

Every Child, Every Family,
Every Step of the Way

ADOPTIONS TOGETHER

AdoptionWorks Program

“The AdoptionWorks team has a gift for matching adoptees with parents. While in training, we heard, you’ll know when the right child is matched with you.” We were somewhat skeptical of that statement. We can attest, however, that it’s true – and we have heard it over and over from other parents.”



The AdoptionWorks program facilitates the adoption of school-aged children who are growing up in public foster care in the United States.

Why Choose Adoptions Together?

- AdoptionWorks families have a strong support team and extensive post-placement services.
- We work closely with families every step of the way— from training to finalization.
- AdoptionWorks places children from all 50 states with families who are licensed through our agency in Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC.
- Our staff has a strong working relationship with children’s workers from around the country.



The Kids

- Most children enter foster care because they have been abused, neglected or abandoned. These children often wait more than 2 years before they can be considered for adoption.
- After one year in the system, a child’s **probability of being adopted drops by 50%** and continues to steadily drop the longer a child waits.
- Approximately 29,000 children age out of foster care each year without an identified support system.
- Of the children who are not adopted by the age of 18:
 - **32%** will rely on public assistance
 - **27%** of males and **10%** of females will become incarcerated
- According to a study done by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, **36.2%** of homeless individuals have a history of foster care placement compared to 2% of the general population.

Find out more:

Visit us at www.adoptionstogether.org

Or call us at **410.869.0620**

Silver Spring, Baltimore, Herndon and DC

Accredited and Approved by:



Placement Stories

Darien



Darien is a young man with a bright smile and kind eyes. He enjoys video games, playing chess, and building LEGOs. Darien has a great sense of humor and he loves to laugh, despite his traumatic childhood. Darien was neglected by his birth mother, and his birth father was often incarcerated. He went to school in dirty clothes and often appeared hungry. He had chronic absences from school and was often left unsupervised. His birth mother is a cocaine user and his dad is a heroin user suffering from severe depression. Darien lived in four different foster homes while in care. In addition to dealing with attachment issues, he has several cognitive disorders.

When Roy and Stephen learned about Darien, they felt that he would be a good fit for their family. This warm and caring couple quickly fell in love with him. With the benefit of AdoptionWorks training, they did a lot of research to learn as much as they could about Darien's challenges. They found a good therapist, as well as other resources to help Darien improve his social skills and his focus. Darien is now thriving socially at school and has two close friends in his neighborhood. He received a warm welcome at his new family's church and enjoys going to church every week with his dads. Darien's parents describe him as outgoing and generally a very contented, polite, and respectful young man. Roy and Stephen are excellent advocates for Darien in the school system, and they are committed, attentive, and actively involved in all aspects of his life. Darien is clearly thriving in his new home and family, school and community.

Katrina, Keith and Kia

This sibling group of three has suffered neglect, abuse, separation, and heartbreak. They were removed from their birth mother's home when police were notified of unsanitary conditions. The children told Child Protective Services that their mother had run out of their ADHD medication so she would blow marijuana into their faces to help them to "calm down" and go to sleep. The children were not properly clothed, cleaned, or fed. They were sent to separate foster homes and only saw each other once a week. After several months, it was discovered that they had been physically, emotionally, and sexually abused. All three children were aggressive and had significant behavioral issues.



AdoptionWorks is firmly committed to placing sibling groups together. Frank and Carol felt they were prepared to handle the tough times with these children so that they would have the opportunity to grow up together. This couple provided Katrina, Keith and Kia with the love, stability, and structure they so desperately needed. They tailored their discipline and behavioral redirection to have the most positive impact on the children. The children and their parents participated in attachment therapy from the beginning of their placement. Frank and Carol helped the children with homework, played games with them, created a schedule, and read books together each night. Keith was soon playing the violin and singing in the choir at school, and both Kia and Katrina were doing very well academically. These children are happy to be home and together!

Mission:

Adoptions Together builds healthy lifelong connections for every child and advocates for continuous improvement of systems that promote the well being of children.

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