



JOURNEY

Post Adoption Support

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JUNE - AUGUST 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Grieving Stages
- Resources
- Famous Adoptee
- Post Adoption News
- Support Groups
- Spotlight

Making Connections

Families seek post-adoption services for many reasons, which includes crises support, education, community resources and searching for biological families. Families also share their differing experiences with post-adoption services.



Life Management Center's Post Adoption services are designed to help families grow throughout their adoption journey. We work to preserve the family unit as families explore the resources that they may need.

Parenting Skills Should Continue to Evolve



As children move through the developmental stages; they may experience temporary behavioral changes. Post Adoptive Services want our adoptive parents to remember that you are not alone. We understand that as the children grow older; adoptive parents need continued support for their children's ever changing needs.



“He who can reach a child’s heart can reach the world’s heart”

- Rudyard Kipling;
Writer and Novelist

Remember Kubler-Ross' Stages of Grieving- What to Expect...

Children who have been adopted sometimes continue to deal with the loss of their biological family. It may appear that they have reached the acceptance stage then they may return to the anger stage. Parents must remember to always point out the positive outcomes in order to help their children turn losses into gains. For example, always giving them permission to love and remember their biological family.



Elizabeth Kubler-Ross’ Stages of Grieving helps describe what happens to children who experience loss through adoption and how they respond. Kubler-Ross states that anytime anyone loses anything or anyone important, there will be predictable reactions to that loss including:

- Shock/Denial
- Despair/Depression
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Acceptance/Understanding

Adoption Book Corner

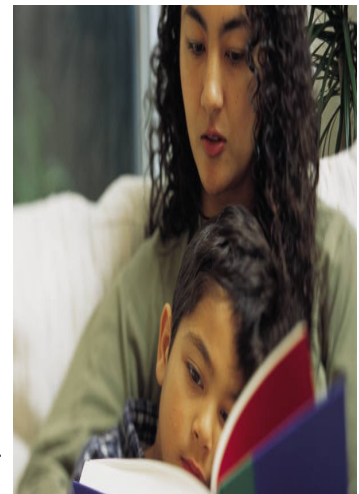
Here are some great books and resources that will be helpful in your journey through the adoption experience.

“Fostering and Adoption (Let’s Talk About It)”
Author: Sarah Levene

“Returnable Girl”
Author: Pamela Lowell

“Adopted Teens Only: A Survival Guide to Adolescence”
Author: Danae Gorbett

Also, <http://www.adoptionworld.net/> and <http://www.adoptionsupport.org/> are great resources for Life Books and other adoption resources.



Famous Adoptee: Faith Hill



"I had a pretty amazing childhood. I was adopted, but my family is amazing, very stable."

-Faith Hill

Country star, Faith Hill was born Audrey Faith Perry in Ridgeland, Mississippi. She was adopted as an infant and raised by a couple in a nearby town. Faith's adoptive parents raised her along with their two sons. In 1991, Faith began the search for her natural mother. Her search ended after 3 years when she was finally able to meet her mother. They corresponded until her mother's death.

"The decision to give me up for adoption, I can't imagine that, as a mother of three daughters. I can't imagine the choice to do that."

-Faith Hill

If one of your children has done something wonderful, please let us know. We would like to feature him or her in one of our newsletters. Please call Pauline Hughley at 850-522-4485 ext. 8369 or phughley@lifemanagementcenter.org and tell us

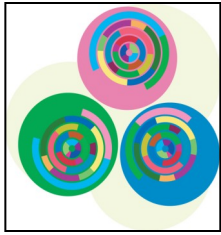
"Extra! Extra!" Post Adoption News

According to the NACAC (North American Council on Adoptable Children) the IRS has confirmed that 2005–2007 tax returns may be amended to claim the adoption tax credit. Typically, the IRS does not permit amendments of tax returns older than three years to claim a refund for a credit. These are considered closed tax years. For the adoption tax credit, however, the IRS has now confirmed that people can amend returns from closed tax years in order to establish the adoption tax credit.

Families who adopted in other years have also been contacting us because they received a letter from the IRS denying the credit and assessing a penalty for improperly claiming a refund. In many cases, the denial was due to the examiner not accepting the adoption subsidy agreement as documentation, even though this is acceptable documentation of special needs. If you have been turned down improperly, we can often help resolve this issue. If you are improperly denied the credit or need help with a closed tax year appeal, please contact taxcredit@nacac.org.

For more information on the Federal Adoption Tax Credit please visit the NACAC website at: <http://www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit.html> or call Post Adoption Specialist, Pauline Hughley.





Support Group

COFAM

Circle Of Foster & Adoptive Mentors

COFAM is an excellent resource for prospective and current Foster and Adoptive Parents who live in Bay & Gulf Counties. They provide support in the following ways:

- Welcome of new parents
- Help with locating resources (ex. crib, bed, car seats, clothes, etc...)
- Answer questions about realistic experiences as Foster and Adoptive Parents
- Support for families after a child leaves the home
- Post-Adoptive Buddies (sharing tips, etc...)
- Provide a listening ear about foster and adoptive parenting triumphs and concerns
- Provide tips on navigating the child welfare system

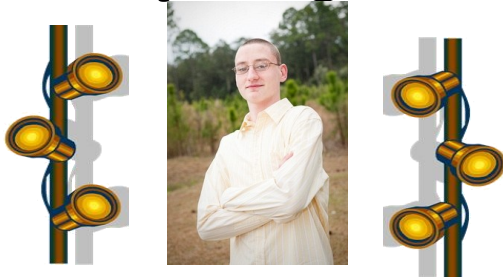
The next COFAM gathering will be announced soon. Watch your mail for more details.

Cathy Harcus/Co-Facilitator
819-7902; blessedcat@yahoo.com

Jennifer Grant/Co-Facilitator
819-4891; jgrant196819@yahoo.com

Interested in starting a support group in your area ? Contact Pauline Hughley at 850-522-4485 ext 8369

Spotlight



Terry– Caucasian/Male
Age: 17 Adoption ID# 10388662

Terry is a Caucasian male with blue eyes and brownish blonde hair. He is your typical teenager and he enjoys reading and writing. Terry will be finishing high school soon and is looking forward to being a Chaplain in the military. Terry has a twin sister who has been previously adopted and he wishes to have a forever family that lives in the local area to maintain a sibling connection. He wonders if dreams really do come true. We hope that the answer to this question will be provided by a family reading his story.

Contact Candice Stump at 850-522-4485 ext. 8303 for more information about Terry



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