

ADOPTIONS TOGETHER

Annual Report 2017.



FamilyWorks
Together



A Note From Our Executive Director...

*"There's no such thing as an unwanted child,
just unfound families."*

-Janice Goldwater, LCSW-C
Founder & Executive Director



Dear Friends and Family,

After twenty-seven years working hard to transform the lives of thousands of children and families, we remain as inspired, motivated and committed as the day we first opened our doors. Our vision for the future remains the same ... Every child will have a lifelong connection to a caring, nurturing family. For nearly three decades, we have strengthened families who struggle, and connected waiting children to stable, loving forever families. We've responded to the changing needs of our community by developing and sustaining partnerships that help to fill the gaps in our child welfare systems.

Yet, so much more needs to be done.

- Today, more than 2,400 children in foster care in our community and over 117,000 nationally need the love, support and protection of a forever family. These numbers are growing as the opioid addiction crisis worsens.
- Access to information about all choices, including comprehensive, ethical adoption services, must be available on demand when women and their partners face an unplanned pregnancy.
- Safety and security for every child remains paramount, including preventing and healing the damaging impact of trauma in childhood.

Adoption Together is responding to these needs with the support of our Board, staff and community:

- Our older child adoption program continues to find and prepare families to adopt children between the ages of 9 and 17 who are growing up in foster care.
- We remain available 24/7, 365 days a year to provide counseling to anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy.
- We continue to welcome and find a family for every newborn in need of adoption, including those born to parents facing substance abuse challenges and alcohol dependency, as well those facing medical challenges.
- Trauma-exposed children and their caregivers benefit from our healing solutions, based on the intersection of attachment, neurobiology and child development that underlies our work.
- We continue to share our knowledge and tools surrounding how to heal the impact of trauma with other professionals within broader child welfare and social services systems.

From the beginning, we've known that the strength of a family depends upon the strength of the relationships between its members. The same is true for Adoptions Together. We depend on our community to help us do more to strengthen and support families and children who struggle. As you read through these pages, please consider the ways in which you can be involved. Join us in making 2018 a successful year for children and families. Together we are so much stronger.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice".

Janice Goldwater, LCSW-C | Founder & Executive Director

ADOPTIONS TOGETHER

Foster Care

7

"We train families to use the relationships they build with their children as a healing mechanism"

-Pam Hoehler, LCSW-C, AdoptionWorks Manager

117,984

The number of children waiting to be adopted from public foster care systems across the United States.



Our Older Child Adoption Team is made up of 7 full time staff members.

98

The number of children living in public foster care systems throughout the region who were connected to permanent family resources through Adoptions Together's Older Child Placement Programs in 2017.



417

The number of people who chatted with our team online about children available for adoption through the Heart Gallery in 2017.

The number of people that viewed the Heart Gallery to learn more about children waiting to be adopted from Foster Care across our region in 2017.

159,080

7

The number of interactive Digital Displays featuring adoptable children we installed in the community in 2017.

Infant Adoption

4

*"There's not a one-size-fits-all
with Adoption."*

-Kimberly Sohl, LGSW, Family Specialist

207

The number of pregnant women and their partners provided on adoption and other options by our staff in 2017.

Our Domestic Infant Program Team is made up of 4 full time staff members.



27

The number of infants settled into loving, qualified adoptive families by our team in 2017.



42

The number of families in our Domestic Infant Adoption Waiting Family Group at the end of 2017.

The number of young adult adoptees that we helped connect with their birth parents through our Search and Reunion Program in 2017.

21

9

The number of professional training we provided on adoption-competency to community partners in 2017.

350

"Our success in building families and keeping them strong is made possible by our incredible community supporters"
-Margo Devine, Director of Development

Attendees at the 10th Annual Taste of Potomac Diamond Celebration in 2017, raising more than \$180,000 for the programming at Adoptions Together.



Our Development Team is made up of 2 full time staff members.

116

The number of families that attended the 27th Annual Fall Family Day with their children and relatives to celebrate the adoption community that means so much to us!



101

The number of Golfers that played in our Swing into Action for Kids Charity Golf Tournament in 2017, raising more than \$40,000 to benefit programs at Adoptions Together.

7

The number of hours we broadcasted to thousands of fans via Facebook Live on #GivingTuesday2017 to increase awareness about our programming, raising more than \$13,000 to benefit Adoptions Together.





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Counseling

4

"We help parents understand what's behind their child's behaviors"

-Erica Moltz, MA, NCC, Master Clinical Trainer

1,316

The number of adoption-competent, trauma-informed, attachment-based counseling sessions provided by our full-time and contract-based staff to clients in 2017.

Our Counseling Team is made up of 4 full-time staff members.



99

The number of clients served in 2017 through our partnership with the DC CFSA, The Permanency Family Center, which helps families formed through adoption, guardianship and kinship become and remain strong.



9

The number of family dinners hosted in 2017 at our Permanency Family Center office in DC to bring together families formed through adoption, guardianship, and kinship to bond with others from similar backgrounds.



168

The number of people that attended our Transracial Adoption Support group in 2017 to increase their tool-kit to raise children in transracial families formed through adoption.





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Training & Education

2

"Knowledge is power, and training families and professionals is critical to the welfare of our kids."

-Alisha Wolf, LGSW, MPH, Director of
FamilyWorks Together

282

The number of family-welfare professionals we trained on regional and national levels to assist children and families become and remain strong in 2017.



Our Training & Education Team is made up of 2 full-time staff members.

202

The number of families that attended educational programming events hosted by our team across the region in 2017.



2,063

The number of times our on-demand e-learning videos were watched online by parents and professional family welfare professionals in 2017.



The number of live training seminars we held for families in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia in 2017.

47

"Home studies are not designed to turn you down- we want to help you move forward"

-Sandy Rappeport, LCSW-C, Home Study Provider

416

The number of post adoption placement home visits our team conducted during 2017, ensuring that newly settled adoptive families were thriving and their relationships continued to thrive.



Our Home Study Team is made up of 4 full time staff members.



280

The total number of home studies we completed for families preparing for the adoption of a child in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia in 2017.



17

The number of home studies we completed for families adopting for a second (third or fourth!) time in 2017.



104

The number of home studies we updated for families in 2017 in order to help them during their journey to becoming adoptive parents.

