ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND

Scholars Program

Program for College Students

Adoption Network Cleveland: The Ohio Family Connection

recognizes adoption as a complex, lifelong and intergenerational journey for all those whose lives are touched by it. Founded in 1988, Adoption Network Cleveland has gained a national reputation but still has a grass-roots approach. Our mission is to connect and empower individuals, organizations and communities impacted by adoption and foster care, and provide a source of healing for those in need.

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Are you a student interested in becoming a doctor, psychologist, social worker, lawyer, teacher or any other helping professional?

Are you a student who is interested in learning more about lifelong adoption issues?

The Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York City reports that "about 60 percent of Americans have a personal connection to adoption." Adoption is a lifelong journey and not a onetime legal event. There are ongoing issues that those outside the adoption community may not realize.

Whether touched by adoption directly or pursuing a career in a helping profession, there is likely to be a time in your life when being educated about adoption from many perspectives will be useful.

Adoption Network Cleveland, a non-profit organization that offers support, education and advocacy, offers a Scholars Program that is open to all college students. All participants who fulfill the requirements will receive an official Adoption Network Cleveland Scholars Program Certificate at the end of the program.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience where you will be able to expand your personal and professional skill set by learning more about the journey of adoption. From a variety of perspectives, which includes birthparents, adult adoptees, adoptive parents as well as prospective adoptive parents, you will learn the meaning of adoption through personal stories, workshops and meetings. In the end you will get a comprehensive understanding of the mission and services provided by Adoption Network Cleveland, a full understanding of the importance of a supportive adoption community, and a certificate will be awarded to you when the program is completed.

Adoption Network Cleveland would like to recognize students who want to take learning about adoption to the next level.

Are you ready? Have questions?

To register for this program, please contact **Director of Programs Jennifer Zisk-Vitron** at jennifer.ziskvitron@adoptionnetwork.org or call her directly at (216) 482-2320.

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Program Goals:

■ To create an experiential learning program that promotes active learning and allows students to develop a deeper understanding of the lifelong journey of adoption.

■ To foster connections between students at local colleges and universities and members of the Adoption Network Cleveland community.

■ To create mutually beneficial opportunities for student scholars to engage in meaningful General Support and Discussion Meetings with adoptees, birthparents, adoptive parents and prospective adoptive parents.

■ To recognize students who take learning about adoption to the next level.

Program Requirements:

■ Be a registered student at an accredited college or university.

■ Become a member of Adoption Network Cleveland at the student rate which includes program fee.

■ Attend a minimum of two General Support and Discussion Meetings.

■ Attend Adoption Network Cleveland's Annual Meeting held in November.

■ Attend a workshop for prospective adoptive parents *Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin?* in the fall or spring. Dates are available online: bit.ly/ANC101.

■ Choose one other event or program coordinated by Adoption Network Cleveland, that catches your interest. You can also visit: www.adoptionnetwork.org/news-events/our-calendar

■ Write a one-page reflection essay and submit with the completed Signature Flowchart.

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Program Details and Student Checklist

☐ **Become a Member of Adoption Network Cleveland**
Adoption Network Cleveland is a unique non-profit organization — nationally recognized for its innovative support, education and advocacy for anyone connected to adoption. Founded by an adoptee, Adoption Network Cleveland strengthens our community by: Supporting youth who need permanent families; Helping prospective and adoptive families; Assisting adult adoptees and birth families; Advocating for progressive adoption policies.

The student membership fee is $25 and it covers the cost of the Scholars Program fee. In addition to regular membership perks, such as receiving the monthly newsletter, Student Scholar members are able to receive educational privileges, such as having access to our most popular select programs such as *Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin?* at no cost.

☐ **Meet the Scholars Program Coordinator**
Call Jennifer Zisk-Vitron at (216) 482-2320 to set up a time to meet to learn about the Scholars Program and to get an overview of the programs and services of Adoption Network Cleveland.

☐ **Attend Two General Support and Discussion Meetings**
The General Support & Discussion Meetings consist of adult adoptees, adoptive parents, birthparents, prospective adoptive parents and anyone interested in the lifelong journey of adoption. Adoption Network Cleveland offers General Support and Discussion Meetings once a month at four locations throughout northeast Ohio, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Each meeting is free and open to the public. Attend two meetings.
- **ROCKY RIVER** • First Thursday • West Shore Unitarian Church, 20401 Hilliard Drive, near I-90 Hilliard exit
- **SUMMIT COUNTY** • Second Wednesday • MedPoint Health Center, 650 Graham Road, Cuyahoga Falls
- **HEIGHTS** • Third Thursday • Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights
- **LAKE COUNTY** • Last Tuesday • Mentor Baptist Church, 7500 Johnnycake, Mentor

☐ **Attend *Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin?***
This workshop gives prospective adoptive parents an overview of how to get started in the adoption process and focuses on domestic, international and public and private agency adoptions. Admission is FREE for Student Scholars – regular workshop price is $20 for members and $30 for non-members.

Dates and times are available online at http://bit.ly/ANC101
Contact Jennifer Zisk-Vitron to register.
Location: Adoption Network Cleveland, 4614 Prospect Avenue, Suite 550. Free parking all around building.
RSVP at least one week ahead to Jennifer Zisk-Vitron at jennifer.ziskvitron@adoptionnetwork.org or (216) 482-2320.

☐ **Attend Adoption Network Cleveland's Annual Meeting**
Every November Adoption Network Cleveland members, donors and friends are invited to come to the Annual Meeting to hear a presentation from an expert about a current topic in the adoption and foster care community. The Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Director Betsie Norris will also share the past year's accomplishments and discuss plans for the coming year.

Held in November at a location TBD.
RSVP: to Jennifer Zisk-Vitron at jennifer.ziskvitron@adoptionnetwork.org or (216) 482-2320.

☐ **Attend One Topic of Interest Learning Experience**
Students must attend one other program (which can include attending another General Support and Discussion Meeting). Whether it is a lecture, workshop, or an event, students must attend one program that is coordinated by Adoption Network Cleveland. Events will be listed on the Program Calendar, which will be distributed when you meet the Director of Programs.
You can also visit: www.adoptionnetwork.org/news-events/our-calendar

☐ **Write a Final Reflection Essay**
Reflection about the meaning and value of adoption in the community is an important component of the Adoption Network Cleveland Scholars Program. All students participating in the program are required to write a one-page Final Reflection Essay about their experience and what they have learned.

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Signature Flow Chart

Register	**Scholars Program Registration** Send to to Jennifer Zisk-Vitron at jennifer.ziskvitron@adoptionnetwork.org
Join	**$25 Student Adoption Network Cleveland Membership Fee** Join online at: www.AdoptionNetwork.org
Call, Meet, Signature	**Meet Director of Programs Jennifer Zisk-Vitron at Adoption Network Cleveland** Call Jennifer Zisk-Vitron at (216) 482-2320 to set up a day and time. Jennifer Zisk-Vitron Signature: _____
Register, Attend, Signature	**Adoption Network Cleveland Annual Meeting** Register through jennifer.ziskvitron@adoptionnetwork.org Jennifer Zisk-Vitron Signature: _____
Register, Attend, Signature	**_Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin_?** 9:00 am - 1:00 pm / Register through jennifer.ziskvitron@adoptionnetwork.org Signature of facilitator: _____
Register, Attend, Signature	**FIRST General Support and Discussion Meeting** 7:00 - 9:00 pm / No registration or RSVP needed. Location:_____ Date: _____ Signature of facilitator: _____
Register, Attend, Signature	**SECOND General Support and Discussion Meeting** 7:00 - 9:00 pm / No registration or RSVP needed. Location:_____ Date: _____ Signature of facilitator: _____
Register, Attend, Signature	**Topic of Interest Learning Experience** Register through jennifer.ziskvitron@adoptionnetwork.org (unless attending a third General Meeting with a topic.) Program Event:_____ Date: _____ Signature of facilitator:_____