

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>May is National Foster Care Month</i>	1
<i>LGBTQ Youth</i>	1
<i>Here Comes Summer</i>	2
<i>DCP&P Waiting Children</i>	2
<i>Kinship Care</i>	3
<i>International Adoption</i>	4
<i>Adoptees Birthright Act Update</i>	4
<i>Natalie's Library Corner</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Conferences</i>	6

NJ•ARCH Features:

- Website
- Lending Library
- Warm Line
- Resource Directory
- Training Workshops
- Events/ Conferences and More



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

www.cafsnj.org



NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH 2018

"It's All Relative: Supporting Kinship Connections"

May is National Foster Care Month, a month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. During National Foster Care Month, we renew our

commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 430,000 children and youth in foster care, in the U.S and celebrate all those who make a meaningful difference in their lives. It's a time to recognize that we each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care.

For more information on National Foster Care month, and how you can help visit: www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/. For more information on how to become a NJ foster parent please contact NJ ARCH at 877-427-2464 or Foster and Adoptive Family Services at 1-800-222-0047.

LGBTQ YOUTH: INTRO TO THE LANGUAGE

Research indicates that LGBTQ youth are "over represented" in foster care. They may enter the foster care system for the same reason as non-LGBTQ youth (abuse, neglect, trauma, parental substance abuse), but face further bias and discrimination.

A first step in helping LGBTQ youth feel safe and accepted is getting to know the language. LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning.

Every youth has a sexual orientation and gender identity. Sexual Orientation is an "enduring emotional, romantic, or sexual feelings for another person"* while Gender Identity is "a person's innate, deeply felt psychological sense of gender, which may or may not correspond to the person's assigned sex at birth."*

A youth who is transgender is one whose gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth.

Transgender is not a sexual orientation. It does not describe who that person is attracted to, instead it describes the person's gender. A transgender youth can be heterosexual, gay, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation.

For more information and links to resources, please check our NJ ARCH new resource section for LGBTQ, and visit [*www.hrc.org/resources/all-children-all-families-caring-for-lgbtq-children-youth](http://www.hrc.org/resources/all-children-all-families-caring-for-lgbtq-children-youth).

Do You Know?



NJ ARCH HAS A LIST OF HERITAGE /SPECIALTY CAMPS FOR ADOPTEEES. VISIT WWW.NJARCH.ORG OR CALL US ON THE WARM LINE FOR INFORMATION.

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 ED 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

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP, PLEASE E-MAIL DWFRIED@NJARCH.ORG

HERE COMES SUMMER

Have you arranged for your child's summer camp yet? Let NJ ARCH help you! Check out our camp resources at www.njarch.org and 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. 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

You may also consider contacting the American Camping Association of NY and NJ at 212-391-5208, or log onto their website at www.aca-nynj.org. We also recommend checking out your local YMCA. Many have good summer camps and some may have discounts/camp scholarships.

Happy Camping!

DCP&P WAITING CHILDREN



Lowegan
Born January 2008

Meet Lowegan. He is described as "funny and energetic." A young man with a winning smile, he is also an aspiring athlete. Currently his favorites are football and basketball. He not only enjoys playing football but watching professional football, cheering on his favorite team the Panthers. Typical of boys his age Lowegan spends time video gaming, too, especially games

that have sports or racing theme. Lowegan's idea of a treat is a stop at Taco Bell! He is hoping for an active family who will support contact with his biological siblings.



Abigail
Born March 2000

Meet Abigail. She is a smart, friendly and easy-to-talk-to teen. She enjoys good conversation and is respectful towards adults and peers. With an eye on the future, Abigail hopes to attend

cosmetology school post-graduation. Experimentation with hairstyles, braiding and makeup are evidence of her incredible talent and creativity. Her creativity also shines through in her painting and art projects. A well rounded young lady who follows sports and plays basketball, she is a huge Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Cavaliers fan. With a positive outlook on life, Abigail is ready to find her forever home. She loves pets, especially cats, so a home with pets would be an extra bonus. Abigail would do best in a home with younger children.

For more information about Lowegan and/or Abigail, please call 1-800-99-ADOPT.



BILL PASSES SENATE TO HELP GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN DUE TO OPIOID CRISIS

In the US today, children are increasingly being raised and many formally adopted by family members—most often, their grandparents. “Grandfamilies” are doing this to make sure that the children stay within their birth family and avoid foster care. More and more infants are being born to mothers who are using opioids while pregnant. These births are taking a toll on a population of caring people who would—if they could—simply love their grandchildren, spoil them, and send them home to be raised and nurtured by their parents. But for a growing number of families, this is no longer an option. Instead, the grandparents have become the primary caretakers.

In terms of kinship care, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family members are stepping forward to raise the children of parents with substance abuse issues. They play the key

child-rearing role in the lives of 2.5 million children—that’s 3% of all U.S. children. When supporting these children, they struggle with their own health concerns and physical limitations, as they dip into retirement funds to ensure that their grandchildren are raised right. Some grandparents may not even know that resources and support are available to them.

To address this need, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging celebrated the U.S. Senate’s passage of the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (S. 1091), which creates a federal task force charged with supporting grandparents raising grandchildren as the opioid epidemic increases their numbers. The U.S. House of Representatives must pass the legislation before it becomes law. The Bill is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 15 senators and supported by a wide array of child

welfare and aging organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and AARP.

The “Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act” would create a federal task force charged with identifying and disseminating information designed to help grandparents raising grandchildren address the challenges they face, which may include navigating the school system, planning for their families’ future, addressing mental health issues for themselves and their grandchildren, and building social and support networks.

For more information on this Act, please visit:

www.collins.senate.gov/newsroom/bill-help-grandparents-raising-grandchildren-due-opioid-crisis-passes-senate.

<https://adoption.com/senate-passes-supporting-grandparents-raising-grandchildren-act>.

TOUCHED BY KINSHIP CARE?

In NJ, over 57,000 or 3% of children live with a relative with no biological parent present and another 164,000 or 8.1% of children under 18 live in homes where the head of the household are grandparents or other relatives. If you

or someone you know is touched by Kinship Care, please check out NJ ARCH’s sister site, Kinship Care Clearing House or KinKonnnect. This website has a wealth of resources for those raising relative’s children including hand-

books, publications, resources to support groups and more. Check out www.kinkonnnect.org or call our warmline at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) to speak to a warmline specialist or for more information.

DO YOU KNOW?

7.8 MILLION

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BEING RAISED BY FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT THEIR BIRTH PARENTS.

2.6 MILLION

THE NUMBER OF GRANDPARENTS WHO REPORT THAT THEY ARE RAISING THEIR GRANDCHILDREN IN THE U.S.

SO PREVALENT, THIS FORM OF KINSHIP CARE HAS ITS OWN NAME, “GRANDFAMILY”; BORN OF NECESSITY AND CREATED BY A TRAGIC CRISIS IN THIS COUNTRY, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID ADDICTION.



PLEASE VISIT OUR SISTER SITE AT

WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG

DID YOU KNOW?

TIP FOR THOSE ADOPTED FROM OVERSEAS:

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.



INTERESTED IN
SEARCH STORIES?
CHECK OUT
THE RECORD
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE
ENTITLED
"QUEST FOR ANSWERS:
NJ ADULT ADOPTEE'S"
SEARCH FOR THEIR
BIRTH FAMILIES"
AT
WWW.NORTHJERSEY.COM

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

New regulations and fees announced by the U.S. State Department in February 2018 could possibly end intercountry adoptions in the United States, according to some adoption advocates.

The changes, which went into effect February 15th, include a new \$500 monitoring and oversight fee per adopted child, as well as an increase in the overall cost of accreditation for adoption agencies. Many agencies, or adoption service providers (ASPs), believe their costs to attain accreditation every four years will double or triple under the new schedule of fees.

The fee schedule was set by the newly established accrediting organization called the Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity (IAAME), and approved by the US Department of State. The Accrediting Entity is tasked with accrediting agencies and approving persons

along with monitoring and oversight of International Adoptions. The State Department has asked IAAME to increase the level of monitoring and oversight citing that it is necessary in order to protect children and families. The previous accrediting entity, the Council on Accreditation (COA), had a significantly smaller budget and staff and used volunteers to accomplish its work. COA withdrew as an Accrediting Entity late last year, citing differences with the State. A growing group of ASPs and adoption advocates have questioned if IAAME qualifies as a legal accrediting agency. A coalition of advocates, called "Save Adoptions" recently filed a complaint with the State Department's inspector general claiming IAAME is unfit to operate under Hague Convention requirements. The investigation is ongoing.*

With the numerous regulations, including the 2008 im-

plementation of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions (the Convention), and the Universal Accreditation Act of 2014 (UAA), International Adoption has become quite challenging. Due to the increased regulation, adopting from some countries has become impossible, while other countries have decided to close their doors to international adoption. Since 2004 the number of overseas children adopted by U.S. citizens dropped 80% from 22,884 in 2004 to an estimated 4,600 in 2017. Yet, from another perspective, at least international adoption is still possible. Without international adoption, there would be about 4,600 children (from 2017) who would not have been placed with their forever family. Although the current situation may seem impossible to navigate, there are still options to adopt children from overseas.

https://world.wng.org/content/the_end_of_international_adoption.

ADOPTEE'S BIRTHRIGHT ACT—UPDATE

On January 1, 2017 the Adoptees Birthright Act, Public Law 2014, c. 9 was implemented by the NJ Office of Vital Statistics where adult adoptees born and/or adopted in New Jersey may request an uncertified copy of their Original Birth Certificate (OBC). As of May 15, 2018, over 4,400 adult adoptees requests have

been completed by the NJ Office of Vital Statistics. After receiving their OBC, many adoptees have contacted NJ ARCH and/or the NJ Coalition for Adoption Reform & Education (NJCARE) for resource information on support groups, search specialists, mental health professionals and more. For more information about the Act, directions and to download the

forms, please visit our website at www.njarch.org and select "NJ Adoptees Birthright Act" or visit www.nj-care.org or go directly to the "New Records System for Birth Parents, Adult Adoptees" at www.nj.gov/health/vital/adoption. Birthparents who wish to share their contact information and/or health and/or family history may also used this last website.

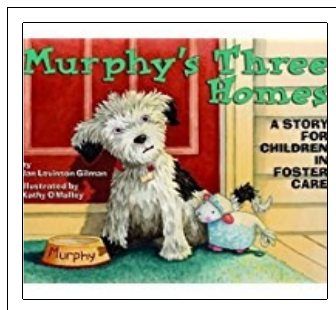
NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

Welcome to our library corner!

Our library is filled with books, videos, and articles for children, teens, parents, and professionals. Did you know you can borrow books for free? We will mail them to you along with an already-stamped return envelope. So many books are waiting for you!

As we honor foster care this month, let's turn our attention to books that touch on that topic.

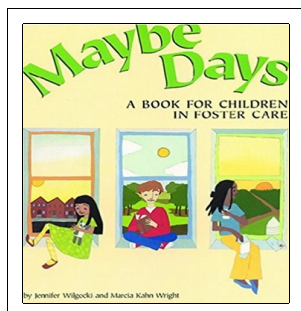
Murphy's Three Homes by Jan Levinson Gilman, chronicles the life of Murphy, a sweet Tibetan Terrier puppy. Removed from his birth mother and placed in two foster homes and a shelter, Murphy shares



his feelings of guilt, grief, loss, shame, anger, loneliness, and distrust. His behaviors are misunderstood and he soon thinks of himself as the "bad luck dog." His third family shows him love even after running away. He begins to feel hope and concludes, "I wished that all dogs who believe they are

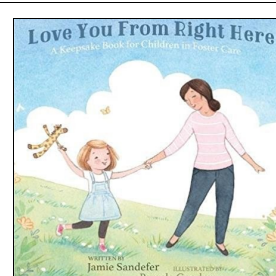
bad luck dogs would discover that it isn't their fault . . . that they too can become good luck dogs."

Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care by Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia Kahn Wright, talks about all the different reasons kids are in foster homes, emphasizing that none of the reasons are the child's fault. The book goes on to discuss the fears and worries children have



while in foster care and the different types of foster families. Foster care can last a long time or sometimes just a short time. Many different grown-ups help a child during their time in foster care, including foster parents, social workers, therapists, lawyers and the judge. This book explains each person's role in a child-friendly manner. The book validates how hard it is to hear so many "maybes" from these adults. Through all the maybes, the child's job is to be a kid and to "not let the waiting and maybes get in the way of the things they like."

Love You From Right Here: A Keepsake Book for Children in Foster Care by Jamie Sandefer, beautifully depicts how a foster mom loves and respects her foster child. She allows her to feel sad, worried,



scared, mad, glad, nervous, brave, and happy. With each emotion, she emphasizes that she will be "right here" for the child and allows them the space or closeness they need at that time. The book ends with her foster daughter leaving and the foster mom saying, "and if you are over there,.... I'll still love you from right here," reminding the child that she is always loved, no matter where she is.



Please feel free to contact us to borrow these or the many other books focusing on children, parents and/or professionals.

-Cynthia A. Lapidus BSW, CSW

DID YOU KNOW?



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

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR SELECTIONS AT 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 FOR HELP ON FINDING A BOOK THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BORROW.



NEW JERSEY ADOPTION RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

76 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE
SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

VISIT US AT WWW.NJARCH.ORG

EDITOR:
DANA WOODS FRIED
201.740.7129

WARMLINE
877.4.ARCHNJ
OR
877.427.2465

FAX
973.378.9575

EMAIL
WARMLINE@NJARCH.ORG
LALINEACALUOSA@NJARCH.ORG

WWW.NJARCH.ORG



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

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.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

June 20 - June 22: National Council For Adoption Conference: *United We Stand*. Professionals gather to explore the principles that unite us and innovative practices serving children and families impacted by adoption, Washington, DC. www.ncfaconference.org/

June 28 - June 29: New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education Summer Inclusion Conference: *Expanding Horizons in the Classroom*. Discusses progressive change focused on educational experiences and diversity. Montclair, NJ. <http://njcie.org/16th-annual-summer-inclusion-conference/>.

July 8 - July 11: Family Focused Treatment Association: *Hope Healing and Partnership*. Conference on treatment foster care and other family-focused treatment services. Atlanta GA. www.ffa.org/page/Conference.

August 7 - August 10: North American Council on Adoptable Children: *Exploring Solutions in Adoption and Foster Care*. Adoption and foster care topics discussion for parents and professionals. Saint Paul, MN www.nacac.org/get-training/conference/.

October 13: Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) Mini-Conference: Focused on adopted children ages 9-12 and their parents. West Orange, NJ www.cpfanjanj.org/.

October 18 - October 20: The Alliance for the Study of Adoption & Culture: *Formations: Thinking Kinship Through Adoption Conference*. Oakland, CA www.adoptionandculture.org/conference-2018/.

Have an event you want us to post on our website? Log onto 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!