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NJ•ARCH Features:

- Chat Rooms
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- Speakers Bureau
- Training Workshops
- Upcoming Events



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

www.cafsnj.org



National Adoption Awareness Month: *You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent.* November is National Adoption Awareness Month, a month set aside each year to raise awareness about the adoption of children and youth from foster care. This year's National Adoption Month initiative targets adoption professionals by focusing on ways to recruit and retain parents for the 115,000 children and youth in foster care waiting for adoptive families.

Post-placement support and post-adoption services are crucial not only the families adoption professionals are working with today, but in helping to attract families for waiting children. To find resources to assist in supporting and retaining families, including local adoption support groups, workshops and events, and post-adoption counseling services, contact

the NJARCH warmline at 877-4ARCHNJ (877-427-2465) or via the web at www.njarch.org

In honor of National Adoption Awareness Month, the Administration for Children and Families has provided links on their resources and tool kits for adoption professionals on their website www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/index.cfm.

Every November, a presidential Proclamation Launches activities and celebrations to help build awareness of adoption throughout the nation. Thousands of community organizations arrange and host programs, events, and activities to share positive adoption stories, challenge the myths, and draw attention to the thousand of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent families.

For many individuals and families touched by adoption,

this is a time to reflect, celebrate and support adoption.

Adoption.com has designed a National Adoption Awareness calendar with 30 days of ideas and activities for the whole family. Some suggestions are:

- Read an adoption-specific book With your family, brainstorm and create a new family tradition.
- Mentor foster children close to "aging-out" of the system.
- Attend a local adoption support group.
- Learn or teach about positive adoption language.

For the complete calendar of ideas, visit www.adoption.com/national-adoption-awareness-month-2010.

SOME OF NJ'S ANGELS:

ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARDS: FIVE NEW JERSEY "ANGELS" RECOGNIZED



Shea and George Campbell



Ellen Kelly

Common DNA isn't needed to create successful families. That was the clear message of the inspirational 2010 National Angels in Adoption Gala in Washington, D.C. on October 4-6, 2010.

This ceremony marked the 12th year that members of Congress have nominated constituents to receive an Angels in Adoption award for their work in the adoption and foster care community. Since the program's inception in 1999, over 1,600 Angels have received this honor.

The event was sponsored by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about orphans and foster children. Speakers and Angels this year included Emmy and Tony Award winner, and adoptee Kristin Chenoweth; Extreme Make-over: Home Edition who was a 2010 National Angels in Adoption Award winners for helping dozens of families provide safe and loving homes for children through foster care adoption as well as Rhea Perlman, four-time Emmy Award-winning actress, best known for her work on "Cheers. She advocates for older children in foster care and is a sponsor of the Court Appointed Special Advocates

(CASA) for children in Los Angeles. This year over 130 Angels were recognized within the U.S. Below are our New Jersey Angels. *Congratulations to all!*

Shea and George Campbell: **Representative Scott Garrett**

Shea and George Campbell fostered for Children's Aid and Family Services for 30 years and cared for 121 children. They are also adoptive parents. Shea works as an adoption specialist for Children's Aid and Family Services and offers her expertise by speaking with her daughter to pre-adoptive parents. Her focus is on helping drug-exposed special needs children to make the transition to a new home smooth for the child and for the family. Additionally, for over 10 years she has sat on the child placement review board reviewing cases of children in and out of home placement gathering information for the court. George worked during the couple's active fostering years but played an active role in caring for these children and making their home life complete. The Campbell's are a selfless example to others in the adoption and foster care community and are truly worthy of being recognized as "Angels in Adoption."

Ellen Kelly **Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen**

Ms. Kelly's career began doing general casework at the Newark Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) office, where she helped open the Metropolitan Region Foster Home and Adoption Centers in 1974 as the first regional adoption services for two populous counties. She approved adoptive families, a very different process at the time, as adoption moved from focusing on finding babies for infertile couples to finding homes for children in foster care. This required a new attitude towards families as well as a new recruitment technique, a shift from waiting to see who came through the door to actually engaging families, especially families of color. There was a new understanding that children with special needs, sibling groups and older kids could find permanency through adoption. Ms. Kelly participated with dedication, talent and innovation, accepting the challenge to help create this new adoption. She initiated partnerships with community agencies, adoptive parents, adult adoptees, and advocacy groups for new ideas and approaches, believing that cooperation can create a better system for kids. She was instrumental in establishing

ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARDS:

state-wide Post Adoption Counseling Services (PACS) and led in the development of an adoption certificate program with Rutgers University School of Social Work assuring the ongoing education of adoption professionals. Ms. Kelly is the reason why NJ's adoption system survived the dismantling of the Adoption Resource Center (ARC) offices following the lawsuit and consent decree requiring their closing. Ms. Kelly developed and implemented a new system on the local level, ensuring that children did not fall through the cracks. Her willingness to step up in the worst of times is a testament to her passion and belief in the importance of the work that we all do.

Joann Machugh

Senator Robert Menendez

Ms. Machugh has fostered and adopted children for many years. A therapist first began working with her when an 8-year old special needs child was placed in her home. Ms. Machugh was patient and nurturing through many difficult behaviors. The child's birth mother regained custody and Ms. Machugh had to say goodbye to her. The child had made many great strides in helping the child progress socially and academically. Ms. Machugh has three birth children and four adopted children. The

youngest, age five is diagnosed with MS and cannot yet walk on her own and needs assistance in all daily living skills. She wheeled and carried her throughout Disney World in order for her to have that dream vacation. Last March, two days before the adoption of a 12-year-old girl, her husband died suddenly. Her family rallied around her and the adoption was finalized the following week. The child has many past grief and loss issues and following the finalization, became very difficult to handle, often going into a rage in the home. Ms. Machugh was able to remain firm and nurturing to weather this time with her newest child.

Reformed Church of Highland Park

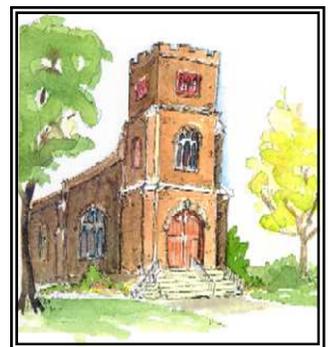
Representative Frank Pallone

In July 2005, Pastor Seth Kaper-Dale of the Reformed Church of Highland Park read a newspaper article about the dilemma of 18-year-old foster youth when they are released from the care and supervision of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) and literally, made homeless while many of them are still in high school. Reverend Kaper-Dale and his wife Stephanie Kaper-Dale, co-pastor, realized that a second story could be added to the church's flat roofed administrative wing. This could provide housing for young woman aging out of foster care. By May 2006, the congregation

had given its blessing to the church's governing body. Church members agreed to serve on the board of a non-profit called Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation (RCHP-AHC). Construction of this low cost housing began in the fall 2007. The construction was named *Irayna Court*; Irayna, a woman's name, comes from the Greek word for Peace. Pastor Seth explained his wishes to the congregation: "May women find peace and permanence while they travel through the ages of 18-21, ages that can be particularly challenging for many of us, regardless of how strong may be our familial support." The first six young women moved into Irayna Court in the spring of 2008. Each young woman has her own private room and bath with a shared kitchen and trained counselors on site 24 hours a day to help young women continue their education, gain employment, and prepare for future independence. Irayna Court is a model for churches helping youth aging out of foster care to build strong futures.

Congratulations to all the Angels!

SOME OF NJ'S ANGELS:



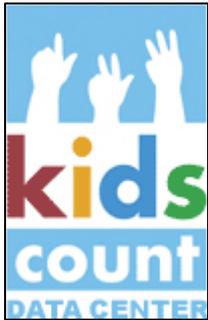
Reformed Church of
Highland Park



Congressional Coalition on
Adoption Institute

DO YOU KNOW?

Meet Lauren
Michaels, Esq.
from the
Education Law
Center



ACNJ PUBLISHED THE
RESULTS FROM THE
"NEW JERSEY KIDS COUNT",
A STATEWIDE REPORT ON
CHILD WELL-BEING.

TO DOWNLOAD LOG ONTO:
[WWW.ACNJ.ORG/MAIN.ASP?
URI=1003&DI=1689](http://WWW.ACNJ.ORG/MAIN.ASP?URI=1003&DI=1689)



FOSTER CARE INITIATIVE



Education Law Center
Standing Up for Public School Children

Studies show that children in foster care are twice as likely to drop out of school, and more than one-third repeat at least one grade. Children in care are more likely to have special learning, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral needs because of trauma and family instability, in addition to difficulties resulting from multiple educational placements.

Education Law Center's (ELC) Foster Care Initiative is dedicated to addressing the special education needs of children in foster care, and ensuring that they receive the free and appropriate, and thorough and efficient, pub-

lic education to which they are entitled under federal and state laws. ELC provides free special education legal advice, representation, and referrals for children in New Jersey's foster care system. The project also provides advocacy training to parents, resource parents, caregivers, service providers and advocacy organizations, and works to identify and promote systemic reforms. In addition, Lauren S. Michaels, Esq.,

who spearheads the Initiative, also provides technical assistance to law guardians, caseworkers, and other service providers. Because ELC is a small organization with limited resources, it can only accept a limited number of cases for

representation. Those cases which it cannot accept for representation, however, will be referred, when appropriate, to other organizations to which ELC will provide backup assistance, or to *pro bono* attorneys whom ELC has trained and to whom ELC provides mentoring. At a minimum, ELC provides legal advice and resources to all who contact ELC.

Ms. Michaels's legal fellowship is sponsored by Equal Justice Works and Greenberg Traurig LLP. For assistance or questions about the Foster Care Initiative, please contact ELC at (973) 624-1815, ext. 15.

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY RENAMED ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY (ACNJ)

ACNJ, was formally called the Association for Children of New Jersey, and has been a trusted advocate for children for 30 years. The work that they do results in better laws and policies, more effective funding and stronger services for children and families, which means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated. To find out about ACNJ, please visit their web-

site at www.acnj.org.

Check out their "Get Informed," "Take Action" and/or "Find Data" websites on pressing issues facing NJ families and children.

ACNJ also publishes a monthly e-news that provides information on their activities and other news about New Jersey's children. Also available are periodic Advocate

Alerts on specific and emerging issues that affect New Jersey's children.

To view the ACNJ newsletters and updates, please log onto their "Get Informed" website at: www.acnj.org/main.asp?uri=1003&di=1713 or call our warmline and we can print and send it to you.

NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

Hello Readers. Welcome to Natalie's Library Corner.

Because November is National Adoption Awareness Month, I thought it would be appropriate to review some children's books that hone in on just that – adoption awareness.

"All About Adoption: How Families Are Made and How Kids Feel About It" explores the what, how, and why of adoption, as well as the many feelings kids can experience as they grow up. Some questions that are often asked by children are: "How did you find me?" "What does adoption mean?" "Where did I come from?" "Would you send me back?" "What are all those papers?" "Will you always love me?" "Do I fit in?" "Why was I adopted?"

For parents, there are in afterward which discusses the emotional and practical aspects of adoptive families. Suggestions are made as to how to answer challenging questions.

The authors, Marc Nemiroff and Jane Annunziata, are both clinical psychologists who specialize in families and children. The illustrator, Carol Koeller, has expressive characters who appear in several educational books, as well as in children's magazines and on greeting cards. The book was written for

children ages four to eight years old.

"We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families"

"We belong together because you needed a home and I had one to share. Now we are a family."

"In a sensitive, kid-friendly way, Todd Parr has captured what it means for a family to belong together."

"There are lots of different ways to make a family. It just takes love. Share your home, and share your heart."

This heartwarming book was written and illustrated by Todd Parr, who has created more than twenty-nine books for children as well as the Emmy-nominated television show **"Todd World."** It is meant to be read with someone you love. "Every family is different, so feel free to change the pronouns in this text to fit your family." The story is geared for children ages three to six years old.

"My New Family: A First Look at Adoption"

"Children are sometimes upset to discover that they have been adopted. This book helps them understand how lucky they are to have loving adoptive parents --- and how lucky their adoptive parents are to have them."

This wonderful book was authored by Pat Thomas, a psychotherapist and a counselor and beautifully illustrated by Lesley Harker. It is a book for very young children.

"Happy Adoption Day!"

Parents celebrate the day on which they adopted their child and continue to reassure the new addition to their family that he/she is wanted, loved, and very special. This beautiful book by John McCutcheon and Julie Paschkis lovingly addresses the issue faced by families formed by adoption.

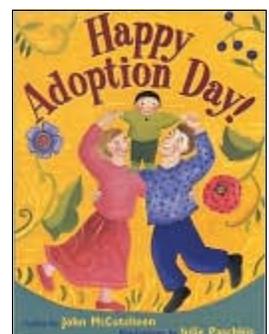
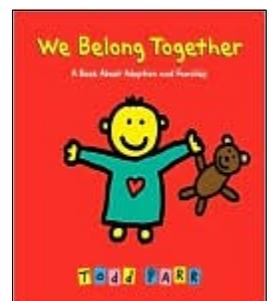
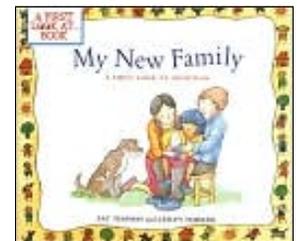
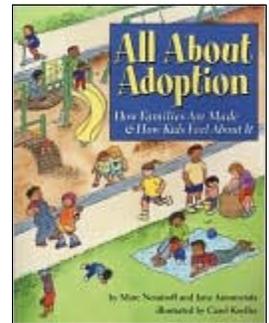
John McCutcheon is an accomplished singer, songwriter, musician and Julie Paschkis is a talented illustrator.

Readers, I hope you and your children enjoy reading together and make these or other adoption books for young children a part of your family library. They can also be borrowed from the NJARCH Lending Library by calling 1-877-4-Archnj or logging into our website at www.njarch.org.

Happy Reading!

DID YOU KNOW?

The NJ ARCH Lending Library has over 1200 books to borrow for free



DID YOU KNOW?

—
**THAT THE
 CHILD WELFARE
 INFORMATION
 GATEWAY
 WEBSITE IS FULL OF
 INFORMATION,
 ARTICLES AND
 STATISTICS ABOUT
 ADOPTION?
 FIND OUT MORE BY
 LOGGING ONTO:
[WWW.CHILDWELFARE.
 GOV/](http://WWW.CHILDWELFARE.GOV/)**



**History of National
 Adoption Day**

National Adoption Month roots can be traced back more than 30 years. In 1976, the governor of Massachusetts first proclaimed Adoption Week and, later that year, President Gerald Ford made it official nationally. The number of States proclaiming the observance of Adoption Week in November grew, and in 1990, National Adoption Week became National Adoption Awareness Month.

**DYFS FEATURED CHILD: BOBBY
 BORN MARCH 1994**



Bobby is a friendly teen with a good sense of humor. He is described as a nice, pleasant

young man who usually keeps to himself. Though he can be an introvert at times, he works well with others and enjoys socializing with friends. Bobby is skilled at using computers and playing basketball and football. He also enjoys watching television, singing and dancing. Bobby likes attending school. He is an active participant in class and generally completes assigned tasks. Bobby plans to

attend college to pursue a career in law enforcement. When asked what he wants in a family, Bobby stated that he wants a loving family with one or two siblings. He expressed that he would like a family who is of Latin descent. It is also very important to Bobby to be able to maintain contact with his relatives. For more information about Bobby, please contact 800—99 ADOPT.

**“A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS”
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND: 8 PM CBS**

Stay Tuned for the next “*A Home for the Holidays.*” sponsored by Wendy’s International and The Dave Thomas Foundation (DTF) for Adoption.

This special 12th anniversary broadcast will be aired on Wednesday, December 22nd at 8pm on CBS. Following the success of the past 11 annual shows, this year’s special continues to tell touching stories about foster care adoption to raise awareness of this important issue.

This broadcast is presented in association with the DTF for Adoption and Children’s Action Network. The goal of the Dave Thomas Foundation is to

increase the awareness of the 115,000 children in the United States foster care system that are currently free for adoption.

Many inspirational stories of adoptive families will be featured as well as children waiting for adoption.



NJ ARCH will again be the New Jersey statewide coordinator for this event, which means anyone who contacts the DTF will receive a follow-up call and information from NJ ARCH. For more information about this broadcast, and/or to receive

The Dave Thomas Foundation “How To” booklet, or NJ ARCH’s *How to Adopt in New Jersey* handbook, call the Warm Line at 877-4ARCHNJ (877-427-2465) or send an e-mail to the Warmline at Warmline@njarch.org.

For more information about this broadcast visit: www.davethomasfoundation.org/Our-Programs/A-Home-for-the-Holidays

For adoption resources in Spanish, please log onto: www.davethomasfoundation.org/Free-Adoption-Resources/Adoption-Guides/Una-guia-para-la-adopcion.



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

On National Adoption Day, Saturday, November 20, courts and communities across the nation will come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care and to celebrate all families who adopt. The day brings together hundreds of judges, attorneys, adoption agencies, adoption professionals and child advocates who are dedicated to creating forever families for waiting children.

Goals of National Adoption Day 2010 include:

- Finalizing adoptions from foster care nationwide.
- Celebrating and honoring all families who adopt.
- Raising awareness about the children in foster care currently waiting to be adopted.
- Encouraging others to adopt children from foster care.
- Building collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts, and advocacy organizations.
- Communicating availability and need for post-adoptive services.

Every year, more than 115,000 children in foster care are

available for adoption. Many spend more than five years waiting for permanent, loving homes. Between 2000 and 2009, more than 30,000 children were joined together with their forever families as part of National Adoption Day activities. Opportunities to celebrate and honor adoption will be taking place throughout New Jersey and across the nation. To locate an Adoption Day activity in your area,



check out the official National Adoption Day website at www.nationaladoptionday.org or visit the events page on the NJARCH website, www.njarch.org.

Facts & Figures

- The average foster child waits for an adoptive family for more than two years.
- The average age of foster children waiting for an adoptive family is eight (8).
- Children in foster care are adopted by three types of

families: former foster parents (59%), relatives (26%) and non-relatives (15%).

Debunking the Myths:

MYTH: All children in foster care have some kind of physical, mental or emotional handicap; that's why they are classified as "special needs."

FACT: The term "special needs" is somewhat misleading, because it can mean that the child is older, a minority, or requires placement with his/her siblings. While some children are dealing with physical or emotional concerns, they need the nurturing support best provided by a permanent family. Many children in foster care are in "the system" because their birth parents were not able to protect or care for them – not because the children did anything wrong or because there is something wrong with them.

Congratulations to all finalizing their "forever" families in November!

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT MANY NEW JERSEY COURTS WILL BE CELEBRATING NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY INCLUDING NEWARK, CAMDEN, FREEHOLD AND HACKENSACK

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS, LOG ONTO:

WWW.NATIONALADOPTIONDAY.ORG/EVENTS/NEW-JERSEY

OR

CALL OUR WARM LINE FOR A LIST OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE FAMILIES!



NEW JERSEY ADOPTION RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

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www.cafsnj.org



*The one-stop
resource
for those
touched
by adoption.*

DISCLAIMER

While New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH) or Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc. makes every effort to present accurate and reliable information, neither NJ ARCH or Children's Aid and Family Services guarantee the completeness, efficacy or timeliness of such information. In addition, reference herein to any specific product, process, service, organization, or viewpoint does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by NJ ARCH or Children's Aid and Family Services.

CELEBRATIONS AND MORE

Are you hosting a foster child during the holidays? Is this the first holiday spent with your new fostered or adopted child?

[About.com](http://www.about.com) offers some very good articles about hosting a new child during the holiday months. To read "Foster Children and Your Extended Family During the Holidays; 7 Ways to Prepare Yourself, Your Family and your Foster Child" log onto: <http://adoption.about.com/od/fostering/a/fosterholiday.htm>. You are also welcome to contact our

warmline and we would be happy to send you this or any other article.

Looking for an adoption-related book for the holidays? Check out the NJ ARCH free lending library for ideas.



Are you a Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) member? Please be sure to check your schedules for the

holiday parties in your county. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays with other families touched by adoption and / or foster care.

Looking to post your foster or adoption event? Log onto www.njarch.org and select "Events" to add in your event. *Happy Holidays!*

