The adoption reform movement: yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Adoption

- With single parenting and abortion now viable options, only 3% of pregnant women choose adoption.
- Closed adoption practices are prevalent.
- Shame and secrecy cloaks adoption, the stigma adversely impacts everyone involved.
- Adoption climate and practices are influenced by the lingering distrust of adoption caused by the unethical orphan train and Baby Scoop era practices.

Open Adoption

- A small group of social workers question the ethics of closed adoption and creates a national open adoption movement. Their goal is to create a new form of adoption that better meets the needs of all participants.
- Open adoption is a fledgling concept that is initially regarded with suspicion and disdain.
- OA&FS overcomes these barriers and becomes the first agency to offer open adoption in the Northwest.

International Adoption

- International adoptions steadily increase among American couples.
- Evangelical movement through the churches encourages international adoption.

Birthparent Rights

- Closed adoption is widespread, giving birthparents no voice in their adoption plan.
- Coercion, secrecy, and regret are commonly experienced.
- OA&FS opens its doors, providing expectant parents with high-integrity and empowering practices in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.
- OA&FS is one of the only agencies in the country to provide expectant parents with all-options pregnancy counseling, complete information on a diverse pool of families (including same sex couples); fully open adoptions with legally enforceable contracts for ongoing visits and lifelong services. Expectant parents use the internet as an adoption assessment and research tool.
- Pregnant women and couples have access to all-options pregnancy counseling no matter where they live.
- Expectant parents can create adoptions in which they feel heard, valued and respected.
- Birthparents have a voice in shaping the future of adoption.

Adoptees

- Adult adoptees and birthparents involved in closed adoptions begin to speak out, protesting the secrecy and lack of information.
- The first open adoptees are born.
- The first open adoptees are now young adults.
- Adoptees share their experiences, connect and join forces using online tools.
- Social media allows adoptees and birthparents to find one another.
- Adoptees are able to articulate their experience and shape the field of open adoption.
- Pregnant women and couples have access to all-options pregnancy counseling no matter where they live.
- Expectant parents can create adoptions in which they feel heard, valued and respected.
- Birthparents have a voice in shaping the future of adoption.

OA&FS adoptees Stacey, Isaac, Kaya and Clark (l-r).
OA&FS adoptee Carolyn with Birthmom Danessa.
OA&FS adoptee Nathan.