



# ADOPTIONS TOGETHER

## 2018 Annual Report

January 1, 2018- December 31, 2018

[www.adoptionstogether.org](http://www.adoptionstogether.org) | [www.familyworkstogether.org](http://www.familyworkstogether.org)

Dear Friends,

We have just completed another year of fostering safety and stability for children in our community! It's been a blessing to maintain this focus, to provide critical services and to welcome and serve every child and family that has needed us. We remain vibrant, committed and inspired to listen and respond to the needs of the community.

Since the beginning, we have known that the health of a family is dependent on the strength of intra-family relationships. Our focus for 2018 was on strengthening those relationships and the systems within which families interact. We maintain the vision that every child be given a life-long connection to a caring, nurturing family - the fabric of our society. Family is the fabric that bonds us as a society and our services strengthen this very fabric. The well-being of each individual family member directly impacts the overall health of our society. And, as such, we continue to work in tandem with our community to enhance the opportunities for children and families to thrive.

Our training spanned from community-based to national and international, and our on-line training expanded in scope and number. Programming in Ukraine expanded. We were able to teach critical concepts, such as the foundations of attachment and trauma, and methods of healing the effects of child abuse and neglect. A lot has been accomplished! And yet, we still have so much work to do to achieve our simple goals. Presently, in our region, there are over 3,500 children in foster care, and across the country, nearly 124,000 children. We stand fully committed to ensuring that youth living in state foster care exit the system with a connection to a caring adult family. We remain dedicated to responding to the cries of a woman pregnant at a time she is ill equipped to raise a child and is seeking to explore the option of adoption. To realize these goals, we need your help.

As you read through these pages, I encourage you to consider the ways in which you personally can make an impact on the community. We are much stronger when we work together. And, after twenty-eight years, thousands of children and families and countless memories later, we hope you can join us in 2019 to make it another successful year for children and families.

With Gratitude,



**Janice Goldwater, LCSW-C**  
**Founder & Executive Director**





In 2018, 123,437 children were waiting to be adopted from foster care systems across the United States.

**123,437**

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



**7**



We connected 77 children living in public foster care systems with permanent, loving family through our Older Child Adoption Programs in 2018.

**77**



We showcased 14 interactive digital Heart Gallery displays featuring adoptable children in the community during 2018.

**14**

Visitors to our online Heart Gallery who learned more about children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 2018.



**163,270**

*"We talk about pulling ourselves up by the bootstraps- family is the bootstraps."*

*-Janice Goldwater, LCSW-C,  
Founder & Executive Director*



**202**

202 women and their partners found support from our adoption & pregnancy counselors in 2018.

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



**4**



**27**

Our team settled 36 infants with loving adoptive families in 2018.



**19**

We conducted 19 adoption-competency trainings for professional community partners in 2018.

23 adult adoptees re-connected with their birth parents in 2018. Our team provides lifelong support to adoptees and birth parents whenever they need us.



**23**

*"Working with expectant parents who might be in a scary place and helping them navigate their decisions to realize they have a lot of options is really incredible."*

*-Meshan Lehmann, LGSW, Pregnancy Counselor*



Our team conducted 369 post adoption placement home visits during 2018 to ensure that newly settled adoptive families were thriving, healthy and strong.

**369**

Our Home Study Team is made up of 4 full-time staff members and a team of contract social workers.



**4**



In 2018, we completed 211 home studies for families preparing for the adoption of a child in Maryland, the District of Columbia or Virginia.

**211**



The number of home studies we completed for families adopting for a second (third or fourth!) time in 2018.

**7**

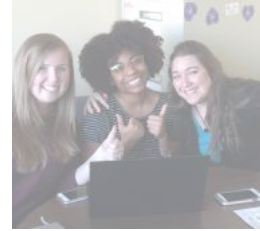
We updated 97 home studies for families in 2018 in order to help them on their journey toward becoming adoptive parents.



**97**

*"I have adopted twice, so I have lived through this process and understand what families are feeling."*

*-Sandy Rapoport, LCSW-C  
Home Study Provider*



**944**

We facilitated 944 adoption-competent counseling sessions to families formed through adoption, foster care, kinship or guardianship in 2018.

Our Counseling Team is made up of 4 full-time staff members and a team of contract therapists.



**4**



**158**

Our team provided pre-adoptive counseling to 158 foster families who were in the process of adopting a foster child during 2018, ensuring they had the support they needed to become and remain strong.



**9**

Our Transracial Adoption Support Groups (TAG) met 9 times in 2018 to build and support the transracial adoption community.

We hosted 9 family dinner nights in Washington, DC for adoptive parents and children to provide support and community focused on adoption.



**9**

*"We help to stabilize families and help them to function at the highest level possible."*

*-Erica Moltz, MA, NCC,  
Master Clinical Trainer*



**784**

Our on-demand e-learning videos were watched online 784 times by parents and family welfare professionals in 2018.

Our Training & Education Team is made up of 3 full-time staff members.



**3**



**470**

We trained 470 family-welfare professionals on regional and national levels to better assist children and families as they became and remained strong in 2018.



**32**

Our team facilitated 32 adoption training and family educational seminars for families in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia in 2018.

150 parents attended our 2018 Annual Conference to build community and learn more about raising children in transracial adoptive families



**150**

*"One of the best things about Adoptions Together & FamilyWorks Together is that we're always evolving and changing to meet the needs of our clients and community."*

*-Alisha Wolf, LMSW, MPH, Director of FamilyWorks Together*



**456**

We sold 456 tickets to the 11th Annual Taste of Potomac in 2018, raising more than \$200,000 for programs at Adoptions Together.

Our Development Team is made up of 3 full-time staff members.



**3**



**370**

370 adoptive parents, children and family members attended the 28th Annual Fall Family Day to celebrate the community that means so much to us!



**104**

In 2018, 104 Golfers played in our Swing into Action for Kids Charity Golf Tournament, raising more than \$40,000 to benefit our programs.

The number of individual donors who helped support us on #GivingTuesday in 2018, raising more than \$6,000 in just 24 hours for the programs at Adoptions Together.

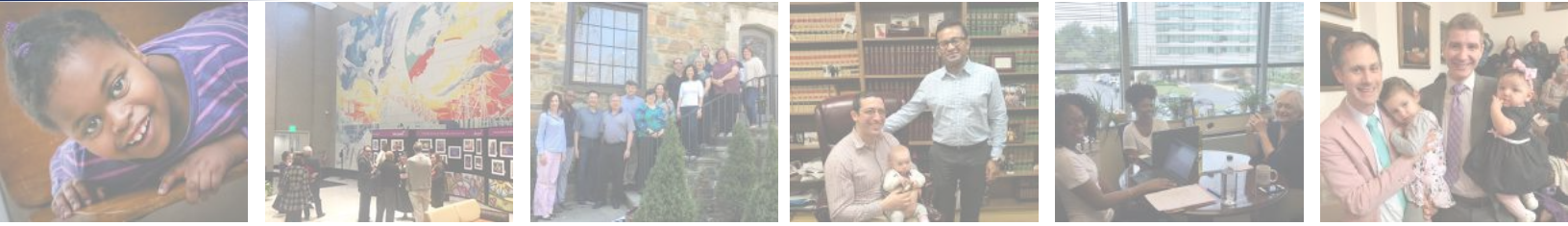


**85**

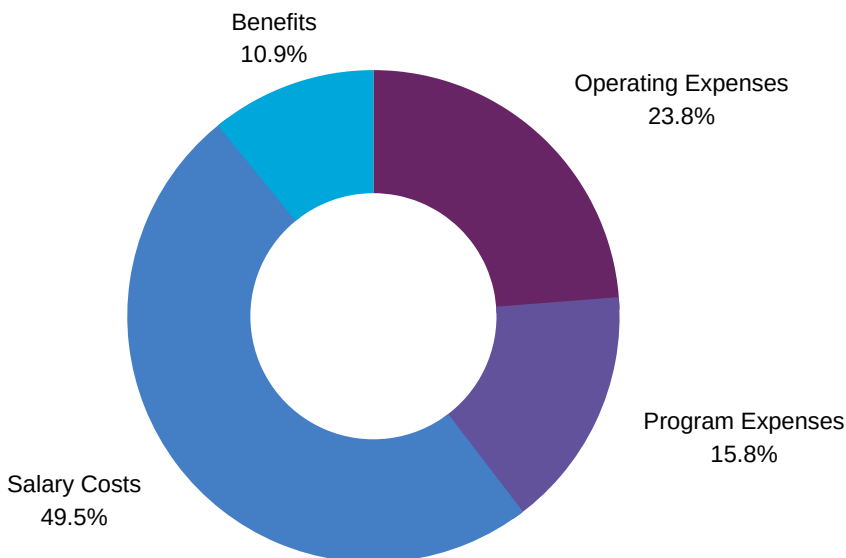
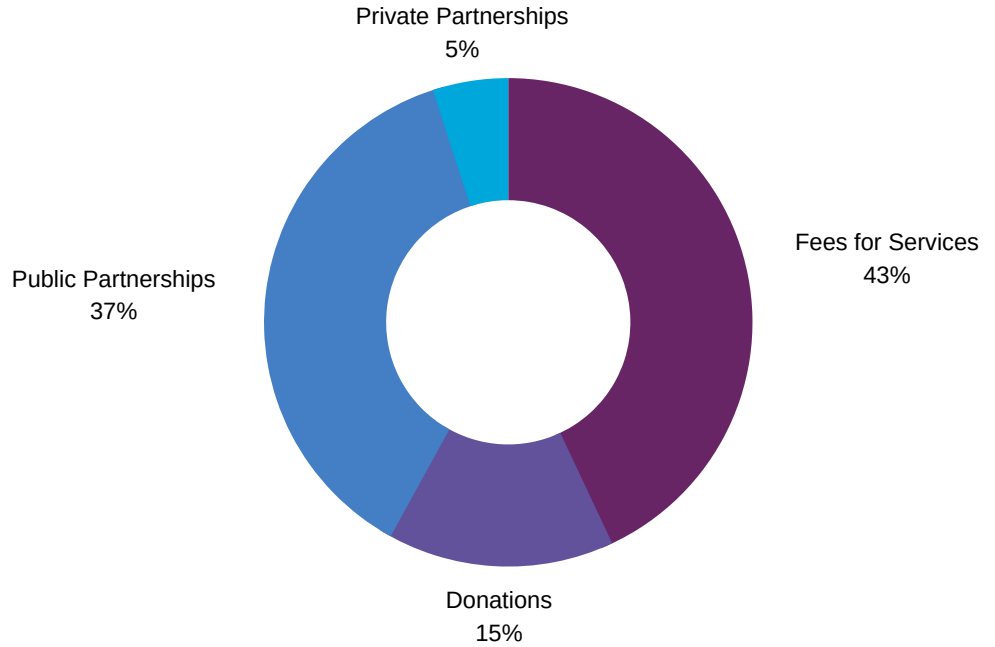
*"We are grateful to our many supporters who have invested time and resources to enable Adoptions Together to provide sustainable programming for the many families we serve."*

*-Margo Devine  
Director of Development*

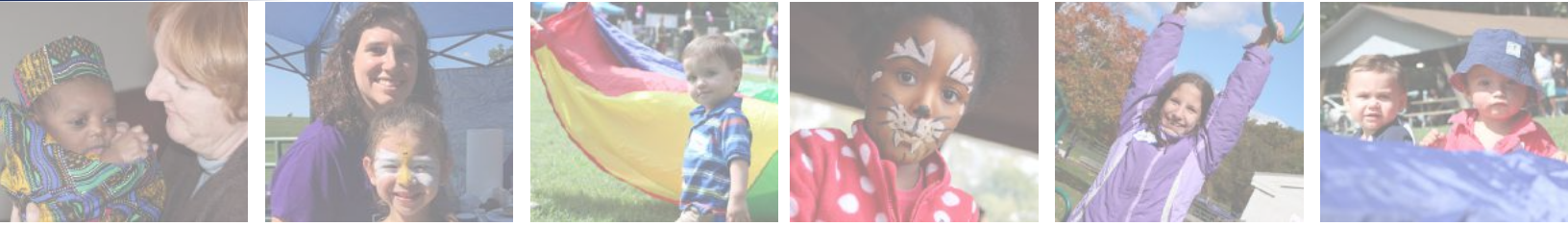




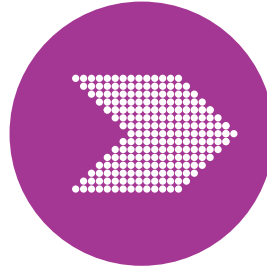
In 2018, we received funding through fees for services delivered to families and donations. Our services are provided directly as well as through contracts with public and private partner organizations.



During 2018, our largest investment was made in ensuring we maintained a highly-skilled staff to support the families that need us. We pride ourselves in keeping operating costs low so that we can deliver what our families need.



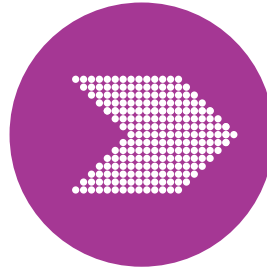
## Communication & Reach



Guided by our mission and vision, we will strive to communicate the work we do to the people who need our services, our donors and our community partners.



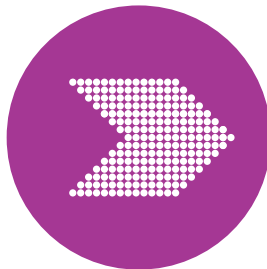
## Growing Stronger, Together



We're growing our counseling program to ensure our services aren't just available to new families, but families who've been together for months, years or longer.



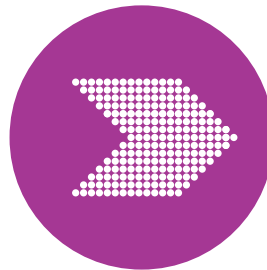
## Preparing for the Future



By identifying new gaps in the changing face of child welfare, we're preparing to meet new challenges head on- with creative solutions and a well-trained team of professionals.



## Expanding for Tomorrow



After 28 years, we're still growing. We're looking ahead to major changes- a growing group of engaged senior leaders, a focus on a skilled, diverse team, and comprehensive plans to serve families like yours.