In response to a recent increase in applications for our infant placement program, Adoptions Together will be taking a pause on bringing new families into our traditional pool as of July 1, 2020. We will implement a waitlist to enter our traditional Infant Placing Program, while continuing our commitment to partner with families by supporting them through our networking program or independent adoption. We have taken this pause with our in-house Infant Placement Program to best protect and control the waiting time for families seeking to adopt in this program. For those who are interested in pursuing a dual track we can partner with you to identify placement options outside of the DMV area while you wait for a spot in our placement program to open. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to someone on the Domestic Infant Team at domesticstaff@adoptionstogether.org
Welcome to Adoptions Together! Building your family through adoption is a beautiful way to realize the dream of parenthood. As an organization who believes that children grow best in stable, loving well supported and prepared families, we seek mature adults who have the capacity to meet the physical and emotional needs of a child. Founded in 1990, Adoptions Together is licensed in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. We welcome every child in need of a family regardless of race, health or special need, and are honored to have helped more than 7,000 children join loving adoptive families.

**EVERY CHILD:**
Domestic Infant Adoption: Adoptions Together welcomes all children in need of an adoptive family and serves expectant parents in our region seeking adoption services. Many of our adoptions are open and provide the opportunity for birth and adoptive families to stay in touch. We facilitate the complete adoption process and afterward our families receive support through our comprehensive post placement services.

Foster Care Adoption: Across the United States more than 110,000 children wait in State foster care to be adopted. We work with prospective parents interested in learning about the needs of these children and help you assess if this type of adoption is right for your family. These children and sibling groups are primarily over the age of eight and all have experienced some degree of trauma in their precious young lives. We facilitate the complete adoption process and afterward our families receive support through our comprehensive post placement services.

International Adoption: We provide extensive support services for families seeking to adopt children from overseas, including consultation to determine which country is the best choice for individual circumstances; a home study specific to the country; training, guidance in considering a child referred for adoption; and post placement services.

**EVERY FAMILY:**
Home Study and Post Placement: Our team of compassionate and experienced social workers provides a complete range of home study and post placement services for families adopting through our agency’s placement programs, as well as for families adopting through other agencies and through independent adoptions.

**EVERY STEP OF THE WAY:**
Lifelong Family Support: Our mission of bringing children and families together is equaled only by our commitment to supporting families lifelong. We offer attachment-focused, adoption competent counseling, support groups, community and professional education, parenting seminars, webinars and summer programs. We also have fun recreational activities. We are your partner in whatever capacity you want as your child matures.

If you would like to expand your family through adoption with an organization that takes a holistic approach to building and support, we urge you to consider Adoptions Together. Please feel free to call with any questions. Thank you!

Signed,

Janice Goldwater, LCSW-C
Founder & Executive Director
Domestic Infant Adoption Program

At Adoptions Together, we believe that the best adoption is one where everyone is well informed of the emotional challenges of making an adoption plan, as well as the financial, legal and practical issues involved. We have tailored our services to meet the needs of birth parents who deserve to be counseled with respect and compassion and infants in our community who are waiting for a healthy permanent family. And we work to support prospective adoptive parents who are negotiating an ever-changing landscape of adoption services and options. Each year, we offer guidance and supportive counseling to nearly 300 women considering adoption. We believe that the more informed a birth parent is about adoption issues, the better the outcome will be for the adoption. As they grow, children are reassured to know that his or her birth parents made informed decisions and that everyone (birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoption professionals) worked together for the child.

Services

Adoptions Together offers two infant adoption programs:

- Infant Adoption Placement Program: When clients enter our full service program, they receive assistance in creating their adoption plan and materials for presentation to birth parents. Waiting parents are offered education, counseling and support groups. In recent years, approximately thirty newborns have been placed with adoptive families annually.
- Infant Adoption Networking Program: In this program, our experienced adoption professionals will be by your side throughout the adoption process. We will help you to design an adoption plan that is suited to your financial and emotional situation. We can help you to locate and work with service providers who uphold high ethical standards and help you to avoid situations that may be too emotionally or financially risky. You will be invited to participate in waiting parent education and support services while you utilize other agencies or attorneys for placement assistance.

Regardless of which services you choose, we look forward to working with you as you build your family through adoption.

www.adoptionstogether.org
Criteria for Entering the Domestic Infant Adoption Program

One of the agency’s guiding principles is inclusivity: factors such as race, religion, marital status, wealth or sexual preference, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression don’t determine what kind of parent someone will be and they are never variables that we consider when finding a home for a child. The minimum age to adopt is 25 years of age. If you are married or in a committed relationship, you must have been married and/or living together for at least one year at the time of application. If you are seeking to adopt an infant under 6 months of age, as a couple, you and your partner’s combined age cannot exceed 100. If you are adopting an infant as a single parent, you must be 50 years old or younger at the time of your application.

It is important that you are financially able to incur the costs of the adoption in addition to providing for your child. This includes the adoption fee and medical and legal expenses of the birth parents. You must be in good health and physically able to care for a child. If medical conditions indicate, the agency may request an independent medical evaluation.

Please click here for our current Fee Exhibit.

Upon request, we will provide you with the following information

- The number of children we placed for adoption per year for the prior three calendar years, and the number and percentage of those placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or have been dissolved
- The number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis, based on data for the prior three calendar years
- The number of children awaiting an adoption placement through Adoptions Together.

www.adoptionstogether.org
Domestic Infant Program Program Placement Fee Information

The Program Entry Fee is due at the time you enter the placement program. The Placement Fee is due at the time a child is placed with you. All fees are based on a sliding scale according to your gross annual income. If you are self-employed, the sliding scale is based on your net worth. These fees are in addition to the fees for home study and training. For a comprehensive schedule of fees, click the link at the bottom of this page.

### Income-Based Sliding-Scale Placement Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Income</th>
<th>Program Deposit</th>
<th>Due at Placement</th>
<th>Total Program Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $69,999</td>
<td>$5,600</td>
<td>$10,400</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$70,000 to $89,999</td>
<td>$6,650</td>
<td>$12,350</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$90,000 to $119,999</td>
<td>$7,700</td>
<td>$14,300</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$120,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>$8,750</td>
<td>$16,250</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 to $179,999</td>
<td>$9,450</td>
<td>$17,550</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$180,000 to $209,999</td>
<td>$10,150</td>
<td>$18,850</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$210,000 to $239,999</td>
<td>$10,850</td>
<td>$20,150</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$240,000 +</td>
<td>$11,550</td>
<td>$21,450</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View our comprehensive Program Fee Schedule

www.adoptionstogether.org
# Domestic Infant Program Program Fee Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical/Living Expense Fee</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>Covers allowable healthcare and living expenses for birthparents prenatally, through birth and shortly thereafter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Placement Reports</td>
<td>$350/each</td>
<td>Three reports required if completed by Adoptions Together. Additional reports may be required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship Expense Fee</td>
<td>$1,550</td>
<td>Covers cost of searching for missing parents, court costs, publication and legal expense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additional Fees May Include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Counsel for birth parents</td>
<td>$500-$1,500</td>
<td>Legal fee for families matched with a minor birth parent or birth parent who requests counsel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Petition for Adoption</td>
<td>$500-$1,500</td>
<td>Covered by adoptive parents or their attorney. VA costs include filing and adoption disclosure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Care Services</td>
<td>$75/day</td>
<td>Interim care services are delivered on a case-by-case basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Infant Networking Program</td>
<td>$1,000/year</td>
<td>Domestic Infant Networking Program services are delivered to families for $1,000/year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View our comprehensive Program Fee Schedule

www.adoptionstogether.org
Steps in the Domestic Infant Adoption Process

Step 1: Application for Home Study

The first step to adopting a child through Adoptions Together is to complete the Home Study Application. Upon review of the application and receipt of the application fee, you will be contacted by a social worker to arrange a meeting for the Pre-Home Study Interview. During this interview, you will have the opportunity to discuss in a more personal manner your desire to become an adoptive family. After this interview, you will be asked to register for Adoptive Parenting Preparation 1 which explores core issues of adoption including trans-racial and open adoption. If you wish to adopt a child of another race, this class will give you the tools to assist in determining whether you are prepared to become a trans-racial family and take on its unique challenges. During this initial phase, you will be gathering the documentation required to complete the home study and submit the information to Adoptions Together.

Step 2: Completing the Home Study

Home Study Process
Your social worker, who is experienced in the unique issues faced by adoptive families, will guide you through the interview process. This is designed to be an educational process through which you will be asked to explore your personal expectations about parenting a child through adoption. To complete the study, there will be a series of interviews, including at least one that will occur in your home. You will need to gather and provide certain pieces of information in addition to participating in the interviews. Personal references will be contacted and one will be interviewed.

When the interview process is complete, a report will be prepared. The home study will be done within 90 days after you have completed the required home study documents. If necessary, the process can be expedited. To be approved for an expedited process, you must have a pending placement. Once your Home Study has been approved, you will be eligible to participate in our program of prospective adoptive parents.

Home Studies from Other Agencies
If you have had a Home Study completed by another licensed agency within the last 12 months, you should send a copy of your Home Study with your application. We will review the home study and arrange for one of our social workers to visit your home. Some home study documents and clearances will need to be completed for our agency. Our social worker will prepare an updated home study report.

Annual Updates of Home Studies
In order to meet state licensing regulations, a Home Study must be updated on an annual basis. An update requires annual medical clearances, child protective service clearances and a visit in your home by a social worker. If the Home Study is not updated annually, it is considered inactive.
Steps in the Domestic Infant Adoption Process

Step 3: Entering the Domestic Infant Program

You will receive a draft of your home study from the Assessments Department. You will be contacted by a member of the Domestic Infant team. They will email you all the documents and instructions you need to create your ParentFinder profile to be reviewed by birth parents. To enter the Domestic Infant Program, we ask for a deposit, which is 35% of the Placement Fee (please review Fee information). When you have completed your adoptive parent photobook, we will schedule a meeting to review your portfolio and assist you in filling out the Adoptive Parent Profile. You will be asked to sign the Domestic Infant Program Agreement. Once you have paid your deposit, and we have your album, letter and Profile, you will enter the Domestic Infant Program. If you wish to be presented to birth parents in all three licensing areas, we ask that you make a duplicate album, letter and profile to be held in our Virginia office as well as Maryland.

Adoptive parents are asked to complete parent training as required by state regulations. We make this as convenient and informative as possible. You will be invited to attend the Foundation training series during Home Study and Family Forever after your child has been placed with you.

Step 4: The Domestic Infant Placement Process

A child will be placed with you when you are selected by a birth parent to be the adoptive parents of the child. In many cases, birth parents have some requests for the type of family they choose for their child. As we rely upon the preferences of the birth parents in selecting adoptive parents, we have little control over (and cannot predict) the length of time that it may take for the placement of a child in your home. While Adoptions Together does not keep a formal waiting list in which placements are made based on length of time on a list, if a birth parent does not want to choose the family, we give preference to families who have been waiting the longest. Please note that the average wait time for the Domestic Infant Program is approximately 12-24 months.

Outreach for Birth Parents

Adoptions Together accepts referrals of birth parents through extensive outreach and its contacts with hospitals, medical clinics, crisis pregnancy centers, schools; as well as clergy, medical and other professionals. The agency contracts with www.parentfinder.com to feature adoptive parent advertising on the internet. Adoptions Together recognizes the frustration families may feel during their wait for a child and we are always seeking new ways to make the wait for a child a little easier. We offer support group meetings, an e-newsletter, seminars and social functions to use the time productively.

www.adoptionstogether.org
Additional Information

Birth Parent Services

Our birth parent counselors provide counseling and education to women and couples considering Adoption. They also guide them in completing a thorough social and medical history. The counselors understand the emotional consequences of placing a child for adoption and counsel birth parents about many aspects of this important decision. Even though a birth parent may feel confident of her decision, once the baby is born, many have to remake this serious decision.

Once the birth parents have chosen adoption, they are encouraged to review ParentFinder Profiles to select a family for their child. Sometimes birth parents desire to meet the adoptive family prior to the birth and other times they may choose to wait until the child is born. Occasionally they choose to have the agency make the selection for them based on their desires for the type of family they want. Contact between the adoptive and birth family is negotiated on an individual basis. Our birth parent services are not limited to a specified period of time. We try to be available for birth parents who place through our agency as long as we may be needed.

Relationships Between Birth Parents and Adoptive Families

The amount of contact an adoptive family has with birth parents may vary. You will be guided in completing an Adoptive Parent Profile in which you specify options about the prenatal environment of the birth mother. You will also be able to designate your level of comfort with how much contact and how much information is shared with the birth parents. While most families meet their child’s birth mother at least one time, some families do not meet their baby’s birth parents. Others develop a relationship with their child’s birth parents and maintain contact independently of the agency. Many birth and adoptive families choose to get together regularly, usually once or twice a year with the agency’s assistance.

Post Placement Contact Agreement

You will be expected to send letters and pictures as your child grows; for this purpose we have a web based system called Child Connect for adoptive and birth parents to exchange updates. Our goal is to provide the opportunity for birth parents and adoptive families to make a plan that meets the mutual needs of all involved with the focus on what is in the best interest of the child. Before placement, you will be asked to sign a Post Placement Contact Agreement; at a minimum we ask you upload letters and pictures annually. The majority of today’s birth parents are seeking an open adoption which typically involves contact once or twice a year.

NOTE: In the states of Maryland and Virginia, these agreements are legally enforceable and filed in court; this means that either party can seek redress through the Court and the terms of the agreement may be thus ordered by the Court. While they are not currently enforceable in the state of Virginia, we ask that you regard your agreement with your child’s birth parents as a serious commitment and honor the contract that you make with them.

www.adoptionstogether.org
Additional Information

Interim Care

Adoptions Together has a number of dedicated families who have opened their homes to provide love and nurturing to children who are not able to be placed directly with their family for adoption. Interim care is available to provide time for a birth parent to resolve this difficult decision. It is also used while we search for the appropriate family when none is available. Additionally, it may be used if the legal risks for placement are determined to be too great by the adoptive family. The agency social worker will discuss with you the perceived risks, and if the birth mother agrees, you may be asked to take placement; on occasion we make interim care available to you during this time. Interim care may be billed at $75/day.

Legal Procedure and Risks

The legal process for completing an adoption may seem intimidating, but in fact is quite straight forward. Members of the domestic staff are available to answer any questions you may have. We encourage all birth parents with whom we work to meet an independent attorney to fully explore the legal consequences of placing a child for adoption. After the baby is born, and the birth parents are confident of their decision, they complete documentation to relinquish their child to the agency. These documents are submitted to the court and the agency is appointed to be the legal guardian of the infant.

The appointment of the agency as the child’s guardian terminates the parental rights of the birth parents. The agency receives a Guardianship Decree formalizing the legal relationship. Depending upon the level of participation of the birth mother and the birth father, the process of legally terminating parental rights in Maryland will take a minimum of 30 days. We recognize how difficult it can be during the 30 day revocation period and keep in close communication during this time. In Virginia, the legal revocation period is 10 day from the baby’s birth or 7 days from the signature of consent and cases are typically filed at finalization. At placement, your child will be put on your family insurance policy.

Because most of the children placed through Adoptions Together are newborns who go directly home from the hospital with their adoptive parents, most of our placements are considered legally at risk, meaning there is a certain period of time after the child was placed that a birth parent may revoke his or her consent to the placement, and have the child returned to their custody. While such revocations are rare, the emotional trauma of a disrupted placement is very difficult for adoptive families.

If the family is unable to accept the placement of a child before parental rights are terminated, we may be able to arrange interim care. A fee for care, accrued daily, will be assessed. Additionally, the consent of the birth parents will be required for any interim care placement.

www.adoptionstogether.org
Additional Information

Medical Risks

Adoptions Together undertakes strenuous efforts to obtain detailed medical and social histories of the birth parents and each child placed through the agency. Before placement, each child is given an evaluation by a pediatrician either at the hospital prior to discharge or while in interim care. All medical information available on a child will be provided to the adoptive family.

Despite our best efforts, all pre-existing medical conditions may not be discovered prior to placement. If a medical condition is discovered after your adoption is finalized, you will have all legal responsibility for your child. While we make every effort to obtain complete medical information, we cannot guarantee the future health of the child.

Post Placement Services

After a child is placed with you, the agency will schedule a minimum of three post-placement visits to assist and support your transition to parenting. The social worker who completed your initial Home Study will usually do your post placements. These visits occur over a six-month period, and at their favorable conclusion, the agency will give its consent to the legal finalization of your adoption of the child. Adoptive parents may retain independent counsel to complete this process or they may draft the petition themselves with the guidance of the agency. Additional training for adoptive parenting will be offered.

Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to have the opportunity to help you build your family through adoption.

www.adoptionstogether.org
FamilyWorks Together
Education & Support Services

Adoptions Together offers adoption education and parent training on a wide range of topics that address the unique needs of adoptive, blended, foster and kinship care families. Seminars and workshops cover topics such as attachment and trauma, grief and loss, parenting a teen, talking to children about adoption, navigating the birthparent relationship, managing challenging behaviors, and trans-racial adoption. We strive to make parent training affordable, convenient, and easily accessible by offering in person, online, and on-demand options for parent training and adoption education.

Support Services for Families and Children

Adoptions Together offers counseling and support programs for parents, children, and families that provide a safe atmosphere to share common issues and concerns. Special events such as the Annual Family Connections Conference are designed to educate and inform, forge connections, strengthen family bonds, and celebrate the many ways that families are formed.

Adoptions Together offers a wide array of adoption education and support services for children, families and professionals that are relevant, cost effective, and easily accessible. Our adoption education, training and support programs include:

- Adoption Preparation Classes
- Post-Adoption Seminars for Adoptive Families
- Specialized Seminars on Domestic and International Adoption
- Online and On-Demand Adoption and Parent Education Courses
- Support Groups for Parents, Children and Families
- Educational Conferences for Parents and Professionals
- School Education Programs for Teachers and Administrators
- Professional Development Seminars and Programs
- Consultations for Professionals (e-mail and telephone)
- Attachment Training Series for Professionals

For more information about the services we offer, please contact us at info@adoptionstogether.org or visit us online www.familyworkstogether.org

www.adoptionstogether.org
Find More Information!

Contact Us:
Phone: 301.439.2900 | Email: info@adoptionstogether.org

Join us for an Information Meeting:
Register for an information meeting at one of our office locations
Watch an information meeting online

Join our email list for occasional updates!

SUBSCRIBE

Find our office locations:
4061 Powder Mill Rd | Suite 320
Calverton, MD 20705

2505B Lord Baltimore Drive
Baltimore, MD 21224

5250 Cherokee Ave | Suite 203
Alexandria, VA 22312

508 Kennedy St. NW | Suite 318
Washington, DC 20011

Learn more about our Home Study Program
Complete an Online Application
Contact an Adoption Specialist

www.adoptionstogether.org