



2015-2016 Annual Report

What mother doesn't
want the best for her
kids? And I found it —
through open adoption.

— *Haley, Birthmother*



Open Adoption
& Family Services
Creating Lifelong Connections

OA&FS open adoptee Emma on her first birthday.

Birthparent videos next step in showing what it's like to live in an open adoption.

by Shari Levine

One of my favorite features of our new website is the open adoptee videos. It's so gratifying to hear directly from the kids that their open adoption has met their needs by enabling their birthparents to hand-select a family for them, and still stay in their lives. It means the world to them to have "all of the pieces of their puzzle". They don't have to search, or wonder, or fear they had been abandoned or rejected. Instead, their birthparents are right there letting them know how truly cherished they are, and always will be.

Our open adoptee videos inspired many.

In celebration of the agency's 30th anniversary, we reached back to the kids we placed in open adoptions years ago who are now teens and young adults. We asked them a series of questions about what it was like to grow up in an open adoption. They've shared their stories in a video diary format. For me, these firsthand accounts affirm how truly unique our open adoptions are, clearly setting us apart from the practices of other adoption agencies, facilitators and attorneys.

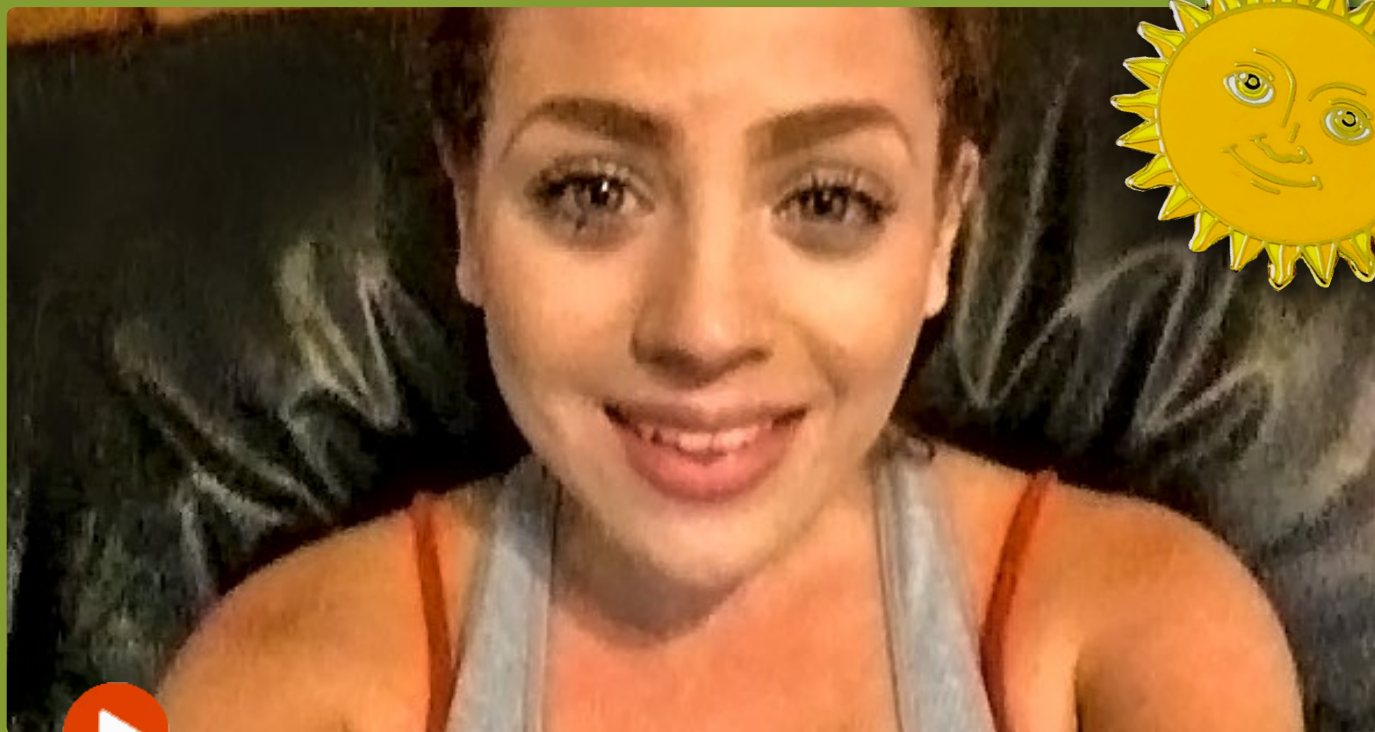
Now it's the birthparents' turn!

This realization has inspired a new project. Just as the kids of open adoption are uniquely qualified to convey their experiences, birthparents are also the best spokespeople of their perspectives on their open adoptions. We are reaching out far and wide to OA&FS birthparents to ask them a series of questions about their experiences, so they also have the opportunity to share their stories in a video diary format. We look forward to featuring these on our website too.

Birthmother Haley leads the way.

Haley placed her son Liam with adoptive parents Paul and Tracey in 2015. The relationship they've built around Liam and Haley's older son E.J. is a testimony to their hospitiousness, and the positive framework that open adoption provides. Haley graciously volunteered to share her story so that others can learn from her experiences.

"My counselor made sure I had thought about all my options."



Watch Video: Birthmother Haley's Open Adoption Experience

<https://youtu.be/WLjDJuwOH00>

Haley's insights about open adoption.

We appreciate Haley giving us and others a window into the world of what it's really like to live an open adoption from the very beginning of their relationship.

"I chose open adoption because I wanted to be a part of my baby's life every step of the way, and OA&FS made that possible."

"We came up with Liam's name together. They were nice enough to use my last name as his middle name and when I asked why they said 'because he's a part of you and we want him to always know that'".

"My relationship with Paul and Tracey is absolutely amazing. It's like having the best friends you could ask for. They're great to my oldest son and they're great to little Liam."

"I think what keeps our relationship strong is we're honest with each other. About everything. The good, the bad, the ugly. We're just completely honest with each other and it feels great."

Add your voice. Contribute a video diary.

Please let us know if you as a birthparent would be interested in participating in this video project. If you're an adoptive parent and feel your child's birthparents would like to contribute, send us an email! Just contact our Marketing Director Sally Shuey at sally@openadopt.org. Thank you for sharing with others how powerful and profound open adoption can be. ■

Shari Levine is the Executive Director of Open Adoption & Family Services, and an adoptive parent of two children in open adoptions.

Liam's family album.



Adoptee Liam (center top) with adoptive parents Paul and Tracey, birthmother Haley and birth sibling E.J. (l-r).

Website redesign enhances mobile viewing, improves user experience.

by Sally Shuey

The OA&FS website was newly rebuilt and launched on June 15. in the WordPress platform. This shift allowed us to use responsive design, meaning content automatically resizes for desktop, tablet, mobile devices. We also created a better user experience by reorganizing content, simplifying navigation and using more intuitive section names.

Design-wise, the warm colors of our signature palette were carried forward. These greens, browns and blues are paired with images from the natural world to create a welcoming, peaceful and


harmonious online home. Icons reinforce messages and point to important content.


All was built with the primary audience of women ages 16-30 in mind, since this is the age range most likely to be seeking our services. Last but not least, these changes contribute to our search engine optimization, meaning OA&FS appears high on lists of results returned by search engines such as Google. ■

Sally Shuey is the Marketing and Development Director for Open Adoption & Family Services.

Welcome to our new online home, freshly designed to meet your needs.


Here's what you'll find!






Responsive Design

Pages resize to suit the device you use.




Exclusive Videos

An inside look into the pregnancy counseling and open adoption experiences.




Waiting Families Gallery

Easy to browse, includes videos, family books and profile letters.




Infographics

Topics include "Unplanned Pregnancy: You're not Alone", "Our Unique Adoptions".




Resource Center

A specially curated online reference library with 14 categories.




Step-by-Step Guides


When considering placing your child in adoption or to become an adoptive parent.



Open Page Blog

Stories, experiences and insights from expectant, birth and adoptive families.





**Open Adoption
& Family Services**
Creating Lifelong Connections
1-800-772-1115
www.openadopt.org

WHY DO YOU GIVE TO OA&FS?



Adoptee Fiona with birthmom Kayla and adoptive parents Mary and George. at Kayla's college graduation.

When did you first hear about OA&FS?

I heard about Open Adoption and Family Services through a friend of a friend. It was back in about 1993 while I was working as a travel agent and my co-worker was on the phone with her friend, Lynn. She and her husband were in Minnesota, waiting for papers to be signed before flying back to Portland with their new baby girl. I remember thinking how wonderful and strange that must have been for the husband and wife to be anticipating the return flight to Portland and their new life with a newborn.

What attracted you to the agency?

In the summer of 1997, after facing our infertility issues and deciding to be the childless couple that travels the world, my sister asked me if we had considered adoption. The timing of that question must have been perfect as I was crying before I could answer the question. It was time to seriously consider that option for us.

I started doing research on adoption agencies in Portland, attending seminars and interviewing families who had chosen adoption. I reached out to Lynn who graciously told me about their experience with Open Adoption and Family Services. I was confident that OA&FS was right for us because of their excellent reputation, fiscal strength, transparent fee schedule

and long range outlook for all parties involved. Regarding the health of the child, it was important to us to know the family health history and the pre-natal care of the child and birth mother. Most important of all, was having the knowledge that our child was going to know the love of the woman who chose not to parent but instead, chose to give her child opportunity.

What do you appreciate about the OA&FS mission? What aspects of the agency's work are meaningful to you?

It wasn't until we attended the seminar for prospective families that I got a better idea of the philosophy and practice of open adoption. It was helpful to learn about parenting an adopted child and creating a healthy relationship with the birthmother and perhaps birthfather. Also important was the possibility of sharing in the development and health of all parties involved. The story does not end with the successful placement of a child; that is where it begins.

We are fortunate to have a great relationship with our birthmother. She was young when she placed her daughter in our arms. She has now graduated from college and is successful in her career. We are so proud of her and the many struggles she has overcome. Last summer we were out for dinner and the fact that our daughter was soon to head off to college came

WHY DO YOU GIVE TO OA&FS?

up. A sincere question was asked of us: "what happens to our relationship when our daughter leaves for college"? We hadn't thought about because we didn't see the relationship as coming to an end. The birthmother was afraid it would. We believe it is important to continue to keep her in our life. We love her and are grateful for her.

Why do you choose to donate to OA&FS?

It seems that nowadays many good and worthy causes are competing for donations. We gladly give to Open Adoption because we have firsthand experience of the good they do. We have been the recipient of somebody else's generosity

because OA&FS was there when we called. We want to help insure that when people reach out for assistance from OA&FS they too can get it.

How has your open adoption experience changed your family's life?

I can't help but believe that many little things intervened to bring us to adoption. We have a daughter who amazes and challenges, entertains and enlightens us. We have had an opportunity to affect two lives in a positive way and they have affected us in a positive way as well. Our hearts were joined nearly 18 years ago and we are all better for it.

... continued on Page 6

Fiona's family album.



Adoptee Fiona at various ages and stages with adoptive mom Mary and birthmother Kayla.

WHY DO YOU GIVE TO OA&FS?

A “Why Do You Give” bonus! Fiona shares her love of singing.

Open adoptee Fiona is an accomplished vocalist. You can enjoy her performances by viewing this video, and visiting [her YouTube channel](#) for more! ■



Watch Video: Fiona Sings “All I Ask” Live.

<https://youtu.be/ApALigrRvdI>



OA&FS adoptee Esme.

Wow, what a year!

We're so proud of the projects initiated by the agency this year. These ongoing efforts enable us to make a difference in the world of adoption. Thank you for the donations that make this progressive work possible.

 Please
Support
OA&FS!

The year in review: Values-based projects connect our program to those who need it most.

2015 marked our 30th anniversary, a milestone of great pride for the agency. As the world of adoption transforms around us, we've redefined what adoption can, and should be: an inclusive process of entrustment that holds the child's needs at its center. We've created a vibrant national presence, reflecting the values of openness, choice, integrity and transparency. We partnered with [Friends in Adoption](#) (FIA) to create the [National Pro-Choice Adoption Collaborative](#) (NPAC). Our agencies are the only two in the country that truly offer all options pregnancy counseling, embrace diversity and provide fully open adoptions and lifelong services. As progressive, non-profit, high-integrity agencies we can serve the needs of expectant parents and families throughout the country. We've brought our strong partnership to conferences where we've educated service providers and adoption professionals, and to [Planned Parenthood Federation of America](#) (PPFA) where we've become their referral source for adoption services nationwide. What an honor!

We've also solidified local networking relationships by creating our first webinar entitled "[Empowering Expectant Parents: Pregnancy Options Counseling and Open Adoption as an Alternative to State Adoption](#)". This well-received, information-rich webinar is available on our website and allows us to provide training to service providers whether they work locally, or elsewhere.

As technology develops, we've responded by [completely revising our website](#) and developing [custom infographics](#), which utilize the communication style that speaks to Millennials. We are always evolving, ensuring our materials, program, message and presentations capture the essence of our values and serve the needs of our clients and community partners.

Every project we embark on has the same ultimate focus: the children of open adoption. I'm always delighted when we hear back from the children we placed years ago. I've recently been contacted by several open adoptees who are now young adults and want to give back to the agency. Our agency has played a prominent role in their personal story and they want to be a part of the special place



Shari Levine

where their story began. They recognize that the agency set the stage for bringing their birth and adoptive families together, comprising the first chapter of their narrative. They want to tap into the values that, not only drew their family members to OA&FS years ago, but have served as the foundation for the compassionate and inclusive relationship they have all created and cultivated throughout the years. The tenets of empathy, respect, and honesty are at the core of their family. Now these young adults are beginning their own journey in life, and they want to carry these values with them.

As an example, these adoptees most recently reached out to OA&FS:

- Christine, an engaging and thoughtful young woman, completed an internship with OA&FS for her [Child and Family Studies program at PSU](#). She was adopted through the agency when she was three years old.
- Paige is an insightful person who's pursuing a graduate degree in Child Psychology. She was placed through OA&FS 20 years ago, and says, "the agency has a special place in my heart. I'm so grateful for my experience and I would love to be a part of the family that helped me get to where I am."
- Fiona is a college student and accomplished vocalist whose adoption occurred 18 years ago. She and her family have a strong and loving relationship with her birthmother Kayla.

I hope OA&FS adoptees will always see themselves as welcome members, and vital spokespeople, of our open adoption family and community. Their voice informs everything we do, and will determine our direction into the future!

Warm Regards,

Shari Levine

Shari Levine
Executive Director



Website Evolution

The OA&FS website was newly rebuilt and launched on June 15. See article on page four for details.

National Networking

National Pro-Choice

Adoption Collaborative.

Open Adoption & Family Services (OA&FS) and Friends in Adoption (FIA), two non-profit, high-integrity, national agencies have formed the National Pro-choice Adoption Collaborative, (NPAC). This collaboration came about because our agencies are very unique in that we are pro-choice, not religiously affiliated and do not discriminate. Partnering also gives our agencies a west coast and east coast presence. To build awareness for our services, we jointly created a website for NPAC with content specifically for expectant parents -- prochoiceadoption.org. This includes brief information about our services and directs visitors to our agencies' sites to learn more. The site launched on March 17.

PPFA Website Adoption Information. We became aware that the adoption section of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's website was outdated, and in some markets made referrals to adoption agencies that did not share PPFA's pro-choice philosophy. We approached PPFA, and were successful in forging a national partnership that included helping them update their adoption information and adding the National Pro-Choice Adoption Collaboration, (our partnership with Friends in Adoption), as a referral.

Adoption SPOKE: Speakers Passionate about Openness, Knowledge and Education. OA&FS is participating in a new national discussion group dedicated to openness in adoption and alternative family building called "Adoption SPOKE: Speakers Passionate about Openness, Knowledge and Education". Members are: Rebecca Vahle – Founder of Family to Family Adoption Support Program, Lori Holden – Author and Blogger at Lavender Luz, Yolanda Comparan – Adoption Success Coach, Dawn Smith-Pliner

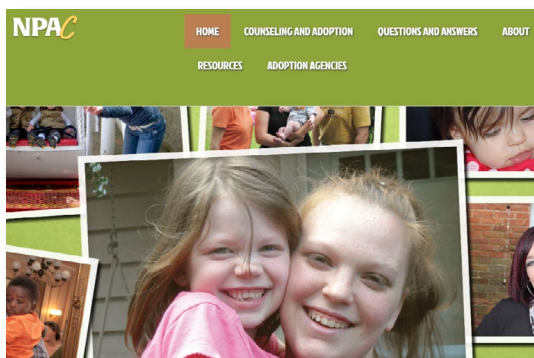
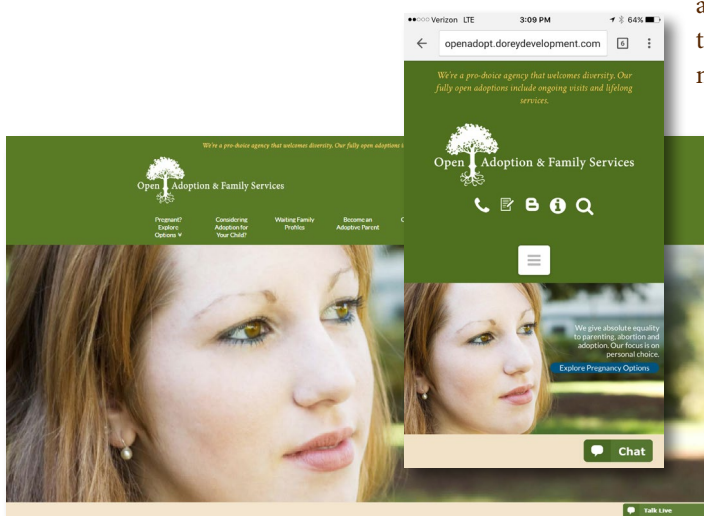
– Founder and Director of Friends in Adoption, Jessica Harrison – Psychotherapist and PhD Student in Sociology, and from OA&FS Shari Levine – Executive Director and Sally Shuey – Marketing and Development Director. Together, this group contributes to the various national discussions on adoption and related topics. Adoption SPOKE members engage in conference calls to brainstorm adoption and assisted reproductive technology-related issues and provide professional support to each other.

National Conferences. OA&FS participated in two national conferences this fiscal year. For both, we exhibited jointly with Friends in Adoption as the National Pro-Choice Adoption

Collaborative. The Abortion Care Network Annual Conference was held March 13-15 in St. Petersburg, FL. We are now an ally organization of this national group that includes the abortion providers who are not Planned Parenthood's affiliates. Dawn Smith-Pliner, FIA Executive Director, generously represented NPAC on our behalf. The National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association National Conference was held April 17-20 in Alexandria, VA. The 500 conference attendees from across the country included Title X Family Planning staff, as well as national public health departments, Planned Parenthood, hospitals, clinics and non-profits. Shari Levine, Sally Shuey and a Friends in Adoption representative spoke with over 200 conference participants in 2.5 days.

National Conversation on Adoption Reform. The Donaldson Adoption Institute held four town hall meetings on adoption reform throughout the country this year under the title "Let's Adopt Reform". These discussions explored promoting openness in adoption, access to original birth certificates, reducing restrictions for LGBTQ families, uniform all-options counseling, pre- and post-adoption services. We participated by watching the live video feeds and making contributions to the conversation via Twitter.

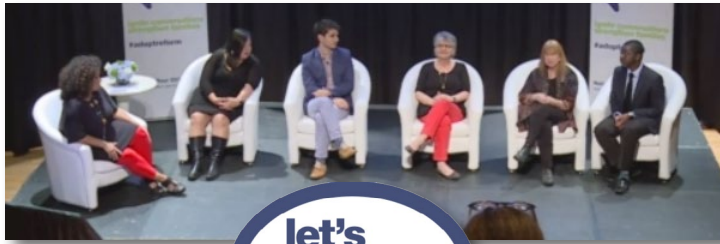
OA&FS birthmother and board member, Sage Carter, was so inspired by the project she attended the San Francisco event on March 4. Sage was introduced to DAI Executive Director April Dinwoodie as a



representative of a successful open adoption model, and because of this was called on from the audience to address the panel.

Local Networking

Community Voices. OA&FS was the subject of Portland Radio Project's Community Voices program for the week of November



2. This consisted of four 2-3 minute radio interviews Monday-Thursday of that week featuring members of our open adoption community speaking from varied perspectives. Guests were: Executive Director Shari Levine, adoptive parent Heather Allmain, birthmother Sage Carter and birthfather Garrett Garfield.

Conferences. We staffed an exhibitor table at the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance conference on October 9. They have medical clinics in select schools that provide low cost services to students. Additionally, Shari attended a networking event for public health professionals on September 24.

PPCW and PPGNW Partnerships. OA&FS has a partnership with Planned Parenthood of the Columbia-Willamette in Oregon to distribute our materials to their seven clinics from their warehouse. Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest uses OA&FS as their exclusive open adoption partner.

Washington Department of Social and Health Services

Partnership. Shari Levine had a conference call with the DSHS Director of Program and Policy and her colleagues in which they were receptive to learning more about a potential collaboration. Afterwards, Shari sent packets of materials to the members of their executive team, and distributed materials to them in our annual mailing.

Community Outreach

"Empowering Expectant Parents" Webinar. The educational webinar "Empowering Expectant Parents" was initiated as a training partnership with the Oregon Health Authority. Content focused on all options pregnancy counseling and open adoption as an alternative to state adoption. The OHA hosted a live webinar presentation on



February 25 for which 65 participants registered. Other potential audiences include over 2,000 in-home professionals such as public health nurses, maternal health caseworkers, and staff at Oregon Mother's Care, Early Head Start, Healthy Families and Relief Nursery. We generated interest in the webinar by sending a targeted save the date email to abortion providers, health care professionals, hospital social workers, Planned Parenthood, Oregon Mothers' Care staff and public health workers from our outreach provider database. Oregon Mother's Care also shared it with their workers, who are represented in 26 counties throughout Oregon. A version for national audiences was produced, and is posted on the National Prochoice Adoption website.



Annual Mailing. This mailing which dropped week of May 19 showcased our new webinar "Empowering Expectant Parents". Access info for the webinar was sent to over 1,800 community service providers via email and direct mail, which also included materials samples.

Targeted Outreach Emails. The first in a series of email promoting specific services to targeted outreach groups deployed in October. This email promoted Origins Therapy to Oregon Department of Human Services contacts.

Infographics

Infographics continue to be a compelling format with which we can communicate complex information in an easy-to-understand visual shorthand. This year, we created How We Support Expectant Parents. After the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Conference, we built an infographic that answered the most commonly asked questions and emailed this to attendees after the event. It's posted in the service provider section of our new website, and on prochoiceadoption.org to describe the services that our National Prochoice Adoption Collaborative provides.

30th Anniversary Adoptee Video Project

The cornerstone initiative of our 30th anniversary year was to give voice to the teen and young adult open adoptees, and share their experiences with our open adoption community via video diaries. We've also widely used these videos for education. With each new voice the depth of information gets richer -- the project continues!

Adoptee Videos. Videos for Gabriel and Gabrielle were completed this fiscal year, and all videos are featured on



our website. They've also been posted on [Facebook](#) and [Tumblr](#) and distributed to our open adoption community via email. The adoptee videos have been written about and linked to via a number of outlets including Lori Holden's blog [Lavender Luz](#), [Adoptive Families Magazine](#) and [Creating a Family – The National Infertility and Adoption Education Non-profit](#).

2015 Appeal



The content for this letter to request donations from our community focused on expanding

the ways in which we reach Millennial expectant parents and was distributed via direct mail in November, and email in December. OA&FS board member Sage generously contributed her story as a representative Millennial birthmother. A companion email was deployed on [Giving Tuesday](#). We raised \$7,800 with this appeal.

Origins Therapy

OA&FS [Origins](#) therapy counselor [Katie Stallman](#) has a rotating roster of six clients. Half found the agency through our online listings in [Psychology Today](#) and [Good Therapy](#), the other half through word of mouth. She's working with three families who have teen adoptees and three adult male adoptees. International and state adoption issues are the most prevalent.

Events

Birthmothers' Retreat. Attendees at this special occasion held on the Saturday before Mothers' Day participated in ice breakers, craft activities and small group discussions.

Legislation

Oregon Law Commission. Oregonian reporter Amy Wang wrote a [comprehensive article about Oregon's Senate Bill 623](#) that ran in the newspaper and online on Dec. 13. To recap, this bill went into effect January 1, 2014 and gives adoptees and their birthparents access to their adoption file when the adoptee turns 18. [This landmark legislation](#) is the first of its kind in the country, and came as a result of the adoption work group at the [Oregon Law Commission](#) that Shari Levine has worked on since its inception. Shari was interviewed for the story and provided info about agencies having the discretion to share their adoption files. OA&FS Board President Erik Bergman provided informed context with a letter to the editor. The adoption work group will continue meeting through the 2017 legislative session. ■



Parenting study participation opportunity



Researchers at the [University of Kentucky](#) are conducting a study about parents' attitudes toward contemporary parenting issues.

They've designed a simple, 20-minute survey, which asks participants to read three recent New York Times articles addressing "hot topics" in parenting. Participants will then share their opinions about their articles and answer some questions about their own identity as a parent.

The survey is brief and can be completed at a location of your choosing. They ask that interested participants be at least 18 years of age and identify as a parent. Your help is greatly appreciated! To take part in this study, please click on this link: <http://bit.ly/2agazrN>

Thanks for your generous support of Open Adoption & Family Services!

Gifts of \$1,000 +

Jere & Rebecca Hall
Karen & Tom Jantzen
Microsoft Employee Matching
Megan O'Leary &
Shannon Sedlacek
Wyss Foundation

Gifts of \$500-\$999

Anonymous
Erik Bergman & Susan Crabtree
Ben Crandall & Mathew Dorbin
Matching Kennedy/Jenks
Consultants, Inc.
Mark & Diane Spaur
United Way of King County
United Way of the Columbia/
Willamette

Gifts of \$300-\$499

Danica Bornstein &
Sara Johnston
Diane Tosh & Jan Vlcek
Anonymous through United
Way Combined Fund Drive

Gifts of \$200-\$299

Anonymous
Adam Baker & Chris Chandler
Melissa Busch & Jason Resch
Janet Buitenwieser & Matt
Wiley
Alice Dale & Frank Evans
John Flinn & Bill Hollands
Mary & Todd Friedmar
Christa Gardner & Adam
Weissman
Richard Hausken & Ruth
Warbington
Jeri Krier & Wally Roghair
Shari Levine
George & Mary McInnis

Kathryn Olson & Jeff Petee
Steve & Julie Stegeman
Waggener Edstrom Worldwide
Chris & Priscilla Williams

Gifts of \$100-\$199

Don Anderson
Justin Armintrout &
Dean Martin
Ann & Jay Arney
Jane Ault & Robert Trexler
Mary & Hoyt Bonar
Chris Carlson & Elizabeth
Thomas
Janice Chappell & Michael
DeManche
Cindy Dahl & Charles
Thierheimer
Louise & Kees De Kluyver
Diane Dickoff
Ronen Elad & Emma
Timmins-Schiffman
Ann Espo & Steve Tatge
John Etter
Jean Hicks & Ross Whitehead
Irie Hoffman
Jan Jamieson
Lisa & Doug Klink
Kroger
Tim Lannan In honor of
Burnett/Smith adoption
Cynthia Lee
Joe Luttrell & Kevin Southern
Merrie & Seth McGaw
Janet McLennan in memory
of Henry P. Bergman
Natalie McNabb
Jean Nahan & Sean Stitham in
honor of Victoria Petkau
Timothy Panek
Rene Rice
Wendy & Mike Russo
City of Seattle Combined
Fund Drive

Patrick Sexton
Sally Shuey
Silicon Valley Community
Foundation; Standard
Insurance
Thomas Valvano
Suzie Williams

Gifts Up to \$99

Donald & Josephine Allen
in honor of Burnett/
Smith adoption
Heather & Scott Allmain
Amazon Smile
Anonymous
Anonymous
Lee Austin & Nancy Reynolds
in honor of Burnett/
Smith adoption
Mike Banker & Michele Greco
Harold & Mary Bergman
In memory of Henry
P. Bergman
Jessica Blei
Arthur Borst
Benny & Wright Burnett-Smith
Mary Ellen Bushnell in honor of
the Chandler/Baker family
Lee Catalano
Tiffini Chow In honor of
Burnett/Smith adoption
Arthur Donnelly
Chris & Laura Dyer
Todd Ebersole & Isabel Wyss
Peter Fallaw & Brady Howe
John & Cathie Fegley in honor
of Burnett/Smith Adoption
Kevin Fitzpatrick In honor of
Burnett/Smith adoption
Robin Francisco
Stasa Fritz & Suzie Haberland
Heather Goldy
Lilly Hankins
Richard Hanout &
Richard Tourneur

Andrea Hardy
Kim & Matt Heavener
Lois Heinlein & Thomas
Mathews
Suzanne Pickgrobe &
Mike Hoffman
Bryan Jaffe & Jennifer Lewis
Shirley & Bill Kengla
Susan & Brice Keown
Lisa & Daniel Key
Jane Lee in memory of
Henry P. Bergman
Claire Lematta
Angie & Nick Lunde
Lori Maas
Margaret Morris in memory
of Henry P. Bergman
Alissa Petee
Sari Prevost
Anne Roberts
Peter Saraceno
David Shack
James & Christa Slater in honor
of Burnett/Smith adoption
Delphine Veith
Maria Villegas
Jon & Cathy Ward
Cheryl & Michael Wiznerowicz
Jean Zech-Manhart ■



Service statistics: the numbers behind the mission.

July 2013 through June 2016

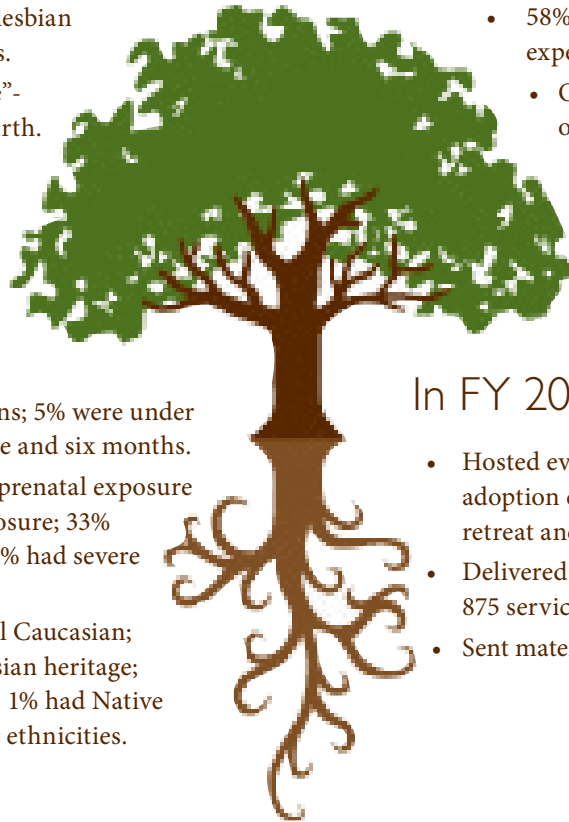
Open Adoption & Family Services (OA&FS) is a pro-choice, nonprofit adoption agency with offices in Oregon and Washington. We provide free, all-options pregnancy counseling for pregnant women and couples, plan open adoptions at no cost to birthparents and offer lifelong services for our clients. We've completed more than 1,400 open adoptions since the agency was founded in 1985.

Placements

- For fiscal year 2015-16 we completed 53 placements.
- Average number of placements per year: 45.
- 27% of placements were with gay or lesbian families; 3% were with single parents.
- 29% of placements were "last minute"-when adoption planning begins at birth.
- Adoptive parents waited an average of 18 months between entering the waiting families pool and placement.

Birthparents

- Birthparents received an average of seven weeks of counseling prior to adoption planning.
- 58% of placements had pregnancy-related expenses at an average of \$1,509.
- Open Adoption Agreements had an average of three visits per year.
- Birthfathers signed consents to adoption in 48% of placements.
- The average age of birthmothers was 24 years old, 29 for consenting birthfathers and 40 for adoptive parents.



Children Placed

- 93% of children placed were newborns; 5% were under three months, 2% were between three and six months.
- Most of the children had little to no prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol. 26% had no exposure; 33% had mild; 26% had moderate; and 15% had severe exposure.
- Of the children placed, 68% were full Caucasian; 9% had Hispanic heritage; 6% had Asian heritage; 10% had African American heritage; 1% had Native American heritage; 6% were of other ethnicities.

In FY 2015-16 OA&FS staff has ...

- Hosted events attended by 430 members of the open adoption community including a birthmothers' retreat and our first birthfathers' gathering.
- Delivered 72 presentations about open adoption to 875 service providers.
- Sent materials to 1,837 organizations. ■

Expectant Parents

- In fiscal year 2015-16, 442 expectant parents contacted us to inquire about our services.

Board of Directors, 2015-2016

Heather Allmain
Adoptive Parent,
Communications Svcs. Mgr.;
Clark Public Utilities

President Erik Bergman
Adoptive Parent, Editing
Manager; Waggener
Edstrom Worldwide

Vice-President Melissa Busch
Birthmother, Parent and Nurse

Sage Carter
Birthparent, Executive Assistant
to Head of School
Oregon Episcopal School

Secretary Michele Greco
Adoptive Parent, Personal Coach
and Consultant

Andrea Hardy
Birthmother, Parent and
Pediatric Nurse

Brady Howe
Adoptive Parent, President;
Cutting Edge Credit Union

Jennifer Johnson
Adoptive Parent

Shari Levine
Adoptive Parent, Executive
Director; OA&FS

Mark Spaur
Adoptive Parent, Senior
Engineer; Kennedy Jenks

Steve Stegeman
Adoptive Parent, CPA Davis
and Graves

David Tilchin
OA&FS Adoptee,
Computer Programmer

Alex Trotter
DHS Child Welfare Manager

Love our volunteers!

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who contributed their time, talents and expertise to support the agency's mission last year. Thanks to all the OA&FS community members who donated their photographs in this year's annual report, the agency website and other publications. If you would like to volunteer or donate photographs, please contact us at info@openadopt.org.

Heather Allmain
Lindsey Alsup
Christine Bergman
Melissa Busch
Sage Carter
Dawn Cartwright and John Chally
Chris Brown
Benny and Wright Burnett-Smith
Suzanne and David Cordes
Andrea Countner
Susan Crabtree and Erik Bergman
Kerryann Foley
Levi & Megan Fuller
Michelle Greco
Rachel & Kelly Groark
Andrea Hardy
Esther Harlow and Timmo Forseberg

Brady Howe
Donna Internicola
Jennifer & Larry Johnson
Todd Johnson
Tabitha Koh
Jerilyn Krier
Jennifer Johnson
Gabrielle LaFrank
Albert Lirhus
Joe Luterell and Kevin Southern
Doug Mackenzie
Meaghan McCrackin
Carol Merwin
Kari Miles
Sunny Moore
Liz Morelli
Robert Noble

Tessa Osborn and Todd Jollo
Paige Reohr
Mark Spaur
Gabriel Stauth
Steve Stegeman
Toni Tabora-Roberts
David Tilchin
Alex Trotter
Chrysia and Andrew Watson
Jen & Jeremy Wheat
Lynette Winters
Carol Whittenton
Carrie Wilton & Geoff Wittreich ■





OA&FS adoptee Rowan.

5200 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 250

Portland, Oregon 97239

1-800-772-1115

Para Español 1-800-985-6763

www.openadopt.org

