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### NJ•ARCH Features:

- Website
- Lending Library
- Warm Line
- Resource Directory
- Support Group Advocacy



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

[www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org)

## ADOPTEE'S BIRTHRIGHT ACT UPDATE



In early January, the NJ Dept. of Health (DOH) and NJ Office of Vital Statistics began the final stage of implementing the **Adoptees' Birthright Act, Public Law 2014, c. 9** by releasing a copy of the original birth certificate (OBC) to requesting adoptees born and adopted in New Jersey. While the law states that persons born outside NJ and adopted here have the same right of access to a copy of their OBC, some adoptees who were born out of state have been notified that their OBC is not filed with NJ Vital Statistics. This is currently being explored.

**Birth parents** of NJ adoptees may indicate their preference regarding contact with their daughter or son by filing a **document of contact preference**; whether direct contact, contact through an intermediary whom the parent may name, or no contact at this time. The document may be filed with the N.J. Office of Vital Statistics at **any time**. A birth parent who has filed this document may change her/his mind at any time in the

future by filing a new form reflecting that change, and the adopted person will be notified. A birth parent who requested redaction (deletion) of personal information from the copy of the OBC sent to a requesting adoptee by December 2016, may rescind the request for redaction and authorize the Registrar to release an unabridged copy of the OBC to the adoptee. Birth parents filing their preference regarding contact must simultaneously submit a completed family history document (medical, cultural and social history) to the Office of Vital Statistics. Birth parents indicating a preference for no contact are requested to update the family history information every 10 years until the birth parent reaches age 40 and every five years thereafter. It is important for birth parents to be aware that the court gave many adoptive parents copies of the Order of Adoption ("decree") when the adoption was finalized. These documents contained the names of the child and the birth parent(s), which were sometimes obscured before being

given to the adopting parent/s. Therefore, identifying information may be available to the adoptee through his or her adoptive parents or by other means.

**Adopted persons** may submit a request for an uncertified copy of their original birth certificate and may expect a turnaround of 4-6 weeks. As of April over 3,000 requests have been received and processed. To review and download these forms and directions, please visit the NJ Department of Health and Vital Statistics, "New Records System for Birth Parents, Adopted Adults" page at <http://www.nj.gov/health/vital/adoption>. To request these forms by mail, call 609-292-4087 Ext. 8. For more information, visit NJ Coalition for Adoption Reform and Education (NJ CARE) at [nj-care.org](http://nj-care.org) or via their Facebook page. The NJ ARCH website also features an extensive resource section including lists of adoption agencies, support groups, counseling professionals and recommended books from the NJ ARCH free lending library.

By Pam Hasegawa and Judy Foster,  
NJ CARE

## Do You Know?



**NJ ARCH HAS A LIST OF HERITAGE / SPECIALTY CAMPS FOR ADOPTEEES. VISIT THE [WWW.NJARCH.ORG](http://WWW.NJARCH.ORG) OR CALL US ON THE WARM LINE FOR INFORMATION.**

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**THE 2016 ADOPTION TAX CREDIT IS UP TO \$13,460 PER CHILD.**

**FOR DETAILS VISIT**

[WWW.NACAC.ORG/](http://WWW.NACAC.ORG/TAXCREDIT/)

[TAXCREDIT/](http://WWW.NACAC.ORG/TAXCREDIT/)

[TAXCREDIT.HTML](http://WWW.NACAC.ORG/TAXCREDIT/)

**AND /OR**

[WWW.IRS.GOV/](http://WWW.IRS.GOV/TAXTOPICS/TC607.HTML)

[TAXTOPICS/TC607.HTML](http://WWW.IRS.GOV/TAXTOPICS/TC607.HTML)



## HERE COMES SUMMER

This is the time of year to finalize your child's summer camp plans. If you are considering summer camp for the first time or just think it's time for your child to have a new experience, consider checking out the summer camp listing on the NJ ARCH website. The new NJ ARCH website has a separate category for camps, which emphasizes camps on adopted and/or special needs children. To view our camp listing, log onto [www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org). Select "Resources" on the top left or in the middle bar of the HOME page. Select "Advanced

Search" and identify your NJ County and "Camps" or any other resource you are looking for. Don't see a camp that is a match for your child? Check out My Summer Camps at:

[www.mysummercamps.com](http://www.mysummercamps.com)

Type in your zip code and the distance you are willing to travel from your home; a list of camps should appear. Another website which lists many NJ camps is from the NJ Kids Guide at:

[www.kidsguidenj.com/camps/camps.html#top](http://www.kidsguidenj.com/camps/camps.html#top).

Still can't find a camp that fits your needs? Consider

contacting the American Camping Association of NY and NJ at 212-391-5208, or log onto their website at [www.aca-nynj.org](http://www.aca-nynj.org). We also recommend checking out your local YMCA. Many have good summer camps and some may have discounts/camp scholarships. In addition, the website of 2-1-1 has a list of NJ camps. You can find the list sorted by NJ county at: [www.nj211.org/summer-camp](http://www.nj211.org/summer-camp)

*Happy Camping!*

## DCP&P WAITING CHILDREN



**Winsum Born 10/2009  
and Malachi born 6/2011**

Meet Winsum and Malachi, a lovable duo, who are looking for a home that will provide love, care and patience. Winsum, a friendly and

talkative young boy, will capture your heart with his playful personality. He loves to sing and encourages group participation! A current favorite song is Wheels on the Bus, be prepared to hear it over and over again. He also enjoys quiet activities such as Legos and puzzles. He is quite creative and will spend time building a new masterpiece daily. He enjoys playing outside, especially with his brother Malachi, running and climbing monkey bars.

The charismatic youngster of this sibling pairing, Malachi, is helpful as well as friendly. He loves to color, dance and make new friends. An outdoor boy, he

is happiest when exploring, riding his tricycle and playing soccer. He loves to take care of pets, feeding, playing and cuddling with them.

This sibling duo must be adopted together, as they are extremely bonded to one another. Additionally, they have a sister with whom they need to maintain contact post-adoption. The perfect forever family for Winsum & Malachi will consistently offer them structure, guidance and lots of love.

For more information about Winsum and Malachi, please call 1-800-99-ADOPT.



Is your son or daughter applying to colleges? If so, financing their education is definitely on your mind. Make sure you are completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> as soon as possible! A helpful website is <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/> that provides information on all financial aid options, such as grants and scholarships. For New Jersey

residents, the following site describes New Jersey-specific aid that is available [www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJGrantsHome.aspx](http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJGrantsHome.aspx).

If your son or daughter was adopted through foster care in New Jersey, make sure to check out Foster and Adoptive Family Services website [www.fafsonline.org/scholarship/](http://www.fafsonline.org/scholarship/), for information on their NJ Foster Care

Scholars Program, as well as Private Scholarship and Grant program. Foster and Adoptive Family Services also offers free webinars to help young people plan for life after college. To inquire more information on scholarships and grants for your child, please contact FAFS' Scholarship Department at 800-222-0047. For more information visit the website at [www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org).

## KINSHIP CARE

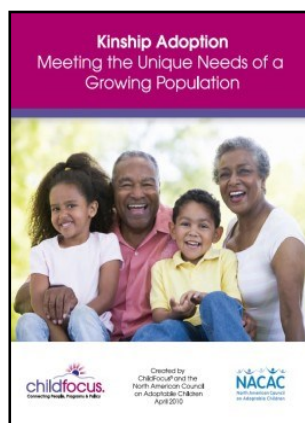
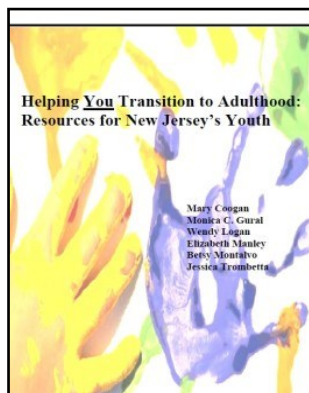
Did you adopt your relative's child(ren), are you touched by kinship care or are you a Kinship Legal Guardian (KLG)? Then check out our sister site, Kinship Care Clearing House, [www.kinkonnnect.org](http://www.kinkonnnect.org). This website has many of the same services offered in NJ ARCH, including a website, warm line, list of Kinship-related services, free lending library and more.

Is your 18 or 21 year old about to become independent? Check out a great handbook we have on the both our sites entitled: *Helping You Transition to Adulthood: Resources for NJ's Youth.*"

This handbook offers worksheets on goal setting, tips on how to apply to college or vocational school, resources on how to get a checking account, car insurance and much more.

Another great handbook is the *Kinship Adoption: Meeting the Unique Needs of a Growing Population* created by two national agencies. To download these and other handbooks, go to the KinKonnnect or NJ ARCH website and select "Handbooks and Publications."

If you want us to send you a copy of any of these handbooks, please e-mail [warm-line@njarch.org](mailto:warm-line@njarch.org).



## DO YOU KNOW?

NJ ARCH OFFERS FREE  
TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR  
ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUPS:

ADOPTION: A LIFE-LONG LOSS

TELLING YOUR CHILD  
DIFFICULT HISTORY

TRANS-RACIAL  
ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

BASICS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
IN NEW JERSEY

ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE IN  
THE SCHOOL

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CARE SITUATIONS: WORKSHOP TO HELP  
FOSTER PARENTS DEAL WITH  
DIFFICULT BEHAVIORS

FROM TERMINATION OF  
PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR) TO  
ADOPTION: THE JOURNEY  
TO PERMANENCY

THE ADOPTED CHILD'S  
JOURNEY: QUESTIONS ALONG  
THE WAY  
BASED ON THE 20 THINGS YOUR  
ADOPTED CHILD WISH THEIR  
ADOPTED PARENTS KNEW

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP,  
PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL  
[DWFRIED@NJARCH.ORG](mailto:DWFRIED@NJARCH.ORG)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### TIP:

WHEN OBTAINING/  
RENEWING YOUR OR  
YOUR CHILD'S PASSPORT,  
YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO  
REQUEST A WALLET SIZED  
"PASSPORT CARD"  
TO CARRY AROUND  
FOR CITIZENSHIP  
VERIFICATION PURPOSES.



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APRIL'S CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION MONTH  
THEME IS  
"BUILDING COMMUNITY,  
BUILDING HOPE"



[WWW.CHILDWELFARE.GOV/  
TOPICS/PREVENTING/  
PREVENTIONMONTH/](http://WWW.CHILDWELFARE.GOV/TOPICS/PREVENTING/PREVENTIONMONTH/)

## ARE YOU A PARENT OF A CHILD BORN OVERSEAS?

Parents of children adopted internationally may have some worries about their child's citizenship status. This is as good a time as ever to be sure that your child/adult adoptee's paperwork is in order including:

- Final Adoption Decree
- Birth Certificate
- Current Passport
- Naturalization/ Citizenship papers
- Social Security Card with the updated Citizenship status (if obtained prior to obtaining citizenship).

The Department of State, Intercountry Adoption site has information on acquiring U.S. Citizenship, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, as



well as information regarding adoptees that are not qualified under this Act (for adoptions finalized prior to 2000). Children adopted prior to February 27, 2001, did NOT automatically acquire U.S. citizenship under the Child Citizenship Act. In recent years, many adoptees have found that although they were legally adopted and have been U.S. residents for most of their lives, they do not hold U.S. citizenship. Many discovered this as

young adults when applying for school scholarships, jobs, registering to vote, applying for a U.S. passport, or, unfortunately, when getting into trouble with the law and possibly facing deportation to a country they do not call home. The reasons vary, but the fact remains that many adoptees are considered to be foreign-born, non-citizens and do not even know it.

For more information, please visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/us-visa-for-your-child/acquiring-us-citizenship-for-your-child.html>.

## MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

May is National Foster Care Month. This is a time to recognize that we each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. It's a month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals and others in the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent



homes and connections. During National Foster Care Month, we can renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for more than 400,000 children and youth. To check out all the various foster care

related resources for youth, parents, professionals, agencies, please visit [www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/).

Interested in reading about people's real-life foster care stories? Check out [www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/reallifestories/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/reallifestories/).



## NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

### IN MEMORIAM

It is with heartfelt sadness that we share the loss of our long-time friend, colleague, dedicated warm line worker and librarian Natalie Hamilton. Natalie passed away on December 19, 2016, after suffering from a relatively short illness.

Natalie joined NJ ARCH with much personal experience with adoption. She was an adult adoptee and one of the "Butter Box" babies who was adopted from Canada to the U.S. as a toddler. After her marriage, she became an adoptive parent and later searched for and was reunited with her birth family living in Canada. She was involved with a number of adoption support groups in the area, and in the last several years became a grandmother of two, one of whom was adopted. In addition, Natalie was nominated and awarded the "Angels in Adoption Award" by Senator Robert Menendez in 2008 through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in Washington, DC.

As her colleague and friend the last 13 years and her direct supervisor eight of those years, I can personally say that she was one of the most compassionate, kind and caring people you would ever meet. She had a way with the written word that so many appreciated in our "Natalie's Library Corner." We both began with Children's Aid



and Family Services / NJ ARCH in July 2003 and she almost single handedly created the NJ ARCH library by choosing, ordering, organizing and categorizing the over 1500 books and videos in our library. As our primary warm line worker, she had a soft, reassuring and compassionate voice that helped make callers feel that they contacted the right place for adoption information. In addition, many of you may remember her as the friendly face behind the NJ ARCH exhibit table at conferences, fairs and trainings.

Recently when reviewing the library, I found a copy of a children's book, entitled "*When Someone Very Special Dies: Children Can Learn to Cope with Grief*." Seeing this book made me realize that even in her passing, she had a message for all of us which was themed in the book; that children and adults alike have the need to express the many feelings when someone special passes away. This particular

activity book offers children the opportunity to express those feelings. Natalie kept this book in a designated area so that our agency clinicians and others who needed it could borrow a copy during a difficult time. I think this book was a good reminder that everyone has their place in this world and a purpose in it. As one of the pages says: "Everyone is good at something. No one is good at everything." For the last 13 years, Natalie was very good at writing book reviews on the books she loved to read and recommend. She was very good at helping potential adoptive parents, adoptive parents, birth parents, adult adoptees and professionals find the resources they needed.

We miss our good friend and in her memory, we will continue to keep our newsletter book review corner as "Natalie's Library Corner." We also plan to dedicate our NJ ARCH Library in her name to keep her spirit alive in the space where she spent so much of her time and loved every minute of it.

So my message to you all is this: Read. Read for pleasure, read to learn, read to your children and grandchildren; encourage them to read to you and perhaps together, we can all take a little bit of "Natalie's Library Corner" with us wherever we go.

- Dana Woods Fried

## DID YOU KNOW?

WE HAVE OVER 1500  
BOOKS AND VIDEOS IN  
OUR FREE NJARCH.  
LENDING LIBRARY.

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PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR  
SELECTIONS AT  
[WWW.NJARCH.ORG](http://WWW.NJARCH.ORG)  
AND SELECT  
"LENDING LIBRARY"  
THEN SELECT YOUR  
TOPIC(S).

YOU CAN ALSO  
CONTACT OUR  
WARMLINE AT  
877-ARCHNJ  
(877-427-2465)

OR E-MAIL US AT  
[WARMLINE@NJARCH.ORG](mailto:WARMLINE@NJARCH.ORG)  
FOR HELP ON FINDING A  
BOOK THAT YOU  
WOULD LIKE  
TO BORROW.



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# NEW JERSEY ADOPTION RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

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SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

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CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

[www.cafsnj.org](http://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. (CAFS) make 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, Inc.

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MORE

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Looking for a conference or event that focuses on adoption or foster care? Check out some of the 2017 events:

- May 9: Law and Disability Issues. A free conference sponsored by the NJ State Bar Foundation and the NJ Institute for Continuing Education. 9:00 am—1:00 pm

[www.chlp.org/2013-01-17-law--disability-conferences](http://www.chlp.org/2013-01-17-law--disability-conferences).

- May 11– 13: Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition; 28th Annual New Year Foster Care and Adoption Conference, "Who Do You Think You Are?" Exploring identity of foster, adoptive and kinship families. Albany, NY.

<http://affcny.org/conference/>



- July 20-22: North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), 43rd Annual Conference, Atlanta GA: [www.nacac.org/conference/conference.html](http://www.nacac.org/conference/conference.html)

- September 8; NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect 15th Biennial Conference.. A conference for professionals and volunteers working toward child maltreatment prevention. Sponsored by Rutgers and the NJ Department of Children and Families. Princeton NJ. [www.cpe.rutgers.edu/NJDCF2017/](http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/NJDCF2017/).

- IAC Center Adoption "Talking Circle" Support Group for A month 7:00—9:00 pm in Pennington NJ. For information:

[smerkelmsw@iaccenter.com](mailto:smerkelmsw@iaccenter.com).

- October 14: Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) Mini Conference for adopted children, ages 7-13. West Orange NJ. [www.cpfanjanj.org](http://www.cpfanjanj.org).

*Have an event you want us to post? Log onto [www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org) under "Events" and select the "List your Event on NJ ARCH" box on the right and submit for a free listing on NJ ARCH!*