benefit from having an additional supportive, caring adult in their lives as they work through their pre-teen and teen years.

- **Explored our scope, name and brand.** We have long struggled with geography in our name, especially after expanding some services around the state. Even the word “adoption” poses challenges because families we serve are formed in many different ways. We involved stakeholders in discussion to redefine our scope and rebrand our identity. Out of this process we are adding “The Ohio Family Connection” to our name and creating four service hubs: Family, Adult Adoptee and Birthparent, Foster Youth and Foster Alumni, and Professional and Stakeholder – each served with the underpinnings of advocacy, education and support.

We had another strong year involving media awareness, with 27 media features in print and broadcast. Each shared compelling personal stories while shining a spotlight on our important work. Topics included: the impact of the Ohio adoptee records law after two years; birthmothers of different eras in honor of our 25th Annual Birthmother’s Day Ceremony; adoptee/birth family reunions; and the needs of local youth in foster care.

Thank you for being with us through one of our most transformative years. Inside you will find more highlights, especially with our strong program areas serving families, adoptees and birthparents, youth, and the professional community.

In the spirit of truth,

Lisa Buescher
Board Chair
Adoption Network Cleveland

Betsie Norris
Executive Director
Adoption Network Cleveland
Adoption Network Cleveland
2017 Year in Review
(October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)

Programs
• Supported 2,783 contacts through our Adoption Helpline.
• Utilized 167 volunteers who had a cumulative 607 engagements of over 4,423 hours of service, valued at $106,772.
• Maintained a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services to support youth in their care and the families that adopt them.
• Supported 144 adoptive parents through Post Adoption services with monthly meetings, social support activities and workshops with a total 456 in attendance. Developed and implemented a Parent Advisory Team among parents participating in the Adoptive Family Support Group, engaging them in group planning and encouraging leadership.
• Served 56 youth in foster care through our Permanency Champions Mentoring Program.
• Held 9 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 24 youth.
• Continued leading the Adoption Awareness Coalition – an alliance of 17 agencies and organizations committed to promoting understanding and visibility of adoption in Northeast Ohio. Developed a new Learning Community Format which utilizes Coalition members’ strengths and professional backgrounds to facilitate an open discussion around a topic or a mini-training/workshop that the group finds relevant to their work. Hosted Ethical Decision-Making in Adoption workshops for adoption professionals.
• Assisted and supported hundreds of adoptees and birth family members in their quest to reconnect after separation.
• Hosted the 25th Annual Birthmother’s Day Ceremony with 26 birthmothers plus 47 supporters participating, including friends, family and others.
• Trained adoption professionals and foster and birth family members in their quest to reconnect after separation.

Advocacy
• Laid the groundwork to develop legislation to address sibling rights in Ohio.
• Continued implementation of Ohio’s adoptee records law, through which over 10,000 records have been released; continued management of the “Ohio Adoption Search and Reunion” Facebook page with over 780 members.
• By invitation, Executive Director served on the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Task Force to help design a post adoption services model.
• Maintained active involvement in the Ohio Adoption Planning Group

Fund Development
• Raised funds to support a budget of $840,900 – including $125,677 from individuals, $378,146 through foundations, $20,856 through corporations and $67,109 from events.
• Re-imagined our summer fun(d)raiser and launched a successful Mini Golf Outing which sold out.

Of Special Note
• Hosted a book signing with Academy Award winning actress Octavia Spencer to promote The Baby Thief by Cleveland author and former board member Barbara Raymond.
• Served as a Community Partner with an adoption-related program at The City Club of Cleveland, which we initiated. This program included the Donaldson Adoption Institute.
• Executive Director presented as the invited keynote speaker at the Adoption Knowledge Affiliates (AKA) annual conference in Austin, Texas. Keynote entitled The Tides are Turning – Adoptee Access to Records.
• Executive Director participated in a League of Women Voters panel: What is the future for foster care in Greater Cleveland?
• Executive Director and Genetic Genealogist Amanda Reno presented on Adoption and DNA at the Akron Public Library.
• Continued collaboration with St. Luke’s Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support community.
• Celebrated with board member Anita Miller in September 2017 for receiving a Congressional Angels in Adoption Award in Washington, DC.
2017 Donations

Report reflects donations of $100 or more from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

INDIVIDUALS
$2,500 and above
Lisa & Brandon Buechner
Lauren & Willie Harber
Dottie Kilmer
Julie & Howard Raisley
Laurie & Ken Lushaska
Anna & Joseph Miller
Them & Celeste Nyanja
Ellen Stephens
Mary & Susan Van Esp

$1,000 to $2,499
Anonymous
Denise & Mike Barone
Case & Jim Belk
Carole Branchy
Molly & Richard Issell
Deb & Matt Crawford
Tom & Tricia Dent
Robert Durant
Meghan & Robert Felling
Danielle & Jared Gatsiomi
Lutten

$500 to $999
Jonathan Adams & Dr. Pam Conover
Susan Classick
Lorna Colle
Michael & Dona Walker

$250 to $499
Susan Halo
Faye Kaplan
Sharon Knuth
Alissa Lovett
Art & Cheryl Nussner

Nancy Rumsey
Brenda Rutledge
Sue Z. Lu
Jonathan & Robert Wexler

$100 to $249
Mary & Larry Deny
Mary & Perry Elizondo

$50 to $99
Anonymous

$25 to $49
Alex & Elsa Bennett
Richard Bennett

$10 to $24
Anonymous

$5 to $9
Anonymous

IN HONOR OF
Xenia & Matt活动现场
Shelley & James活动现场
Alison & Robert活动现场

IN MEMORY OF
Lucy Daniels & Jan Carter

THANK YOU!
**Statement of Activities**

OCTOBER 1, 2016 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

As approved by the Board of Directors on Feb. 22, 2018

### REVENUETM AND SUPPORT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
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<td>Special events</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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### EXPENSES

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<th>Youth Connections</th>
<th>Triad Services</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Total Program Services</th>
<th>General and Administrative</th>
<th>Development</th>
<th>Total Supporting Services</th>
<th>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
<th>NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR</th>
<th>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</th>
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### Staff

- **Executive Director**: Bettie Norris
- **Director of Operations**: Kathy Christensen
- **Director of Finance**: David Libman
- **CFO**: Jennifer Lis
- **Director of Client Services**: Amy Lomis
- **Director of Volunteer Services**: Annette Levy
- **Director of Communications**: David Libman
- **Director of Development**: Jennifer Lis
- **Director of Marketing**: Amy Lomis
- **Director of Human Resources**: Annette Levy
- **Director of Information Technology**: David Libman
- **Director of Legal Services**: Jennifer Lis
- **Director of Program Services**: Annette Levy
- **Director of Public Relations**: David Libman
- **Director of Strategic Planning**: Jennifer Lis
- **Director of Training and Development**: Annette Levy

### Volunteers

- **2017 Board of Directors**: Lisa A. Buescher, MSA, Chairperson
- **2017 Executive Director**: Thomas R. Nykamp, MBA
- **2017 President and CEO**: Michelle S. Potamkin, MBA
- **2017 Treasurer**: Rosanne Potter Beveridge
- **2017 Secretary**: Jacob Schnell

### Special Events

- **Supporting Services**: [Event Name] - [Date]
- **Program Services**: [Event Name] - [Date]

### Net Assets

- **End of Year**: $584,997
- **Beginning of Year**: $545,546
- **Change in Net Assets**: $39,589

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**ADOPTION NETWORK**

**THE OHIO FAMILY CONNECTION**

Adopt - Educate - Support

ADOPTIONNETWORK.ORG

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