



OPEN ADOPTION & FAMILY SERVICES 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

Jasper, open adoptee.

*"OA&FS adoptive families are
a model of the beauty that
occurs when we choose to
take care of each other."*

– Birthparent Sage

Open Adoption: A TAPESTRY OF RELATIONSHIPS.

Connections create awareness of our collective humanity and need for each other.

by Sage Carter

We've all lived a lifetime this year, in some fashion or another. Collectively and individually, we've been through so much loss, ambiguity and frustration. When all of that comes at us relentlessly we realize the need for relief. And that seems nowhere in sight. But there have also been bright sides to the year - slowing down and spending more time with loved ones. The national outcry to end police violence against our Black community. Literally, watching the grass grow.

Something else we're learning this year is how truly connected we are to one another, as we've never had to rely on each other more. We can see this evidenced by the spread of a virus. We can see this with the protests for racial justice in the streets across the country. We can see that in the grief we felt having to miss a loved one's birthday or new addition to the family. We are mourning and celebrating together. We are in pain and healing together. We are becoming aware of our humanity and need for each other.

In preparing for this annual report we asked you: What makes the open adoption web of connections special in your family? This

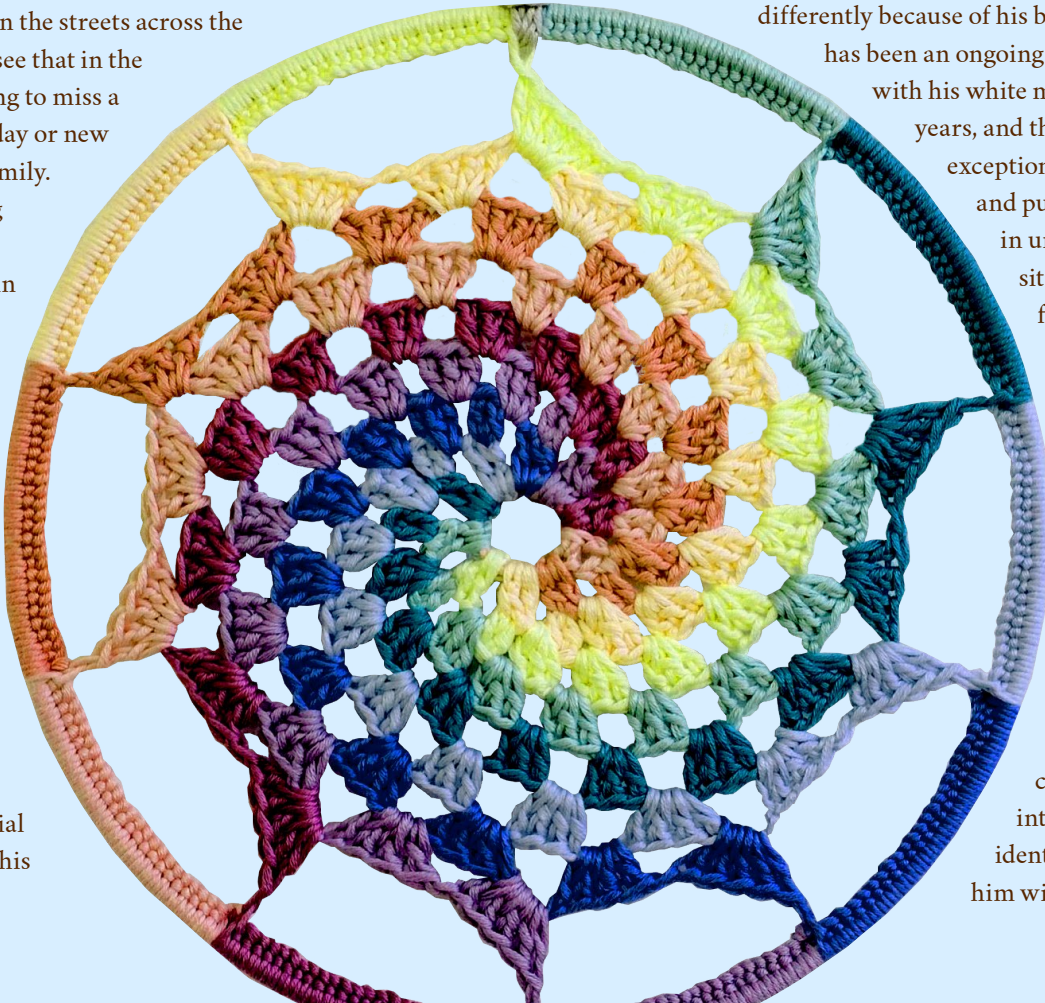
quote from OA&FS adoptive mom Jen Patterson has stuck with me, "I asked an actress friend once how she could get up on stage every night. She said, "The whole audience is just looking for you to succeed. This is how I see open adoption. It is an energetic ring of safety and support around our children, just looking for them to succeed."

OA&FS' adoptive families are a model of the beauty that occurs when we choose to take care of each other.

As a mixed race person I've always been aware of the social powers surrounding me, even when I didn't have words for how uncomfortable I felt in certain situations. When our son was born with half of my DNA and half of his indigenous birthfather's, I hoped the world wouldn't treat him differently because of his brown skin. This

has been an ongoing conversation with his white moms and I for years, and they are truly exceptional at listening and putting themselves in uncomfortable situations for his sake.

When I look inside my family I see a gigantic web of love surrounding our son that reaches beyond what I could possibly know. They take every opportunity to celebrate the many intersections of his identity and surround him with friends and



... Continued from Page 1

mentors who look like him, along with those who don't. They're creating an even larger web of love and resources who can support him as he continues to grow up. The beauty of open adoption is that at some point he'll have enough questions to ask me, his birthfather, his indigenous grandmother, or his half-brother questions about who he is and how to navigate this world as a non-white person.

When I look out into the world, I have hope that this kind of open and hospitious love will one day be a reality for everyone, regardless of where they are born, how much money they have or the color of their skin. The ways we are different are the things that make us stronger together. Our love and care for each other has truly never been more revolutionary than now. ■

– Sage Carter is a birthparent and president of the OA&FS Board of Directors.



Adoptee Teo celebrates his birthday each year with adoptive moms Jen and Erin and birthmom Sage.



The Treasure OF STRONG BONDS.

In its 35 years OA&FS has placed over 1,500 children, and in the process, has touched so many lives. So many open adoption connections branch out from each child -- the birthparents, birth family, birth siblings, spouses, cousins, aunts, uncles, adoptive parent's families, siblings, grandparents, friends All of these people have adoption in their lives; they are all interconnected. To highlight these shared experiences, we asked OA&FS families two key questions that illuminate what their family's web looks like. Here are their responses.

Cindy Ogasawara ADOPTIVE PARENT

What makes the open adoption web special in your family?

"Mike had a closed adoption and didn't get to meet his birth family until adulthood; I come from a family that has no adoptions nor exposure to adoption culture. So it was very important and special for us to enter into open adoption arrangements with two different birth mothers and welcome them into our village."



Adoptees Theo and Reese with adoptive parents Mike and Cindy.

Why are those interconnections so vital?

"Our kids' birth moms are our connection to so much about our children - their heritage, their birth family culture, their talents and predispositions. We absolutely want and need these relationships in order to more fully understand, honor and appreciate our kids as they get older."

What makes the open adoption web special in your family?

“For me, the most special thing has been the privilege of seeing Fin grow up among the many people that make up his family and care about him. It is also very gratifying to see my family enjoying their own relationships with him and with others in the broad constellation of folks who are united in caring about him.”



Garrett Garfield BIRTHFATHER



Adoptee Fin (in red shirt) with adoptive parent Joell, birthparent Garrett, adoptive parent Hans (l-r) and birth siblings Nate, Zayaa and Zach (on floor l-r).



Why are those interconnections so vital?

“These connections are vital to me because they arise from an honest acknowledgement of the way the extended “adoption family” has come together. Birthmothers from a different era have explained to me that a very difficult aspect of their closed adoptions was the impossible expectation to simply forget and move on—that the sense of secrecy only compounded the underlying loss. I feel lucky that I’m not expected to do that, and am instead included in a network of relationships that is based on and respects the truth. I believe an open and honest approach yields better results for everyone.”

“I will never forget this moment!”



intense feelings stay with you, many of the subtle memories that can truly take us back to those milestone moments fade away. Those are the details we never wanted to forget.

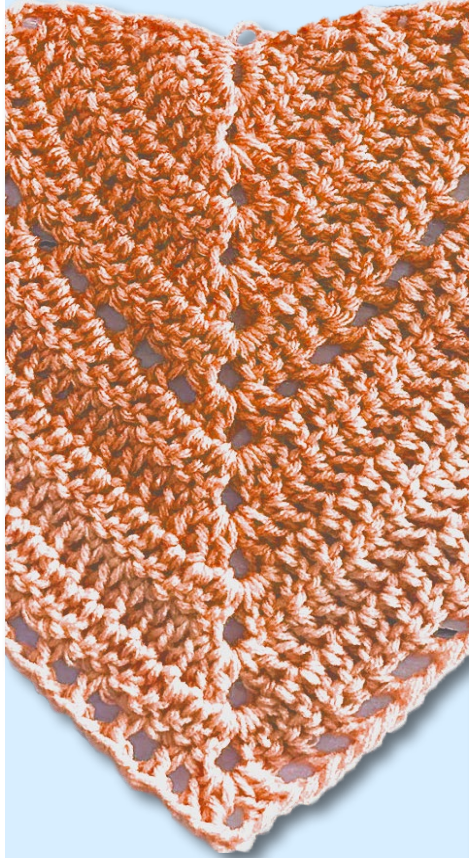
We say that with joy, and wonder, and conviction. Yet we do forget. As you and your family live your open adoption experience, the months and years fly by. While the most

However you do it, please capture your open adoption journey. If you want DIY guidance for audio or video recordings, [KnowMe Studios](https://www.knowmestudios.com) would be glad to help. If you’d prefer the convenience and peace of mind that comes with a professional storyteller, I’d be honored to tell your story. These are the stories of a lifetime.



Duncan Moore

[KnowMeStudios.com](https://www.knowmestudios.com)



April Vanderkamp OPEN ADOPTEE



Adoptee April.

What makes the open adoption web special in your family?

"I think that open adoption is a really cool system of creating a child centered family because it's this whole group of humans who care about this one tiny person and what's best for them. Trying to help navigate that together builds this humongous family that is awesome."



What makes the open adoption web special in your family?

"I asked an actress friend once how she could get up on stage every night. She said, "The whole audience is just looking for you to succeed." This is how I see open adoption. It is an energetic ring of safety and support around our children, just looking for them to succeed."



Adoptee Kismet with adoptive parent Jen.

Jeff Wishnie & Denise Luk ADOPTIVE PARENTS

What makes the open adoption web special in your family?

"Our daughter's birth mother and sister (b-ma and b-sis) live nearby and, pre-Covid, we were able to visit together regularly. It makes us very happy to see our daughter play with her b-sis and b-ma and to know that she knows she is loved. Additionally, our daughter and her b-sis both have Cystic Fibrosis (CF), a genetic disease which requires extensive medical therapies and carries a variety of health risks. Having the knowledge and support of our daughter's b-ma, who has been caring for a child with CF several years longer than us has been vital to learning to be parents to a child with CF."



Why are those interconnections so vital?

"Our daughter is young, but already we can see that she feels loved by her b-ma and looks up to her b-sis. Right now it's hard to not be able to get together, especially when our daughter asks about her b-ma. But we look forward to spending time together again, and to our daughter growing up without a doubt about her b-ma and b-sis's love."



Adoptee Octavia with a good doggie, scooter and bubbles.





Michele Greco ADOPTIVE PARENT



Adoptive parent Michele.

What makes the open adoption web special in your family?

"It just so happens that relationships are the most profound opportunity to grow in life, with everybody including your colleagues, your siblings, your birth family and your kiddo. In terms of expanding you as a human you got the best option here. I tell you, your kiddo is going to beam that back to you and that's what counts. There is nothing more amazing than that." ■

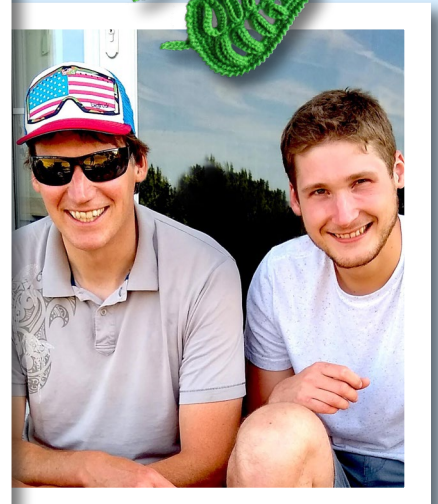
What makes the open adoption web special in your family?

"It has meant so much to have birthfather Andrew involved. He was involved in choosing us, so we felt an immediate connection to him. We were so lucky he wanted to stay involved in our lives. He and our son Devin have a relationship that's very special and unique. Andrew writes to him and visits. The friendship they have answers Devin's questions. It helps him understand himself. They're pals. As Devin grows, he looks more and more like Andrew. The relationship gives Devin a connection to his origins ... This has been so valuable for all of us. We've benefited and been enriched so much." ■

Jan Chappell ADOPTIVE PARENT



Adoptee Devin with adoptive parents Jan and Mike.



Adoptee Devin with birthfather Andrew.

Why DO YOU GIVE TO OA&FS?

We are so appreciative of all of our donors, including adoptive parent and donor Margi Brailsford. Here are some insights into why and how she supports OA&FS.

When did you first hear about OA&FS?

We found OA&FS when doing an online search for a local adoption agency.

What attracted you to the agency?

The agency didn't discriminate based on race, gender or sexual orientation. We also liked that the charges for the services were ala carte, paying for what we needed as we moved through the adoption process. We really liked that counseling for the birth parents, adoptive parents and the child was for life and didn't end when the papers were all finalized.

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

We appreciated that there was an openness being created by the agency that fostered lifelong relationships. OA&FS doesn't just handle placements and move on. They create families. Not only did we become parents to two great kids, our family trees also grew by two branches that included extended relatives as well.

Why do you choose to donate to OA&FS?

We donate to OA&FS because we believe in their mission. We specifically appreciate that they continue to support the birth parents for years after the placements of their children. Because OA&FS recognizes the importance of continuing to counsel birthparents and encourage connections to other birthparents, we specifically have chosen to donate to the annual



Adoptee Owen (center) with adoptive parents Margi and Scott and birthmother Donna, (l-r).

Birthmother's Retreat. We feel this is an amazing thing for OA&FS to do for them. Other agencies would move on to other placements and forget about the birth parents from the past, but OA&FS continues to support them in a very special way.

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

It has opened our eyes to what adoption can truly mean. You really CAN love a child that did not come from your body as much as one who did. It is no longer a shameful secret to be adopted, but something to be embraced and showered with love and emotion. Our children know their adoption stories and talk about them freely. They know they can ask questions about their adoptions, whether they ask their parents or their birth parents.

There is also a feeling of family with the kid's birth families. While they don't see them every day, they communicate

as much as they do with other members of our family, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, via phone calls, old-fashioned mail and social media. They are not our "adopted kids," they are just our kids. ■

"OA&FS doesn't just handle placements and move on. They create families."

- Adoptive Parent Margi

The YEAR IN REVIEW.

Happy 35th birthday OA&FS!

2020 is a year we're likely to never forget. We've been faced with a wave of constant change that's required us to repeatedly adjust and adapt. This year has also been a time of great connection as we look to our families, friends and community for reassurance and support. I sincerely hope that you are all safe and healthy.

In addition, 2020 has marked a year of collective awakening to the racial injustices that have permeated our society. OA&FS stands in solidarity with Black communities in the fight against systemic racism, injustice, hatred, and police brutality. Treating all people with dignity and respect is a cornerstone of our mission, and in this very difficult time, we commit to acting in alignment with our values. We must all do our part to create systemic change.

We have also worked within the child welfare system to create systemic change. I'm proud to announce that we now have a formal collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide moms who are at-risk of state intervention an empowering alternative path to foster care and state adoption for their child.

Through our work with Lacey Andresen, the Oregon DHS Child Welfare Deputy of Programs, we've trained over 1,200 CPS/DHS staff and supervisors throughout the state. [Here is a video of a CPS worker who has welcomed us as a trusted community partner after her experience of referring a mom to our agency.](#) It also features adoptive mom, Kari, whose



Shari Levine

son's birthmom, Lilly, was at risk of DHS intervention. Kari has fully embraced Lilly as an honored member of her family. We are honored to make a difference in the lives of at-risk children and their birth families by providing the option of planning an open adoption in which all participants are treated with compassion and inclusion.

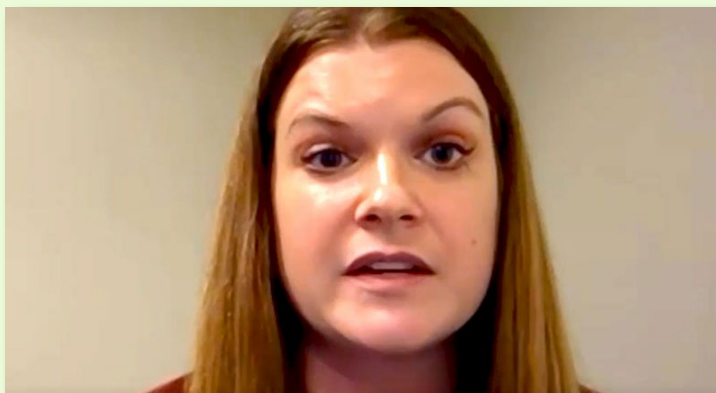
These ongoing extended family relationships embody the values that we hold dear. It is my hope that we can bring this collaboration to a national level where the collective need and potential impact is so great.

I'm so proud of our staff, board and open adoption community, who have made it possible for us to provide such high integrity services for over 35 years. I invite you to read about all of the projects we've been passionate about throughout the year; they tell the story of who we are!

Warm Regards,

Shari Levine

**Shari Levine
Executive Director**



Watch Video: Service Provider Nicole

Our Mission Extends to All – [Black Lives Matter](#).

Rising to Meet the BLM Movement. OA&FS was founded on respect, inclusion and diversity. From those roots, we're growing and learning to further become an anti-racist agency.

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

– Angela Davis



Our ongoing efforts include talking about our solidarity with the Black community via social media tiles, collaborating with other organizations to share resources, revising our transracial adoption preparation process for adoptive families and providing links on social media to educational webinars for families who are raising children of color.

COVID-19 Changes

OA&FS Goes Remote. In an effort to minimize the risk of spreading the Coronavirus (COVID-19), in Mid-March OA&FS began practicing the CDC recommended preventative measures and all staff transitioned to working remotely.

Despite the challenges presented by quarantine and shelter in place orders, we remain committed to providing our full array of services. To help clients move forward in their process, we accessed all the technology available to us. Everything from information meetings and pre-adoption seminars to homestudies, pool parties and adoption planning meetings are now being held through video conferencing platforms like Google Hangouts and Zoom. While this was a bit of an adjustment for us all, we are pleased to report that our events have run smoothly and we've received excellent feedback from the participants!

We care for the health and well-being of our community and have continued working in this way into the new fiscal year to keep our families, our communities, and our world healthy and safe for everyone.

Our Focus: Adapt, Learn, and Grow. As we all navigate these uncertain times, our focus has been on providing ongoing services to our clients with the utmost care and consideration.

By working remotely, we are continuing to meet our client's needs at every stage from pregnancy options counseling, to homestudy interviews, to completing placements. We are pleased to report that our modifications made it possible to complete 29 remote placements from April through the present, including 10 last minute placements. We're continuously adapting our services as we learn more about how COVID-19 impacts waiting families, the adoption process and the parenting experiences of those who have recently adopted. This includes offering specialized Pool Party topics "Navigating Adoption During COVID" and sending emails with specific advice and resources to different

groups within our community. These offered encouragement to adoptive families to be mindful and creative regarding how they connect with others, receive support, and build their parenting and open adoption community.

Staying Connected to Service Providers. Transitioning to remote services meant we had to carefully rethink and plan how to best support

our important network of service providers.

Our ability to provide outreach trainings, and support the clients and patients they serve, is highly valued. We're honored that they continue to refer to us year after year, and especially during this challenging time. For

example, in this fiscal year, 56% of expectant parents who placed their children in adoption with OA&FS were referred by service providers – this is an increase from our three-year average of 52%. We've also had two referrals from DHS which resulted in placements. Hospital social service workers are another significant referral source.



To keep all of these outreach audiences current on our easily accessible and ongoing services, in March

we sent an email to our 2,000+ contacts that included an agency services update, information on remote trainings and many materials as printable .pdfs.



Virtual Birthparent Gatherings. Faced with the sad necessity of cancelling the 2020 Birthmothers' Retreat due to the virus, the OA&FS counseling staff put their heads together and came up with a wonderful Plan B: Virtual Birthparent Gatherings! The first one was held in May and it was a great success. Six birthmothers and one birthfather attended, creating a balanced blend of new and more established open adoptions. Offering this safe, nurturing space generated a lot of supportive, inquisitive conversation – so much so we're considering holding these quarterly.

Said counselor Yuliya Kuznetsova, "During these stressful times, it's important to focus on the positives of the situation. The birthmother who was able to join from Spain expressed how grateful she was to speak with a community of birthparents, as this was something she was lacking in her nine years abroad. Her gratitude was palpable! Just a reminder of the awesome things we are able to do at OA&FS."

OA&FS 35th Anniversary

2020 is a milestone year for our agency and open adoption community as we mark 35 years of providing high-integrity services. OA&FS is the first and only agency in the Pacific Northwest founded on the philosophy of openness in adoption. We do more domestically-born newborn placements than any other agency in the region, and since our first office opened in Eugene in 1985, we've grown to provide services throughout the entire United States.

To celebrate OA&FS' 35th anniversary, Executive Director Shari Levine has been reaching out to our community



for fresh perspectives. We first launched an email campaign to gather contact info from our adoptees and now have 1,285 OA&FS adoptee records in our database – 590 of whom are over 16 years old.

Client Video Project. Professional Videographer Duncan Moore of KnowMe Studios, (see breakout box), has graciously offered to interview and produce videos featuring OA&FS clients. Subjects were chosen that represent a variety of roles in the open adoption constellation and filming was all set to begin ... in March. Since this was the month that shelter in place orders took effect for Oregon and Washington, the project was paused. We continue to have contact with Duncan, and look forward to the day when we can once again be together in the same space so this project can move forward.



Video Diaries. Since traditional filming isn't possible at this point, we asked for video diary submissions from birthparents, adoptive parents, adoptees and even service providers from which we began producing a series of videos that will be featured in a special 35th Anniversary section of our website. It's been a fun trip down memory lane! So great to hear back from families both recent and from the past.

Oregon DHS Partnership

DHS: A Door Opens. A leadership change at Oregon Department of Human Services led to an opportunity for OA&FS to conduct statewide trainings to DHS case workers on open adoption as an alternative to state adoption. By mid-March we presented to 1,200 CPS/DHS staff and supervisors throughout Oregon, who've welcomed this information. We are the only state in which private agencies have an active collaborative relationship with the child welfare system to provide moms an alternative to foster care and state adoption.

Training Webinar. We're also working with two other Oregon agencies to create a webinar that will be used as a part of the initial three-week training for new DHS staff. This will introduce the idea of partnering with private agencies. Shari hopes to bring this campaign to DSHS in Washington as well.

Outreach

Service Provider Packet. Our new outreach booklet is a comprehensive overview of our high-integrity philosophy, model and services curated for service providers. In the course of a year, our Executive Director and counseling staff give dozens of trainings and presentations to hundreds of service providers throughout Oregon and Washington. These professionals provide a critical connection between OA&FS and expectant parents since they're on the front lines of caring for pregnant and parenting moms. The more they understand the value of our program, the more likely they are to refer their clients and patients to OA&FS for our high-integrity options counseling.

To support these efforts, we redesigned and streamlined our packet of presentation materials into a booklet that's given to each attendee. Different versions of this new booklet have also been created to address the special needs of specific audiences such as Oregon DHS and hospitals.

Communications

Birthparent Journal.

One of the many items that OA&FS counselors have in their expectant parent support toolkit is the Birthparent Journal. This open adoption-specific journal was created in 2000 by Executive Director and adoptive mom Shari Levine along with birthmother Faith, who placed her son



Gabriel with Shari in 1991. Together, they wrote prompts designed to help birthparents reflect on their open adoption experience. Birthparents can then pass the completed journal along to their child if they wish.

Creating a journal has great benefits for all members of the adoption constellation. Counselor Ally Simone says, "Journaling can promote growth and healing for birthparents by giving them a safe space to tell their whole story, process vulnerable thoughts and feelings, and gain deeper insight into their internal experience. A completed journal also provides a wonderful way

for families to reflect on shared history and transformation for years to come."

Adoption Expenses Flier.

Our Program Manager, Suzie Williams, has seen a lot of adoptions during her decades at OA&FS. She tapped into this experience to compile a new flier that specifies – in great detail – ranges of expenses that may be incurred in an adoption beyond OA&FS fees. As Executive Director Shari Levine points out in the introduction ... "At OA&FS our high-integrity program is transparent every step of the way. We're forthcoming about all the costs involved in an adoption, so you'll be empowered with the information you need as you move forward. You'll find that these expenses are a part of every private adoption through an attorney or agency, even though they may not be disclosed up front. This detailed list provides you with the specific fees you'll incur in addition to the OA&FS' service fees."



Adoptive Parent Surveys. We created a Survey Monkey questionnaire that's sent to each family who attends our Adoptive Parent Seminars to inquire about their adoption plans. With this tool we can better gauge who's resonating with our program and their intent to continue with our services.



Website

Service Provider Page Makeover. Because of our enhanced involvement with Oregon DHS training, we've retooled the Alternative to State Adoption section in the Service Provider portion of our website. This now include quotes and testimonials from case workers who've taken our training that give our program and services important credibility from state child welfare. We also added a section on birthparent advocacy that includes video of birthmothers testifying at Oregon's state legislative session. Because of their distinct open adoption experiences, they're the best representatives to speak authentically and articulately about the rights of birthmoms in adoption.

Adoption Stories and Video. We love including new content on our website that showcases the many talents of our open adoption community. This year, OA&FS adoptee Gabrielle shared what makes her family unique in her new children's book. In this entirely real adoption story, "Born From My Heart", she introduces the reader to her family and what makes



Adoptee Gabrielle



Adoption? Know Where to Go" is our way of clarifying myths and facts. These are written with all audiences in mind, and

together paint a picture of what makes a high-integrity adoption experience, and how OA&FS is different than virtually every other agency in the country.



2019 Appeal

2019 Appeal Letter. This featured birthparent advocates and was sent to our open adoption community in early November via direct mail and email. A social media campaign followed with tiles posted weekly on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr. Hearing OA&FS birthmoms speak in front of the Oregon State legislature was a profound and moving moment. This appeal gave us an additional way to amplify their voices.

Networking and Partnerships

On Your Feet Foundation. Adoption researcher Jessica Harrison connected us with the On Your Feet Foundation. OYFF found that many birthparents across the country who are in "open" adoptions were left with no counseling, support or legally enforceable open adoption agreements. OYFF provides grants for academic/life skill endeavors and counseling with professional therapists. They also hold an annual birthmom retreat with workshops led by birthmoms. They work with women who have placed or live in California, but have some spaces available for out of state birthmoms.

Creating A Family. In August Shari Levine and Communications Director Sally Shuey met with Dawn Davenport, Executive Director of Creating A Family, a national infertility and adoption education non-profit organization. They offer online adoption education courses that include interviews with experts such as Deborah Gray and Dr. Ira Chasnoff. Their offerings can potentially supplement our adoptive family trainings. Dawn is well connected with the other open adoption agencies across the country and feels that our services are in a league of their own – she was very impressed!

Social Media

Facebook Groups. The private groups we set up last year have continued to grow and thrive – and with social distancing they're now more important than ever as a way for our community

to connect! These groups are: Birthparents/80 members, Adoptive Parents/118 members, Waiting Families/52 members and Adoptees/11 members.

Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday was on December 3. We marked the occasion with an email, Facebook fundraiser and a series of social media tiles. These showcased the families that have participated in the "Why I Give" feature that's included in each year's annual report. While we receive generous donations throughout the year, the holiday season months are especially important for all non-profit organizations. The gifts given to OA&FS are at the heart of our support, and your belief in us means a tremendous amount that goes beyond dollars. The fun part? Using the fabulous photos so kindly provided by our open adoption community to authentically depict what it's like to live in an open adoption. #grateful :-)

"Open Adoption Double the Love". This closed Facebook group is dedicated to providing a space where those involved in open adoption can engage with one another about their aspirations and experiences. Members include the entire constellation: Birthparents and families, adoptive parents, expectant parents, prospective adoptive parents and adoptees. Created in 2013 by a birthmom and adoptive mom duo – Jordan and Karen – this group now has upwards of 2,200 members. OA&FS Executive Director and adoptive mom Shari Levine is a participant and is impressed with the conversations, open adoption insights and thoughtful advice that's being shared.

Search Engine Marketing

Google Ad Grants. After months of application work, in the spring we qualified to receive Google Ad Grants. Google Ad Grants works just like Google Ads online advertising, by displaying our message to people who are searching for services like we provide. As a qualifying nonprofit, we receive \$10,000



in in-kind Google Ads advertising every month. Since we launched our Grants Ads on May 30 through the end of the fiscal year on June 30 we've gotten: 117,643 impressions, 5,089 clicks and \$116,753 in free advertising!

With this grant money, we're able to bid on keywords that are too expensive within our regular Google Ads account. These

terms include "adoption", "pregnant adoption", "newborn adoption", "infant adoption", "private infant adoption", etc. Since there's heavy competition for these keywords, our average cost per click in the Grants is approximately \$23. In our paid account it's a fraction of that – around \$2. Google requires Grants accounts to maintain at least a 5% click-

thru rate, so we monitor this very carefully. Our Search Engine Marketing consultant stays on the cutting edge of best Google Ads account practices, and brings his wealth of knowledge to continually evolving our strategies.

COVID Support. To assist small organizations during the pandemic, in June Google Ads applied a credit of \$750 in ad relief to our paid account. They also raised the \$10K/day cap in the Grants account to \$12,500. Every bit helps.

Adoptive Parent Text Ads. In March we set up a new text ad campaign targeted to prospective adoptive parents. Since this began, website visits to the "Getting Started" section of our "Becoming an Adoptive Parent" page have increased over 100% compared to the same time last year, and our adoptive parent intakes have increased by an average of 14% per month.

Events

Community Gatherings. Connections were made and celebrated at our annual summer picnics and holiday parties held in Portland, Eugene and Seattle. Adoptees spanning in age from a few months to fifteen years attended with their birth and adoptive families, and new memories were made.

Eugene Pride Event. Our Eugene office participated in that city's Pride event by creating a community activity in the form of a tree on which people could post notes (leaves!) reflecting what they loved most about their family of origin or chosen family. These leaves were then added to the Pride tree. OA&FS was very well received, and several families indicated interest in adopting through our agency. ■

Thank you FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OPEN ADOPTION & FAMILY SERVICES!

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Karen & Tom Jantzen

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Matthew Spaur
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Susan Cadwallader in honor
of Elias Saunders
Lee Catalano
Charities Aid Foundation of
America; c/o CyberGrants
City of Seattle Combined
Fund Drive
Amy DeGennaro
Arthur Donnelly

Marla Dotson
Frontstream
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Suzie Williams
Your Cause through Standard
Insurance Company ■



OA&FS is a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Service statistics: the numbers behind the mission.

July 2017 through June 2020

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 1,500 open adoptions since the agency was founded in 1985.

Placements

- We complete an average of 41 placements per year.
- 27% of placements were with gay or lesbian families; 5% were with single parents.
- 34% of placements were "last minute"—when adoption planning begins at birth.
- Adoptive parents waited an average of 17 months between entering the waiting families pool and placement.

Children Placed

- 100% of children placed were newborns.
- 23% had no prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol. 28% had mild exposure; 25% had moderate; and 24% had severe exposure.
- 93% of the children placed were white; 14% had Black or African American heritage; 19% had Hispanic or Latino heritage; 11% had Native American heritage; 11% had Asian heritage; 3% had Pacific Islander heritage (Percentages don't equal 100, as a child can have multiple racial backgrounds.)

Expectant Parents

- Each year, an average of 321 contact OA&FS to inquire about our services.

Birthparents

- Birthparents received an average of five weeks of counseling prior to adoption planning.
- 82% of placements had pregnancy-related expenses at an average of \$1,921.
- Open Adoption Agreements had an average of three visits per year.
- Birthfathers signed consents to adoption in 42% of placements.
- The average age of birthmothers was 27 years old, 29 for consenting birthfathers and 39 for adoptive parents.

In FY 2019-20 our staff has:

- Hosted events attended by 451 members of our open adoption community, including 7 birthmothers who attended the Birthmothers' Virtual Gathering. (There were no retreats this year due to Covid-19.)
- Delivered 63 presentations about open adoption to 1,319 service providers, 50 college students and 313 teens.
- Sent promotional mailings and materials to over 2,000 service providers. Of these 130 requested additional materials. ■

Board of Directors, 2019-2020

Secretary Heather Allmain

Adoptive Parent,
Communications Services
Manager at Clark Public Utilities

Vice-President Melissa Busch

Birthmother, Parent and Nurse

President Sage Carter

Birthparent, Executive Assistant to
Head of School at
Oregon Episcopal School

Garrett Garfield

Birthfather, Partner at Holland &
Knight Law Firm

Secretary Michele Greco

Adoptive Parent, Personal Coach
and Consultant

Jennifer Johnson

Adoptive Parent

Shari Levine

Adoptive Parent, Executive
Director at OA&FS

Allie Phillips

Adoptive Parent,
Business Owner

Mark Spaur

Adoptive Parent, Vice
President at Kennedy Jenks

Steve Stegeman

Adoptive Parent, CPA
at Davis and Graves

David Tilchin

OA&FS Adoptee,
Computer Programmer

April Vanderkamp

Adoptee
Registered Nurse

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
Jaimie Arcand
Kerianne Bernstein
Katelyn Berry
Margi Brailsford
Scott Brailsford
Carol Browning
Melissa Busch
Sage Carter
Kelsey Cribbs
Debbie Crisler

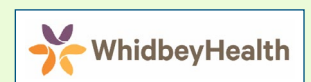
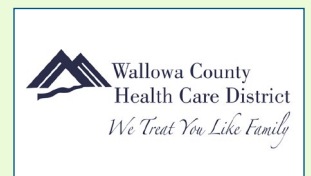
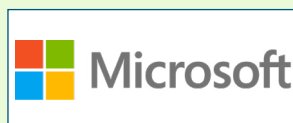
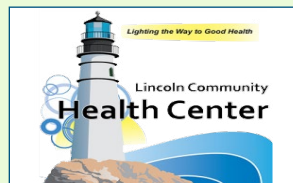
Mark Crisler
Sara Culp
Michael Delaney
Jennifer Diehl
Lee-Anne Flandreau
Nathan Faust
Kerryann Foley
Garrett Garfield
Michele Greco
Molly Hayden
Jeff Hebrank

Aaron Iwagoshi
Mallory Iwagoshi
Jennifer Johnson
Jessica LeShane
Denise Luk
Mark Spaur
Steve Stegeman
David Tilchin
April Vanderkamp ■



We appreciate OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

To educate others about open adoption and services available at our agency, OA&FS staff conduct outreach presentations and free trainings throughout the region year-round. In doing this, they form important relationships that benefit all who receive services from OA&FS. These logos represent all of the organizations we did presentations and/or trainings with in this fiscal year!





*Adoptee Vivi experiences her
first s'more with adoptive
parents Paul and John, (l-r).*



OPEN ADOPTION & FAMILY SERVICES

OPENADOPT.ORG 1-800-772-1115 INFO@OPENADOPT.ORG