

We Build Beautiful Families



Annual Report 2008-2009



Adoptions

From The Heart®

Mission Statement

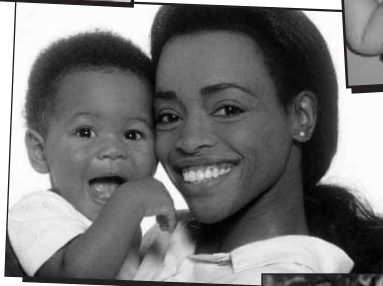
Since 1985, as a non-profit organization, the mission of Adoptions From The Heart has been to provide safe and loving homes for children and offer quality, comprehensive services to families, birth parents and children. Through educational, counseling and support programs, we help strengthen families, support birth parents and educate the community. The agency's mission also extends out into the community at large by providing financial support to families and children in need and helping to educate the public by providing trainings to hospitals, clinics, schools and social workers. Adoptions From The Heart is also very active in continuing to help draft and propose legislation in various states that will positively impact the adoption and child welfare system.

In addition, the agency's mission is to maintain standards and policies that are consistent with applicable child welfare policy and law, including, without limitation, the convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption, a multilateral treaty executed at the Hague on May 29, 1993 (the "Hague Convention"), the Inter-country Adoption act of 2000 (the "IAA" or Hague Law), and the implementing Regulations set forth in 22 CFR Part 96-98 dated February 15, 2006 (the "Hague Regulations"). Specifically, Adoptions From The Heart shall abide by the principles of (i) ensuring that inter-country adoptions take place in the best interests of children; and (ii) preventing the abduction sale or trafficking of children in connection with inter-country adoption.



Adoptions From The Heart®

The Joys of A doption...



Building Our Future ...

A message from the Executive Director



Maxine Chalker
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Despite the many changes and challenges that have faced the adoption community this past fiscal year Adoptions From The Heart feels lucky that we have remained financially strong and stable. We have had our share of changes and challenges but the future is looking bright.

The economic crisis in America and around the world has led many adoption agencies to close; also many families have been experiencing layoffs and unemployment leading many to put their adoption plans on hold. The good news is that there are more organizations out there offering adoption grants, and the federal government continues to increase the adoption tax credit. We continue to update information on these organizations on our website and our new blog at Wordpress.com.

Our domestic adoption program continues to be very successful. We placed 155 domestic infants this past fiscal year and the number of disruptions families experienced has dropped. Our Heartbeats Assisted Reproduction Program formed an alliance with the well respected Nightlight Christian Adoption, Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program and we look forward to helping families who want to consider this option.

To cut down on overhead we have merged our Harrisburg and Lancaster offices forming the very successful Central PA office, and our Connecticut office has been very successfully promoting domestic adoption within the state and working with pregnant women to create adoption plans. Unfortunately, due to changes in adoption regulations in West Virginia and the lack of domestic adoptions that take place in this state we found it necessary to not renew the agency license there.

Changing guidelines in Russia have lead to ups and downs in our Russia networking program which we hope will be settled in the upcoming fiscal year. The agency has also focused a lot of attention on outreach to the African American community hoping to recruit more families so that we can offer African American women more options when choosing a family. AFTH is also proud to have received the Human Rights Campaigns "All Children, All Families" seal of cultural competency and for supporting LGBT families.

We look forward to this coming fiscal year and to building more beautiful families.

Maxine Chalker

Maxine Chalker, MSW/LSW
Executive Director

Building A Legacy ...

Through ongoing efforts to reach the agency's goals

Agency Goals

- ♥ To assist in the placement of children in a permanent adoptive family, who understand a child's feelings and their need to have knowledge about, and/or keep in touch with, their birth family.
- ♥ To educate families regarding the positive impact open communication with birth parents and embryo donor families has on children entering families through adoption or embryo donation placement.
- ♥ To donate humanitarian goods and services to children and families who are less fortunate.
- ♥ To educate the public as to the positive values of adoption as an option.
- ♥ To educate the public about third party reproductive alternatives through our Heartbeats Assisted Reproduction Program for embryo donation, placement and international gestational surrogacy.
- ♥ To provide educational programs that will strengthen the family unit for families who have chosen adoption or third party reproductive techniques.
- ♥ To educate the public about embryo donation as an option for families with currently unused embryos.
- ♥ To provide counseling and support services to birth parents in the communities in which they live.
- ♥ To advocate for better legislation that will positively impact the adoption and child welfare system.

Building Stability ...

Through the direction of a dedicated Board of Directors

Adoptions From The Heart Board of Directors

Maxine Chalker, MSW/LSW
Executive Director, Adoptions From The Heart

Michael Offord, Chairman
Yellow Pages Advertising Agency

Frank Morgan, Esq., Secretary
Troncelletti & Morgan

Arthur Stock, Esq., Treasurer
Berger & Montague, P.C.

Daniel Clifford, Esq.
Weber, Gallagher, Simpson, Fires & Newby, LLP

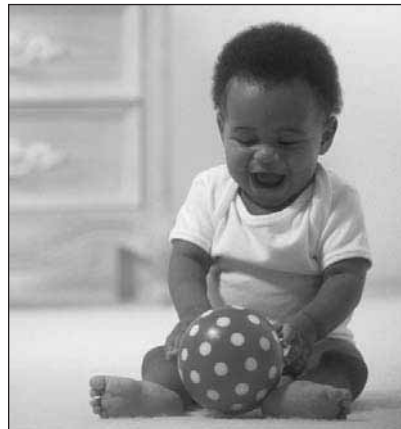
Sharon Arnold
Lebanon Valley College

Shari Shaw Leibert
Penzey's Spices

Patricia O'Kane
Philadelphia VA Medical Center

Erika Saunders
School District of Philadelphia

Quetta Tejada
Retired from Vanguard



Building Strength ...

By employing a professional, dedicated staff

Staff



The AFTH staff, pictured at the 2009 Annual Picnic, are: Back row, from left; Elaine Schwartz, Karen Dutkiewicz, Kristi Daku, Rabelle Fritz, Mary Daily, Stephanie Capriotti, Sophia Andujar, Kelly McCallion, Kristy Michaelina Bendig, Kristy Hartley-Galbraith; Middle row; Amanda Klotz, Roberta Evantash, Maxine Chalker, Joan Kim, Jennifer Bradley, Kelly Lemmey, Elliot Adler, Tammy DeCosmo, Terry Petrone; Front row; Danielle Wilson, Wayne Mollick, Martha Coulbourne, Heidi Gonzalez, Luli Dhimitri, Jennifer Miller, Meredith Beckett Erdman, Jeanne Heinemann.

Management Team

Maxine Chalker, MSW/LSW, Executive Director

Heidi Gonzalez, BA, Assistant Director

Attorneys

Jay Ginsberg, Esq.
Wynnewood, Allentown

Jeff Lochner, Esq.
Greensburg, PA

Barbara C. Jones, Esq.
Virginia

Debbie Spivack, Esq.
Delaware

Donald C. Cofsky, Esq.
New Jersey

Linda Kling, Esq.
Central PA

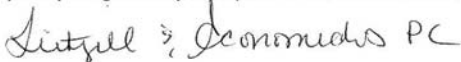
Board of Directors
Adoptions From the Heart, Inc.
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Adoptions From The Heart, Inc. (the "Agency") as of June 30, 2009, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Agency's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Adoptions From The Heart, Inc., as of June 30, 2009, and changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



LEITZELL & ECONOMIDIS, PC
December 1, 2009

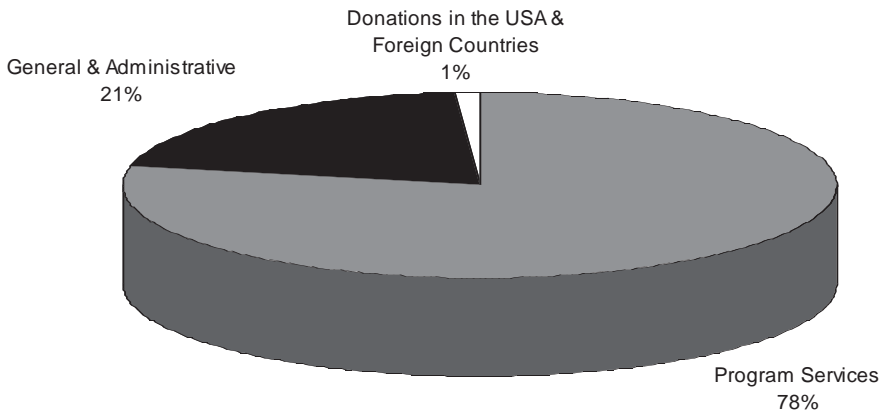
Expense Breakdown

Program Services
\$3,781,194

General & Administrative
\$1,018,067

Donations in USA and
Foreign Countries
\$46,355

Total Expenses
\$4,845,616



Building Understanding ...

Through education, training and community services

We Offer the Following Subsidiary Services:

- ♥ Educational seminars for prospective adoptive parents
- ♥ Online information webinars about adoption programs
- ♥ Birth parent and adoptive parent support groups
- ♥ Training for professionals
- ♥ Conference workshops
- ♥ Monetary donations to birth parents in need during the holidays
- ♥ Internships in social work and marketing/public relations
- ♥ Training for elementary school and high school staff
- ♥ Training for prison staff
- ♥ Training for RAs in college dorms
- ♥ Post-adoption counseling for birth parents



Adoption Events

Adoptions From The Heart offers annual events that bring families together to celebrate adoption, family and culture.

More than 400 people attended the Asian New Year Party, held in January of 2009, at the Valley Forge Convention Center in Pennsylvania. All of the families who attended adopted internationally from China or Vietnam through *Adoptions From The Heart*.



The festivities included traditional music, dance, games and food. There was also a lion dance in celebration of the year of the ox.



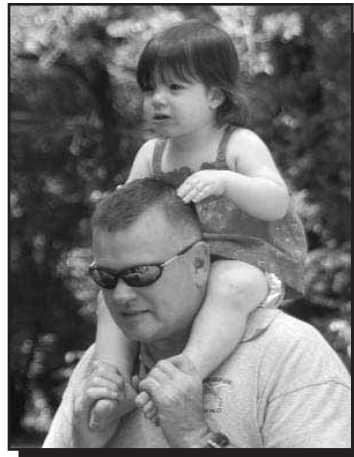
Adoption Events Continued

The agency's Annual Picnic, held on June 7, 2009, at the Fort Washington State Park, attracted over 1,500 *Adoptions From The Heart* children, parents and family members from all of the agency's adoption programs.

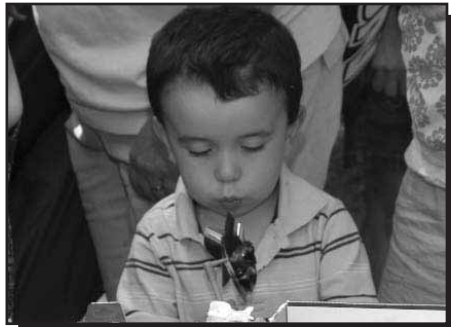
The agency's Pittsburgh office hosted a picnic for *Adoptions From The Heart* families living in the western part of Pennsylvania. Over 400 people attended this event held at Idlewild Water Park on August 7, 2009.



The agency's Virginia office celebrated its annual picnic at the Sandy Bottom Nature Park on June 13, 2009. There were 122 people in attendance which included both domestic and international families.



The agency's Connecticut office celebrated its annual picnic at the Quassy Amusement Park on June 28, 2009. Over 250 people touched by adoption were in attendance for a day of family fun.



Building Credibility ...

Through membership in the following professional organizations:

- ♥ Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS)
- ♥ Adoption Resource Network, Inc.
- ♥ American Adoption Congress
- ♥ National Council for Adoption
- ♥ Cherry Hill Chamber of Commerce
- ♥ Connecticut Council on Adoption
- ♥ Delaware Valley Adoption Council
- ♥ Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
- ♥ Inter-Agency Council of Adoption in Delaware
- ♥ Adoption Agency Council of New Jersey
- ♥ National Association of Social Workers
- ♥ North American Council on Adoptable Children
- ♥ Resolve of: *Philadelphia; Pittsburgh; New Jersey Connecticut; Fairfield County; Long Island*
- ♥ Three Rivers Adoption Council
- ♥ United Way of: *Camden County, Southeastern PA, Atlantic County, Delaware, Chester County, Lancaster County, The Capital Area, North Penn, Burlington County, The Greater Lehigh Valley, New York City, Central CT, Northeastern CT, Allegheny County, Westmoreland, Lackawanna, Berks, Valley of the Sun, Bank of America, At & T Employee Giving*
- ♥ Virginia Association of Licensed Child Placing Agencies
- ♥ Westmoreland Health and Welfare Council

Building Support ...

As a nonprofit, social service organization, *Adoptions From The Heart* is supported through donations as well as fees. Friends can direct their funding to the agency in the following ways:

Fund Raising: Each year *Adoptions From The Heart* designs, "Building Beautiful Families," a calendar featuring children placed through the agency from various programs. In the fiscal year, over 500 calendars were sold. All proceeds go toward the agency's humanitarian aid funds.

Annual Appeal: The funds raised each year go towards assistance programs for birth parents, financial assistance to families adopting African-American and mixed-race infants, educational programs for all members of the adoption triad, and humanitarian aid programs to assist children not available for adoption that live in orphanages.

The United Way: Many regional United Way branch locations have accepted *Adoptions From The Heart* as a donor option recipient, allowing agency supporters from many areas to designate their pledges to *Adoptions From The Heart*.

Matching Gifts: Employers with matching gift programs will match all or part of an employee's charitable contribution to *Adoptions From The Heart*.

Placement Statistics

In the fiscal year 2008 - 2009, *Adoptions From The Heart* placed 248 infants and toddlers in loving homes. The placements break down as follows:

86	Caucasian Children from the U.S.
69	African-American and Bi-racial Children from the U.S.
37	Children from China
18	Children from Guatemala
9	Children from Vietnam
27	Children from Eastern Europe (Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan)
2	Children from India
14	

Building Futures ...

Humanitarian Aid Abroad and in the United States

With the help of donations from families, *Adoptions From The Heart* provides monetary and material support toward various humanitarian aid projects in the United States and abroad.

Adoptions From The Heart provides donations to birth families in need of assistance during the holiday season and throughout the year. Donations include gift certificates for furniture, clothing, food, and toys to help ease the financial burden on these families.

In 2008-2009, *Adoptions From The Heart* embarked on new fundraising efforts and ideas to help raise money for the birthmother and humanitarian aid funds, including working with a restaurant in Connecticut to put together a Valentine's Day fundraiser and participating in Lord and Taylor's Benefit Bash, which helps to raise funds for non-profits. *Adoptions From The Heart* also enrolled in givebackamerica.org, an online shopping mall where online shoppers can select a charity which a percentage of their purchase will benefit.

Fundraising projects in Vietnam have included providing education scholarships to over 100 junior and senior high school students at the Tam Binh Orphanage. Each child also received their own messenger bag to help carry their books. Cans of infant formula, bath towels, and changing pads were also donated to the orphanage to help provide for the daily needs of the infants being cared for at Tam Binh. Thi Nghe orphanage was also the focus of our humanitarian aid efforts in Vietnam. A washing machine and a water filter machine were donated.



Building Beautiful Families ...

Through domestic and international
adoption programs and services

Programs and Services for Adoptive Parents

Open Domestic (U.S.A.) Adoption

Adoptions From The Heart places children born in the United States with adoptive families through Open Adoption. With Open Adoption, pregnant women select the adoptive families from letters, pictures and videos. The adoptive family is required to support an open adoption philosophy with at least a semi-open adoption. This includes pre-placement meetings and the exchange of yearly letters and pictures as the child grows up. The agency also encourages totally open adoption and the exchange of identifying information. Infants of all races are placed through *Adoptions From The Heart*. The agency accepts applications for the African-American & African-American/Bi-racial program from all over the country.

International Adoption

Adoptions From The Heart families received children from China, Guatemala, Vietnam, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Russia and India during this fiscal year.

Heartbeats: Assisted Reproduction Program

The past fiscal year was a progressive for the Heartbeats Program. Outreach was conducted to infertility clinics to recruit recipients and donors. *Adoptions From The Heart* joined forces with Nightlight Christian Adoptions whose Snowflakes Frozen Embryo Program was overflowing with donors for our recipient clients. Social workers participated in several trainings and webinars this past year to become prepared to work with clients. *Adoptions From The Heart* began organizing international gestational surrogacy programs in India and Guatemala this fiscal year as well.



Private Adoption Assistance

Adoptions From The Heart offers a variety of services to assist attorneys and families in successfully completing private adoption placements. Some of the services include counseling of birth and adoptive families, home study evaluations, parental placements in Virginia, A.C.I.s in New Jersey, and Interstate Compact preparation, when applicable. In New Jersey and Connecticut, only a licensed agency can secure a 72-hour binding surrender of parental rights.

Home Studies

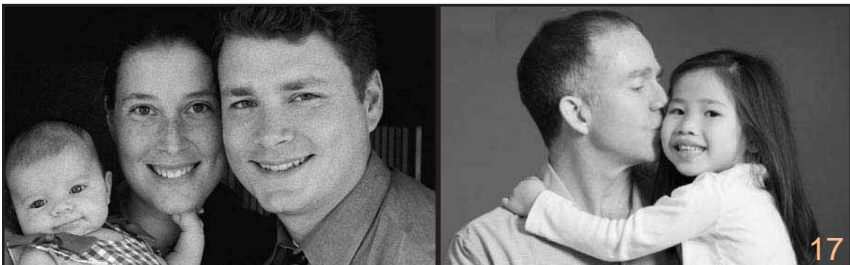
Adoptions From The Heart prepares independent home studies for families who are pursuing private adoption, adoption through another agency, and for families working through embryo placements programs. Home Studies are required by law for domestic and international adoptions and by many embryo placement programs. A home study is a detailed written report with information about the prospective adoptive parents gathered through group and individual meetings and a home visit. This process was created to educate and evaluate families preparing to raise an adopted child.

Required Educational Courses

Adoptions From The Heart knows that to have a successful adoption, families in both the domestic and international programs must be educated about the needs and feelings of adopted children, particularly their initial adjustment and cultural needs.

Education Series

Adoption is a life-long process and there are different needs at different periods of time. *Adoptions From The Heart* offers evening and weekend educational series that will help families with the varying issues as children grow up and as different issues arise.



Building Trust ...

Through quality birth mother services

Services to Potential Birth Parents



Adoptions From The Heart provides all of the services that potential birth parents need at no charge to them. These services include counseling, support groups for birth parents and extended families, assistance with scheduling and transportation to prenatal appointments, help with housing, medical coverage and benefits.

Adoptions From The Heart's counselors are available 24-hours a day/7 days a week for birth parents who are considering adoption. Birth parents simply need to call the agency's toll-free number, (800) 664-7856, to get in touch with a social worker. In 2009, *Adoptions From The Heart* had a unique birthmother-focused advertising opportunity in women's restrooms of concert venues throughout our service areas. This resulted in many intake calls where social workers were able to speak with women facing unplanned pregnancies about their options.

The relationship between the agency and the birthmother/birthfather does not end when the baby is placed. The agency serves as a liaison between the two sets of parents, when requested. In addition, ongoing counseling is available to the birth family for as long as they need it, and many of the *Adoptions From The Heart* offices have ongoing support groups.



Building Beautiful Families

... Since 1985



2008 - 2009 Annual Report
Adoptions From The Heart
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Visit Our Website:
www.afth.org



Adoptions From The Heart®