

JOURNEYS

An event changes our lives forever!

It is our daughter's first birthday and yet, upon reflection, it is not the only significant date surrounding her adoption to consider and celebrate. I know that the adoption process is hardly ever without complications despite FIA's system of knowledge and support, designed to make placements happen as smoothly as possible. Yet it seemed from the moment my husband Jody and I first learned of our daughter's existence until the glorious day on which we brought her home, anything that could go wrong, did.

Unbeknownst to us, on October 10, 2007, an event took place that would change our lives forever – the birth of our daughter, Charlotte. We learned of her existence eight days later. This day began a two week waiting period that felt more like being on a roller coaster from which we couldn't get off. We experienced clashing emotions from profound joy to immeasurable anxiety that were finally put to rest when we brought her home on November 2, 2007.

Now, back to her birthday. The first thing I did to celebrate was open up my calendar and see what I had been doing on that day in 2007. There was nothing of great significance: A day of teaching, a staff meeting, yoga class. I imagined myself going through the routine of daily life, not knowing that the tiny person who was going to change my life forever was being born. Of course, I like to look for the cosmic, larger than life signs that her birth date was predetermined by fate or a higher power. It came from a friend of ours, who pointed out that the day of Charlotte's birth was her wedding anniversary, the event where Jody and I met twenty years ago.

We became active in May 2007 and tried to patiently wait for word from FIA. Other than being contacted about a case early in the summer, nothing much happened. On October 18th, I was at school, meeting with a colleague when Jody called me. "Hey, what are you doing?" he said in the urgent tone he uses when he's excited. He had gotten a call from

Kim D. at the Vermont office. A little girl had been born in Rochester, NY and would we consent to having our profile shown to her birth mother. There were some issues regarding her case that needed to be considered. Namely that the birth father, although no longer in the picture, had not supported the idea of adoption when he was around. The baby was still in the hospital because she had swallowed meconium during birth and had suffered some respiratory distress. We had some big decisions to make and Kim B. (our caseworker) needed to know what we were going to do by that evening.

Needless to say, there was a great amount of excitement amongst my colleagues as we tried to plan for my absence from the classroom for maternity leave. My husband and I raced home to meet, take a deep breath and look over the health records that had been faxed to us. For support and advice on health issues, we faxed her birth records to friends in the medical profession. By 10:00 that night, we made the call to Kim with the decision that I think we had unconsciously known we were going to make all along. We were in. We wanted her to be ours. We wanted to be her parents. With all the complications in this placement, we were making the leap of faith that, with the professional guidance of our lawyer and the great people of FIA, if the birth mother chose us, we would be taking our daughter home in a couple of days.

The next morning, while I was at school conducting a day of parent/teacher conferences, my husband called with the news that we'd been chosen! She was ours and we were to fly to Rochester that night to pick up her up at the hospital the next day. There were tears and excitement as I shared the joyous and surprising news with everyone at school that I would be going on maternity leave on Monday. So here I am trying to conduct the conferences and my husband is at the store with a friend buying supplies (we only had a crib in a box) when our lawyer called me to say that she wanted to halt the plans. She was concerned about some inconsistencies in the story the birth mother



dawn's desk



welcome home



This is the time of the year to reflect. In our busy daily lives, we rarely take time to step back and look to see what accomplishments we have achieved over the years. I asked our hard working and dedicated staff to take a moment to do so.

FIA is proud of:

1 The **COMPLETION OF THE FIA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** and the groundbreaking for

FIA's Forever Home. The Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony will be held on Friday, July 17, 2009.

2 Our **CONTINUED SUPPORT TO BIRTH AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES** – whenever needed – through the most difficult moments.

3 **RECEIVING THANK YOU LETTERS** from women and couples saying how appreciative they are of the staff for providing them with unbiased information so that they are able to make informed choices. Receiving kind and thoughtful correspondence from adoptive families thanking us for helping them through the roller coaster ride of the adoption process. And for the first time this year...receiving an email from one of our kids thanking us for placing him with his adoptive family! *"Oh my gosh :) Hey Dawn, this is Harrison...Thank you so much for putting me with the family I have. I truly do bless you. Thank you sooooo much :)"* - Harrison

4 The turning of our **OFFICES INTO ECO-FRIENDLY AND VIRTUALLY PAPERLESS AND EFFICIENT SPACES**, with our continued goal of keeping costs as low as possible.

5 Our **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM** providing trainings to hospitals, schools, and Planned Parenthoods.

6 Our **BI-ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS** in which adoption professionals – attorneys, social workers, counselors and other agency directors – are invited to our office to discuss issues related to best practice standards in adoption.

7 Our **GET ACQUAINTED WORKSHOPS** (please see the 2009 schedule on the last page of this newsletter) for anyone interested in working with FIA to become a family through Compassionate Adoption. FIA believes that the adoption process is not a point in time but rather a life-long journey. The workshop provides a solid foundation for your journey, no matter what path you chose.

our family

welcomes

Barry & Brittany & Children	Lachlann
Jason & Cheryl	Hailey
J., Ross & Connor	Marcus
Anthony & Mark	Alec
Bill & Chris	Sophia
Will & Nicole	Dylan
Brian, Ann Marie & Meredith	Wyatt
Kevin, Melissa & Isabella	Abigail
Joan	Steven
Carrie, Kathleen & Tim	Alma
Paul & Chris	Kensington
Mark & Deborah	Janae
Keith & Peter	Aidyn & Anna
Keith, Megan & Kerrigan	Jack
Marc & Fern	Claire

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family album



Rick, Bethany & Brisbee



Patty, Kim, Chris,
Keith & Ryan



Lisa, Tina, Benjamin & Zachary



Edwin
& Sean-
Michael



Sean, Tricia,
Abigail & Gracie



Bob & Kyle



Alan, Nancy
& Benjamin



Dalton & Spencer



L-R...back: Zachary 8, Keaton 14, Brady 9, Ryder 5
front: Talia 3, Tennyson 11 months, Travis 1



Jill, Marion
& Isabella



Aura, Dawn & Issac



Christine,
Jeremy
& Angela



Dave, Sandy,
& Sawyer



family album



Kory & Ella



Tom, Carl, Andrew, & Luke



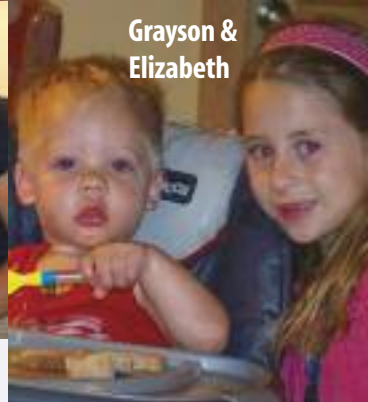
Kelly & Katelyn



Rick, Cindy & Bethany



Will, Dylan & Nicole



Grayson & Elizabeth



Jill & Kyle



Matt, Mary, Kara & Tom



Kyra & Brendan



Lizzy & baby Matilda (FIA baby with her new baby)...wow!



Denise, Jennifer, Noah & Eliana



mail

Keeping the connection open

Hi Patty,

I never imagined I'd ever be able to handle such a situation. In the very beginning (before the "Get Acquainted Workshop") my attitude was "I don't want to share the baby" – how that has changed! It's not really sharing, but keeping that connection open for our son. Each time we visit, we understand a little more about what our son's birth parents go through. We had a great visit with them! It amazes me how two people we only spent an hour with that day in January (when Robert was born), that we have such a connection and feel so close to. I felt our visit went really well and it felt like meeting with friends. Robert's birth mother gave me a matching ring to one she has that is Robert's birthstone – really special. His birth father mentioned getting together after the holidays and we would go to their apartment and he would cook for us. Mitch and I both feel like that is fine and we are thrilled to see them sooner!

On the way home Mitch and I thought how neat it would be for the four of us to talk at a GAW. From our perspective it would be neat because it could be a complete set of parents sharing. Maybe in the future we could see if they'd be interested. Life is so busy right now! Attached is a picture of Robert in his FIA t-shirt.

I will talk to you soon,
Arlene



Kim

It was really terrific to have all of you here. My staff have repeatedly commented on how helpful a presentation it was, and it's great to feel as though we have an additional resource for patients in Friends in Adoption. I'll ask the staff to fill out the evaluation, and will get them back to you shortly.

Thank you so much for your time,
Jen

We will always be grateful

September 2008

Hi Dawn,

It was so nice seeing you at the family picnic in July. We were so happy to see some of the families we have met over the years. It is very heartwarming to see the many families created through FIA.

Enclosed is a picture of you with Brandon. We will always be grateful to FIA for leading Brandon to us. He is the love of our lives and has brought so much enjoyment to us and everyone around him. We truly have been blessed!

Love,
Judy, Leo & Brandon

Blessed two times

Dear FIA,

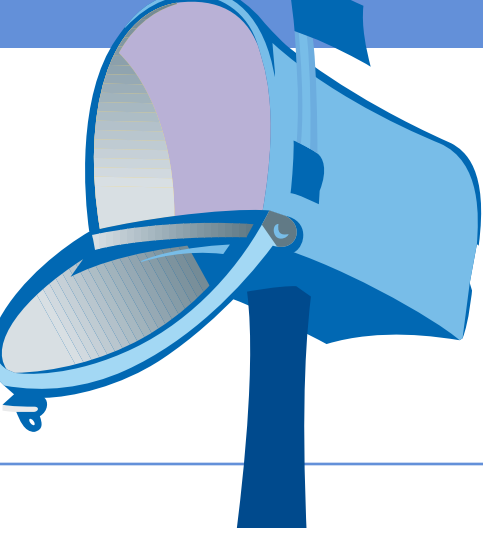
Finally I write the thank-you note for bringing us to our baby Trevor.

It was a long wait but well worth it for this beautiful happy boy that we have. We have been truly blessed two times – once with Cody and now with Trevor.

Cody loves being a big brother and is very protective of his baby. Please forward the enclosed letter to Michelle and thanks again. We are also sending a picture of the boys to you – will send more soon!

Take care to all,
Scott, Arna, Cody & Trevor





mail

Hi everyone

Here are some pictures for Becky and Josh and one for you.

Other than colds that won't quit, Sophie and Lauren are doing great. Sophie loves school and her teacher. Lauren can't wait for Sophie to get off the bus at the end of the day.

Hope all is well at FIA.

Peace,
Ellen



journey. There was no way I would have believed that we would be parents of three beautiful children, and that we would consider ourselves lucky to have wonderful relationships with Jocelyn's birth parents and Rob's and Tyler's birth mother. We are actually planning a Christmas visit with all of them!



Your column about family pictures

Dawn and friends,

We were quite excited to see the kids' pictures in the Fall '08 newsletter. Your column about "family pictures" vs. "child only" pictures is definitely a thought provoker. For myself, I take pictures of my children to capture that moment for myself and for family and friends who could not be there. That means that I am usually behind the camera. We are lucky because we have so much family here, that I get a lot of pictures with their cousins, but again the adults are usually behind the camera.

The twins have provided the biggest opportunity for us to take pictures of adults because it is fun to try to capture the look of "oh my, I don't know if I can hold both at the same time" look.

Since I was thinking of pictures, I decided to look at some of our recent pictures. I am struck at how big Jocelyn is compared to her brothers. I cannot believe that its been five years since we were in Vermont at our GAW, the beginning of the

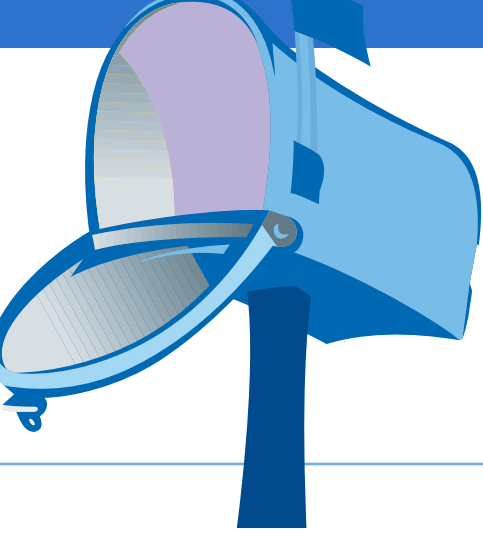


Friends have wondered if it's awkward to see our birth families, but I tell them that it's like seeing your distant relatives. They are happy to see you, see the kids and best of all they REALLY want to hear all about them. Thank you for promoting and educating people about open adoption. Getting to see our birth families have allowed us the opportunity to hear from them first-hand what they want to see regarding pictures and they have asked questions about topics I would not thought to mention in a letter. Jocelyn's birth mother is always wondering if she gives us a hard time over things, and while Jocelyn and I battle over how much TV, or if she is getting a cookie, I never think to tell her birth mother that until she asks. We learn things as well. During our last visit, the ice cream truck came down the street, and Jocelyn's birth mother commented that mint chocolate chip ice cream was her favorite. It was so cool to be able to tell her that one of Jocelyn's favorites is mint chocolate chip as well! It's those little things that are really nice to be able to connect to.

Well, I have to go, Scot has put Jocelyn to sleep, and it is time for us to put the twins to bed. Twins! I still cannot believe that we were lucky enough to have twins. Though no one discusses how hard twins are at the GAW. :)

Amy

P.S. I have attached some more pictures. Can you believe that they are 10 months old already?!



mail

Blessing

Dear Dawn,

We are so glad to hear that you are making great progress in your Capital Campaign. Enclosed is our 2008 pledge and a couple of pictures of AJ. He is an amazing child – bright, funny, charming, lively, and affectionate and, as you can see, pretty darn cute. Geoffrey and I treat every day with him as a blessing. We can't imagine, or remember what life was like without him. Thanks again to you and the staff for everything.

Take care,
Gary



Always there for us

Barb,

Thank you! You are a consummate professional, who looked out for both Rick and I.

I know we were a pain at times, but Lucas is our main priority and his interests are paramount to us. As I stated to Mary Walsh Snyder during the adoption finalization, you were always there for us and in the end came through big time.

We will always remember you!
Joe and Rick



From birth mother Beth

Hi there Patty and Kim!

I hope this letter finds you well! I am so sorry I have been out of touch for so long! After graduating, I worked down in Mystic for a bit, then headed up to NH to work at a camp and train with a USN SEAL team; that is what I am doing now; I have joined the Navy and got a Cryptology contract, and will be headed off to do that in February. For the time being I am training my butt off, and loving every minute of it. Stephen is doing very well, actually. He is about 20 pounds now; he smiles, coos, and is becoming a very happy baby. They tell me he was a giraffe for Halloween.

So things are going well, I believe. I met a wonderful guy named Gus who is a Search and Rescue Swimmer; he was training up here and we became very close. We will see where that goes, but he is absolutely wonderful and REALLY cute *sigh*) How are things with you? How was the summer and fall?? I hope to catch up with you soon!

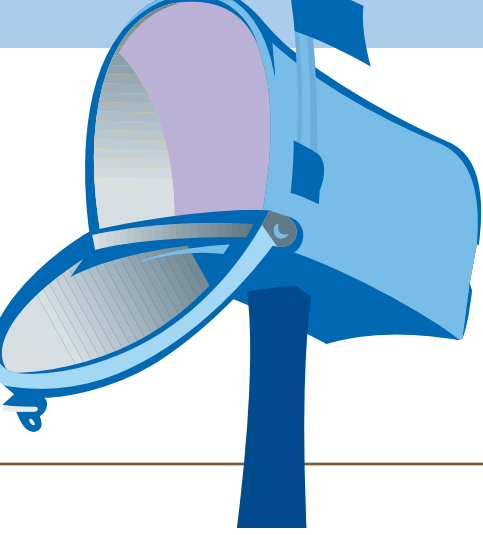
All my love,
Beth

Family reunion

Dear Dawn,

In the summer of 2007, Harrison's biological great-grandmother contacted us regarding his biological sister. His sister's stepmother called wanting my phone number and before the GM gave it to her, she wanted to call me first to see if it was alright. Within an hour he was talking to his sister! Plans were made for his sister to come to Northern Kentucky to our home for the first meeting. The stepmother, stepgrandmother, his biological sister and her brothers all made the trip from Mississippi. Everyone stayed one week and then his sister Lucretia stayed an additional week with Harrison. We packed up one week later and headed for Mississippi to take Lucretia back home.

When Lucretia first arrived at our home in Northern Kentucky, we were all anxious and filled with emotions. She got out of the van and I started sobbing so hard and was filled with so much emotion. I felt as if I had adopted the other part of my son! This is a feeling that no one can explain...They were both born in November...Harrison on



mail

the 7th and Lucretia on the 5th with his sis being one year older. (I saw her when he was born, but at a distance... I still remember her with a little winter cap and jacket, toddling around the hallways at the hospital.) I believe this is one reason I was so emotional...plus many more reasons.

During their (her family) stay, we enjoyed so many activities that we have to offer in our local area. We got along wonderfully, they cooked some of their southern meals for us and we in turn did the same. Many pictures were exchanged and her family had prepared a family album for Harrison to have for him to keep. Harrison and Lucretia asked if they could have a birthday party together since they had never been able to celebrate one together. So, I ordered a cake, we decorated and had a big birthday celebration! When it came time for the family to return to Mississippi, it was difficult on Lucretia to see them leave...Well, they were leaving her with people she had just met, so it took a couple of days for her to get back to "normal". After that she and Harrison could not be separated! The remainder of her time was spent sight-seeing, eating out, going to amusement parks and just plain fun. I would take them to the grocery store and would hear them in the next aisle acting like kids would (like a younger age child would act). They were loving every moment! I could go on forever about her stay...

When we arrived in Mississippi, the family and I were trying to decide whether or not to allow Harrison to meet his birth mother. I made the final decision after I met his birth mother myself. I went to visit her in her FEMA trailer (they were victims of Katrina) and she was more than grateful to see and visit with me. I asked many questions regarding her situation at the time, including who the birth father is...I gave her pictures of Harrison (she still didn't know he was in the area) and I told her she could write him a letter, that I would come back over the next day to get it. She had the letter ready and I had Harrison out in the car... I asked her if she wanted to see him...She began shaking all over and put her hands to her face (JUST like my son does)...She wanted to comb her hair and get herself ready for the moment...We brought him into her trailer and it was another memorable moment...The tears of joy to see her biological son for the first time! Many pictures were taken and I have one picture that is very precious to me...Lucretia and Harrison were playing around outside the trailer...

His birth mother turns around and points her finger at both of them...My son is lying on the ground looking up at her and Lucretia is giggling. This was a Kodak moment!

I allowed her to talk to Harrison about anything including her situation at the time of the adoption. She referred to me as his mother and told him she now knows she made the right choice for him. She also told him that she couldn't have ever given him what he has or what he needed to be successful. She also expressed that with the situation she was in that she didn't know, even if she chose to parent him, whether she would still have him now...She told him that she doesn't always make good choices and the only good choice she knows of... Is allowing us to adopt him.

Since the meeting...We have stayed in contact with everyone and we will continue to talk as well as visit. He loves his extended family and I do too.

One thing that I want to say is...Many people and family members were afraid for me to allow Harrison to meet his biological family this early. It was the fear of not knowing what was going to happen, but in my son's case, it was a wonderful experience.

He misses his sister dearly and will sometimes feel sad because he cannot see her. He will go back to Mississippi and visit...In fact, they have asked him to come for Christmas this year...I am not sure yet whether this will happen...But he will visit sometime soon.

Love and blessings,
Ronda

Hi Dawn

We received the Fall 2008 copy of JOURNEYS recently and I had the exact same response as the first time I read FIA's newsletter way back when. Everything was put on hold until I read with interest the whole newsletter and had a good cry. Other people were going through exactly what we went through before David arrived and after and now the "reunion". The letter from the adoptive mother, birth mother and daughter about their reunion at graduation was wonderful. Thank you for thinking of us all. You continue doing a great job.

Sincerely,
Lorraine, John & David

had told. After further questioning, our caseworker Kim B. discovered that the birth father had not only been around recently, he'd taken her to the hospital to deliver the baby! Our lawyer and FIA felt strongly that we should not take the emotional risk of bringing her into our care only to have the birth father show up and protest our adoption. To make sure that the placement went as smoothly as possible, they needed to do everything they could to inform him of the adoption plan. We were hoping he would either surrender his rights, or that we wouldn't hear from him at all. The general opinion was that he was ultimately not going to interfere with the adoption, but protections against the contrary had to be in place.

So instead of coming home with us, our child was taken by our caseworker Kim B. from the hospital to the home of a lovely woman named Shannon who provided her with interim care. Over the next week, letters were sent to the birth father's last known addresses informing him of the adoption plans.

He was not heard from but by the next weekend, another complication had arisen. The mother of our birth mother's brother, no relation to our birth mother, had offered to raise the child. Our caseworker believed that while she had been ready to surrender her rights when she chose us, she was feeling pressured to choose this second option. Now we had two factors affecting the prospects of our bringing our daughter home, getting acknowledgement from the birth father of the adoption plan and the offer of a woman to raise the baby. While technically this was an open adoption, we never spoke to our daughter's birth mother, but were in constant contact with both our lawyer and our caseworker Kim B. Tensions were running high at this point. Jody and I alternated being the calm support and the one who flipped out. In the midst of this chaos, we were traveling to Ohio that last weekend of October to celebrate my mother's birthday. We had considered changing our plans because we thought we were becoming parents, but now needed to be comforted by our family.

Everyday we faced dashed hopes because it seemed that every goal or deadline was pushed back. Our daughter's birth mother came no closer to making a decision after meetings with her children's services case worker and a therapist hired by FIA. Our baby was in interim care and while it was excellent care, she needed to go home, wherever that was going to be. Our birth mother was given a deadline of around 3:00 on Tuesday October 30th. She retreated and turned off all lines of communication. She was going to have to be threatened with a charge of child neglect by children's services if no decision was made.

The next day was a beautiful day for Halloween. Not having any trick-or-treaters of my own, I was going to get my hair cut. Jody called me at the salon. "She's ours." I was stunned and elated at the same time. He then told me a story that disappointed me momentarily. Our daughter's birth mother had made her decision earlier that day and it wasn't us she had chosen. It was her brother's mother who was given the gift of raising our baby but she became reluctant and backed out. When our birth mother signed the surrender of her parental rights the next day, she said this was what she had originally wanted.

We spent the next day happily preparing for our daughter's arrival. On a beautiful Fall day, and with our dear friend Denise in tow, we drove upstate to get Charlotte. I kept looking at the empty car seat, imagining its future occupant.

For the first few moments of being with Charlotte, all I could do was stare at her. There were tears and pictures taken and lots of ogling over her. Shannon sent us off with hugs and parenting advice. We took our time driving back to the city, stopping in little towns along the way to feed Charlotte and ourselves. The significance of this day came up with people we met along the way, causing at least one to walk away weeping quietly.

There are many anniversaries around Charlotte's birth. The day she was born, the day we first heard about her, the day we learned she was ours and the magical day we brought her home. That crazy, tumultuous time is something I would live through a thousand times over to celebrate the honor of being Charlotte's mother.

contacting Friends in Adoption

OFFICE HOURS

9 AM – 4 PM, MONDAY – THURSDAY

During our office hours we will answer any questions and help solve adoption concerns. Please keep our office hours in mind and conduct your regular adoption business during this time.

On Fridays we try to catch up on paperwork. We can serve you best when calls to us on Fridays are limited to emergencies only. During office hours, we are also here to answer your incoming pregnant woman calls. After our working office hours, our trained answering service will be answering calls, with staff members serving as back-up.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The staff may be reached via email by typing in the **first name** of the individual and **@friendsinadoption.org**.

JOURNEYS

...is published three times a year by FIA.

Send your letters, photos and comments to:

Kim Denis, Friends in Adoption

P.O. Box 1226

Castleton, VT 05735

kim@friendsinadoption.org

Letters may be edited for space.

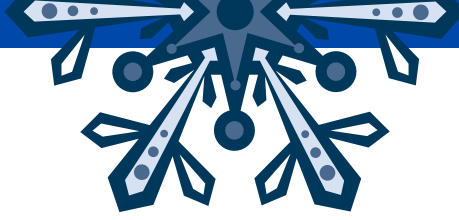


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Resources



Adoption Grants

There are many adoption grants that you can pursue, with our help, to make the child adoption process affordable for you.

Adoption Tax Credit

<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>

A Federal tax credit of \$11,650 (for 2008 tax year). This is a tax credit, not a deduction. For more information, go to the link listed above. You may also wish to speak with your tax advisor. This tax credit is available to all adopting families, finalized or not. The phase-out income limits have been increasing every year, along with the tax credit price.

National Adoption Foundation

<http://www.nafadopt.org/>

No income requirements! The NAF offers between \$500 and \$2,500 to adoptive families for any expense an adoptive family has. Board members meet four times a year.

Gift of Adoption Fund

<http://www.giftofadoption.org/>

Gift of Adoption offers between \$2,000 and \$5,000 to adopting families. Gift of Adoption focuses especially on families that have financial hardships and/or families that adopt a child with special needs.

God's Grace Adoption Ministry

<http://www.ggam.org/>

God's Grace Adoption Ministry offers grants and interest free loans to adoptive families, depending on their financial situation and current needs.

Federal Medical and Family Leave Act

<http://www.dol.gov/>

Covered employers must allow eligible employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid time – with benefits – off to take care of an adopted child during any 12 month period.

Loans

Many adoptive families choose to take out a home equity loan, borrow against a life insurance policy, or choose a low-interest adoption loan to help pay for the costs.

Creative Financing

Many adoptive families choose "creative" routes to help offset the costs, including church sponsorships, adoption showers (instead of baby showers), fundraising, and borrowing against your 401K. Be sure to look at all your possible avenues.

Websites

The Adoption Clubhouse

The Adoption Clubhouse is a program of the National Adoption Center, whose mission it is to expand adoption opportunities throughout the United States. The Adoption Clubhouse is designed, authored and formatted by adoption professionals who believe that adoption is not the end but the beginning of a lifetime of experiences and relationships heightened by the unique aspects of being adopted. The Adoption Clubhouse is designed with your child's adoption needs in mind. Through the activities and information on this site, your child can experience a sense of belonging to a wider adoption community of peers.

Kids' Adoption Network

The Kids' Adoption Network is a website run by the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) for children to get together to play games, make art projects, and talk about all kinds of things – especially being adopted.

Teens Only Adoption Network

The "Teens Only" is a website run by the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) for teens to get together to talk about being adopted.

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tributes

In honor of Jack and Hayden birthday – Elizabeth
 In honor of Jeanne, Jeff, Teddy & Harry – Karen

In memory of Ben Fowler Micciche

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Anita & Elaine	James &	
Anita, Michael & Sarah	Mary Jay	
Anne	Jerry & Evelyn	
Bergeron, Paradis & Fitzpatrick	Karl & Jean	
Brian & Margaret	Kenneth	
Carmen	Leigh	
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	Robert	Travis & Michelle
	Robert & Helen	Willard & Vicki
	Robert & Ruth	William & Elizabeth
	Robin & Andrew	
	Rosaire	



Pre-adoptive Groups

The NEW LGBT pre-adoption group will meet once a month in the Pennington, NJ office. Our pre-adoptive groups focus on communicating with birth parents during and after the adoption process and preparing for parenting and issues related to adoptive parenting. This group will also discuss issues specific to LGBT adopting and parenting. We also offer domestic pre-adoption groups for couples and singles that cover similar topics.

February 7 and June 6, 2009
 in the Pennington, NJ office.

For more information please visit
<http://www.iaccenter.com>.

March 28, 2009

36th Annual New England Adoption Conference
 Bellingham, MA
 508-366-6812
<http://www.adoptioncommunityofne.org/>

April 3, 2009

FIA's Semi-Annual Attorney, Agency & Social Worker Partnership Meeting
 Middletown Springs, VT
 Email: dawn@friendsinadoption.org

April 29-May 1, 2009

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Begin with a Get Acquainted Workshop Is FIA right for you?

Dear FIA Staff,

Thank you, again, for organizing such a terrific GAW. We were extremely impressed with all of you and are grateful for the information you provided as well as the issues you raised for discussion and consideration. We're really glad we attended the workshop and expect to be in touch with you soon with a few questions and to hopefully schedule a consultation.

Warmest regards,
Alan & Laura

Before you make a decision about whether FIA is right for you, we feel it's important for you to understand who we are, how we work, what we expect from clients and how we view the adoption process. There's so much to tell, and we think there's no better atmosphere in which to accomplish this than here in Vermont.

So we ask you to start your journey at an FIA Get Acquainted Workshop. The workshop will give you a chance to meet our staff, ask questions and relax in a casual, rural setting while exploring the adoption options offered by FIA.

Attendance at a Get Acquainted Workshop is mandatory for all clients. **It is a wonderful educational opportunity which does not obligate you to work with Friends in Adoption.** The cost of the workshop is \$295 per couple. This fee covers all meetings and lunch. Workshops fill up quickly and are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Complete this *Registration Form*; you can mail it to FIA **or** register online at www.friendsinadoption.org. Pick your date carefully: **FIA has a no refund policy.** Your payment can only be applied to the workshop you register for.

Questions? Email Kim at kim@friendsinadoption.org.

Dear Friends in Adoption,

Today is a very exciting day for both Jeff and myself as we just officially signed on with FIA.

We cannot thank your staff enough for the GAW in Vermont. The information you shared and the knowledge of your staff was just incredible! You all truly made finalizing our decision a very easy process.

There is a lot to be said about an organization that can truly convey their passion about what they do, and that came through to us.

Thanks for a great weekend!
Jenn & Jeff

Get Acquainted Workshop Registration Form

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone 1 _____

Work Phone 2 _____

Email _____

May we call you at work (we identify ourselves as FIA)? Yes No

How long have you been in the adoption search process? _____

Special circumstances you would like us to know about: _____

How did you learn about FIA? _____

If there is a cancellation for the workshop of your choice, would you be available on 24 hours notice? Yes No

Are there any children currently residing in your home? Yes No

Due to the nature of the workshop, we cannot accommodate children.

Please indicate your 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice for a workshop to attend. The following dates are set for FIA's 2009 Get Acquainted Workshops.

_____ March 19-20, 2009 in Clifton Park, NY

_____ May 14-15, 2009

_____ Aug 20-21, 2009

_____ Oct 15-16, 2009

_____ Dec. 3-5, 2009

METHOD OF PAYMENT

\$295 fee per couple includes all meetings and lunch.

Personal check payable to *Friends in Adoption*

VISA MasterCard

CC# _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Please return this form as soon as possible to reserve your space. Reservations may be made via email or fax with a credit card. A letter confirming space in the first available workshop will be sent to you upon receipt of this completed form. Fax to Kim at 1-802-468-3114.

DATES AND RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Mail this form to: Friends in Adoption

P.O. Box 1226

Castleton, Vermont 05735

Phone 802.468.3100 / Fax 802.468.3114

www.friendsinadoption.org