



WINTER Newsletter 2013

It is National Adoption Month. Last year when I wrote an article in November, I reflected on the establishment and meaning of National Adoption Month. This year I will reflect one of the major changes I have seen in the past 27 years.

Adoption has moved from closed to increasing openness. When I began working at AWL in October of 1986, unless an adoptive family met the birth mother of their child, they only referred to each other as “birth mother” and “your child’s adoptive parents.” This is how people were instructed to refer to themselves in letters to each other. Today, we have birth parents and adoptive families exchanging phone numbers, email addresses and last names. Some families are meeting each other yearly or twice yearly. They are texting each other pictures and sharing important events in their child’s life.

Today I will make flight arrangements for an expectant mom to come to the Boston area to meet the prospective adoptive parents. It is important for her to see the home in which her child will be raised. Why not? She will be entrusting her child’s life to strangers whom she selected from a photo album and letters. She trusts AWL to vet the adoptive parents to raise her child. I am in awe of the courage and the trust the expectant/birth parents put in AWL and the adoptive parents they select. I am surprised that more women do not ask more frequently meet people in their homes. What I say to prospective adoptive parents, if you do not take this emotional risk, you end up with nothing.

This week we had three placements. In each of these the expectant/birth parents and adoptive families have met one another several times and in all cases met members of extended families. What a gift for these children, they will be raised with the awareness of the loving and thoughtful decision their birth parents made in making an adoption plan. The development of these relationships helps give birth/expectant parents peace in making the most difficult decision of their lives. The result of this openness, in the majority of situations has been very positive. Parents have a vast amount of information to share with their child when they have questions about adoption. The relationships between birth and adoptive families are complicated and will change over time. We at AWL are here to aid you in navigating this journey.

With warm regards,



Please go to your computer NOW and email us your name and any updated address/phone. We would like to get your email address into our data base for future communication.

Go to: info@awlonline.org

A letter from Nancy



Inside this issue:

- From Amy 1
- From Nancy 2
- More info 3

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It is that time of year that we all look back before we head off into a new year. Do you remember what it felt like to get “**the call**” that changed your life? Do you talk about it with your son or daughter? Maybe you are one of the 1990’s AWL families that “housed” an expectant mom. Some of those experiences long ago remain part of your adoption journey. Maybe you travelled to a part of the United States that you might never have gone to, but that is where you went to meet your precious child. Or maybe your adoption happened right in Massachusetts. Whether your adoption happened 27 years ago or this past year, the feeling when you get that call stays with you.

We do many things on a day to day basis here at Adoptions With Love. In a typical day, we will hear from birthparents calling for their pictures and hoping that they don’t have to wait too long to read about the child and see your beautiful pictures. They are able to update us with vital information that perhaps your child will need. We receive beautiful letters and pictures from you to send on to the birthparent and we receive letters and pictures FROM birthparents to send on to you. In the past year our “search and reunion” program has really taken off. It is a process that takes time; sometimes it has a lovely outcome and other times it has challenges. We are here to help you through no matter what.

We spend time talking with you on the phone or looking up birthparents and helping them with this search and reunion process. This takes a good deal of our time, but we are very happy to do it. That is the beauty of having your adoption agency still being available to you doing the work of adoption. We hope to be here long into the future. Maybe you are one of the families that have asked for our assistance in these matters. Or perhaps you think about having us help you in the future. If that is the case, please use the envelope provided and send in a donation or use the **DONATE NOW** button on our website. We need you to do your part.

Recently we received a donation from a family from over 24 years ago whose child graduated law school! They wanted us to know this lovely news and said we were still special to them after all these years. It was so nice to hear from them. Today as I am writing this article, a family stopped by after receiving a call an hour before, to pick up pictures and a letter from their child’s birthparent.

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They told us that Adoptions With Love was very special to them because we have been an important part of their family. How nice to hear. We also received a gorgeous 50 page photo book from another family for their daughter’s birthmother. We don’t mind being the “middle women” but it takes time to prepare these things, go to the post office, mail them out, etc. We need to spend time talking with families and birthparents who have completed the adoption as well as the potential expectant/birthparents or prospective adopting parents involved in the process currently. In order for these things to happen, we need you to do your part. Our agency needs to fundraise for subsidizing adoptions and the many *other* things we do.

PAY IT FORWARD... and involve your children in the process too. They also understand fundraising and many of them have the opportunity to fundraise for a cause, why not for Adoptions With Love? We are a 501(c)(3) organization. We have had teens that want to do a fundraising project choose us and we are VERY grateful. It is a very good time of year to think about charity and organizations that you wish to support and we hope you will think about Adoptions With Love.

Yours truly,

Nancy





The latest from Claudia

With much joy, I can honestly say working as the Office Manager at Adoptions With Love the past 18 months have been tremendously rewarding. I never realized all the questions and steps that occur in the background to make a new family through adoption.

The expectant/birth parents have inquiries, such as “how does this work?” to “when can I see profiles?” to “what if I want to change my mind”. Supporting the expectant/birth parents is especially important since, unlike many adopting parents, they are often alone. We frequently become an important part of their support system.

Throughout this huge and at times very emotional life event for expectant/birth parents and adopting parents, we provide calm and wise advice, guidance and counseling based on Adoptions With Love experience of over 27 years. When I hear Nancy and Amy help solve a crisis, a situation that can materially affect the adoption outcome, I am so proud of them and their thoughtful and caring approach to helping build a new family.

I'm proud to be a part of a team and organization that is truly making a difference in in people's lives. I wish everyone a happy, healthy holiday season.

Claudia Goldman



Our most recent Halloween babies!!

Please LIKE us on Facebook !!



REMEMBER OUR ADDRESS:
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Please always put your name on correspondence.



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