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### NJ•ARCH Features:

- Lending Library
- Warm Line
- Resource Directory
- Support Group Advocacy
- Speakers Bureau
- Training Workshops



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

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

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS: LIFTING UP YOUTH VOICES



National Adoption Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau, with a goal to increase national awareness and bring attention to the need for permanent families for children and youth in the U.S. foster care system. Each year, they focus outreach and awareness-raising efforts around a new adoption-related theme to help support professionals working each day to find permanency for children and youth in foster care in their community.

This year's National Adoption Month theme is *"In Their Own Words: Lifting Up Youth Voices."* Statistically teenagers are less likely to be

adopted, and are more likely to age out of foster care without strong or stable family support. Securing lifelong connections for teens in foster care, both legally and emotionally, is a critical component in their future achievement, health, and well-being. This year's National Adoption Month website includes additional resources and tips to help the child welfare field develop and support both formal and informal opportunities for young people to effectively share their voice and perspective. Hearing from youth who have experience in foster care—whether they've been reunited with family, achieved permanency with an adoptive family,

or entered adulthood independently—can help educate communities and shape child welfare and adoption processes and policies. Their stories can inform recruitment practices, training resources for families, and other permanency support services. This year's website also contains resources designed specifically for youth, including how to get involved and ways to share their story effectively. For more information, please visit: [www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/about/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/about/).

## ADOPTEE'S BIRTHRIGHT ACT UPDATE

Adult adoptees continue to request and receive their "non-certified" Original Birth Certificates (OBC) via the Adoptees Birthright Act that was implemented on January 1, 2017. According to NJ Vital Statistics as of mid-October, over 5,100 adult adoptees have requested their OBC's

and almost 5,000 have received them. There have been rare instances when Vital Statistics did not have the OBC if the adoptee was born outside of NJ although the adoption was finalized in NJ. As of November 3, 2017, Pennsylvania adult adoptees born in PA may now request their non-certified OBC.

For information on obtaining a NJ OBC, log onto our NJ ARCH website and view the "NJ Adoptees Birthright Act" tab on the bottom of the home page. For PA OBC's, visit [www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Adoptions.aspx](http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Adoptions.aspx).

## OUR ANGELS IN NJ:



Betty Berzin



Martin and Linda Garry



Wendy Paladini



## ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARDS NEW JERSEY "ANGELS" RECOGNIZED

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCAI's) Angels in Adoption® Program honors a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations making extraordinary contributions in adoption, permanency and child welfare. Each year, the Angels in Adoption® awardees travel to Washington, D.C., to celebrate both their hard work and dedication to the issues and participate in special events designed to engage them in using their personal experience to effect change on behalf of children in need of families. Since the program's inception in 1999, over 2,500 Angels have received this honor. *Here are our NJ Angels:*

### Betty Berzin

**Recommended by  
Rep. Albio Sires**

Betty Berzin, who retired from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) at the end of September worked for the Department for over 35 years. Betty began her career as a front-line case worker and has worked throughout the years in various supervisor and leadership positions. She provided statewide training to staff and community organizations on the topic of permanency planning, was integral to the NJ implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and played a key role in establish-

ing the Concurrent Planning Process, part of the Case Practice Model the state utilizes to ensure timely permanency for youth. Betty became a Local Office Manager in Morris County in 2008, and in 2011 accepted the position as the Assistant Director of the Statewide Adoption Operations program. Through her tenure as Assistant Director, Betty was committed to three main objectives: ensuring clear direction and support to local office adoption staff in their work to secure permanent families for NJ's adoption-goaled youth, enhancing proactive efforts to better prepare youth and families for the adoption process and family forming, and enhancing post-adoption support for families. Some of her accomplishments while overseeing Adoption Operations were related to two federal initiatives: an ACF grant on Intensive Child-Focused Parent Recruitment and a Cooperative Agreement with the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG). Betty made the DCF a more responsive adoption program to the community, the agency and most importantly, the youth and families she dedicated her career to serving.

### Martin and Linda Garry, **Recommended by**

**Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen**

Martin and Linda Garry became foster parents after their six children were grown and married. They adopted three of their foster children. Their youngest was severely abused at the age of five months and was not expected to live. She was in the hospital for several months and survived, but has numerous neurological deficits and a traumatic brain injury, which resulted in severe spastic quadriplegia, more commonly known as cerebral palsy. At the age of eight months, she was placed in foster care, and she was with one other family before Martin and Linda. When she was placed with the Garry's in December 2010, they instantly fell in love with her, and in November 2013, when she was three years old, officially adopted her. The Garry's take her to Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia many times a year for specialized care and numerous surgeries. She is now eight years old. She is the joy of the Garry's lives, and together they are all making steps toward her recovery.

### Wendy Paladini

**Recommended by**

**Rep. Senator Robert Menendez**

Wendy Paladini has been a key member of NJ's all-volunteer

## ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARDS (CON'T)

Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) support group for over 10 years. When Wendy and her husband adopted their then, 28 month-old daughter, they became involved with CPFA for advice and support. During the past 10 years, Wendy has been very active in the adoption community, being a part of and leading many CPFA Executive Committees, serving as Co-President, and even presenting in the annual CPFA *Let's Talk Adoption Conference* co-sponsored by Rutgers University. One of her largest contributions has been the inception, leadership and coordination of the annual "Mini-Conference", which is for adoptees ranging in ages from seven to thirteen, and their parents. For the last six years, Wendy has coordinated expert speakers and adoption-related activities for children and their parents. In January 2013, right after President Vladimir Putin signed a law banning Americans from adopting Russian orphans,

Wendy was featured in New Jersey's *Daily Record* sharing her thoughts, concerns, and support for adoptive parents who wish to adopt internationally. Wendy is also an advisory council member for Rutgers University's post-graduate Adoption Certificate Program and a stakeholder/advisory committee member for the NJ Department of Child Protection and Permanency, contributing to a five-year research program to create evidence-based interventions and best practices for post-adoption services. This research program is part of a larger nationwide program working in conjunction with the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG).

Laura Zacharyczuk,  
Recommended by  
Rep. William Pascrell, Jr.

Laura is a special education teacher in Clifton NJ. Laura

became a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) about nine years ago. After two cases as a CASA advocate, Laura became a foster parent and has been one for the past seven years. Her first experiences as a foster parent led her to adopting her son, who came to her as an eight year old. He is now a track star in high school with many friends and on his way to becoming a successful, happy adult. Laura has opened her doors other children in foster care. She has seen CASA's advocating for proper school placements, getting children into counseling, and supporting their extracurricular activities. Laura believes that CASA looks out for what is best for each individual child. To Laura, fostering is the most rewarding and challenging thing she has ever done. Each child touches her heart. Laura has made it her mission to continue advocating for and mentoring those who need her. *Congratulations to all our NJ Angels!*

## DC&PP WAITING SIBLINGS

**August, 9**, is super affectionate. He has a big heart and cares about others. He loves to read and enjoys his book collection tremendously.

**Masen, 8**, is energetic and outgoing. One of his favorite things to play is imaginative costume play. His top two costume picks are a police officer and firefighter. Masen

also likes to look good and pays close attention to his appearance.

**Zsiare, 7**, is very smart and likes to ask tons of questions. He's sweet and very friendly. He loves playing sports and the piano.

These three brothers have a very special bond and enjoy spending

time together. They can spend hours together playing with their super heroes and Legos. They also enjoy playing outside. They are seeking a forever family who enjoys being active, can provide the structure, love and support to help them reach their potential. For more information, call 1-800-99 ADOPT.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY  
IS SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 17TH**



**THIS EVENT FOCUSES ON  
RAISING AWARENESS OF  
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE  
WAITING TO BE ADOPTED.**

**OVER 200 CHILDREN  
FROM NJ'S DCF WILL BE  
ADOPTED IN NOVEMBER.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
ALL FAMILIES WHO  
CHOSE TO GIVE THESE  
CHILDREN A  
FOREVER HOME!**



**Meet  
August, Masen and  
Zsiare**



## DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 1,500 Books  
and Videos in our  
NJ ARCH / KinConnect  
Library.

Contact NJ ARCH or log onto  
our website to see our list!

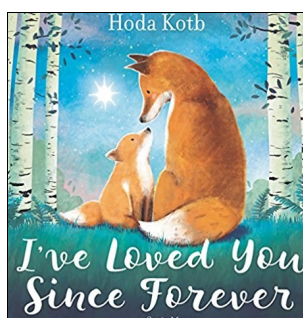
[www.njarch.org/library](http://www.njarch.org/library)  
1-877-427-2465



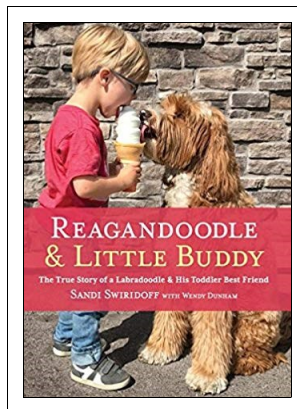
## NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

Welcome to Natalie's  
Library Corner!

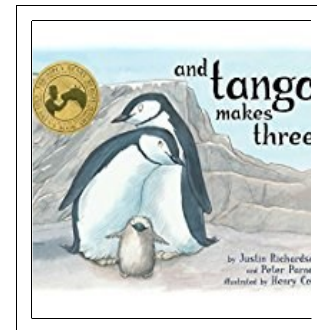
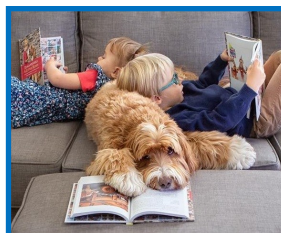
Our free lending library is filled with books for children, teens, parents, and professionals. We are always adding new books to our deep collection of old favorites. This month we are featuring some of our new children's books. Come take a look...



**I've Loved You Since Forever** by Hoda Kotb is a simple and sweet book with gorgeous illustrations. The narrator, in beautiful lyrical text, describes the love between a parent and child that transcends time. The book is precious and poignant. The story is generic and can easily assimilate to any child's adoption story.



**Reagandoodle & Little Buddy** by Sandi Swiridoff is the true story of the Instagram famous dog (@Reagandoodle). This book chronicles the adventures of Reagandoodle and his "foster-nephew" and best friend, "Little Buddy." Photos of the two dressed alike and sharing kid and puppy activities are highlighted by Reagandoodle's first-hand narration in a diary format. Reagandoodle is thrilled and excited when the news arrives that "Little Buddy" will be adopted and become a part of his family forever. The two will continue with their adventures for a lifetime!



**And Tango Makes Three** by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell is the true story of two male penguins at Central Park Zoo who were in love. Roy and Silo built a nest and sat on a rock in hopes of having a baby penguin like all the other penguin couples. Day after day they were disappointed that their rock did not hatch into a penguin. When the zookeeper found an egg that needed care, he placed the egg in Roy and Silo's nest. When a baby penguin hatches, Roy and Silo joyfully become fathers and name their baby, Tango.

These books and many more can be borrowed from our library. Give our warm line a call at: 1-(877)-4ARCHNJ (1-877-427-2465.)

- Cynthia Lapidus BSW, CSW

### 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.*

## A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The 19th Annual "A Home for the Holidays," is an entertainment special celebrating the joys of adoption. The special will air on Friday, December 21st at 8pm EST on CBS. Each year, the Dave Thomas Foundation works with CBS to offer a heartwarming, hour-long television show spotlighting waiting older children. This entertainment special, featur-



ing performances from popular musical artists, celebrates families whose lives have been changed through adoption. AHFTH features uplifting stories of adoption from foster care and raises aware-

ness of this important social issue. Dave Thomas, the Founder of Wendy's, who was adopted, began the Foundation. Through this, thousands of families have obtained information on adoption, especially older child adoptions. For information, log onto [www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org)



**Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
for Adoption**

## ADOPTEE CITIZENSHIP ACT

Justin, now 33 years-old, was adopted from South Korea at age 2. He grew up in Oregon, where he played basketball in high school and remembers pledging allegiance to the U. S flag before every game. He was 18 when the Child Citizenship Act (CCA) went into effect. A few years later when he applied for a job, he discovered that he was not a U. S. citizen.

The Child Citizenship Act (CCA) of 2000 became law and went into effect on February 27, 2001, guaranteeing automatic citizenship to qualified adoptees born outside of the U.S. under the age of 18. However, much to the dismay of Justin and over 35,000 other adult adoptees, it did not include adoptees already 18 or older. This loophole caused by the timing of the CCA leaves these adoptees living in the U.S. susceptible to deportation, unable to travel outside of the U.S.,

and unable to work legally. They have grown up in the United States, after being adopted by United States citizens, and have always assumed they were, in fact, United States citizens. Most do not even remember their birth country nor speak the language. They live in fear of being deported from the United States; the country they call home.

The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 was introduced to the U.S. Senate by Sens. Roy Blunt (R-Missouri) and Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) with other co-sponsors on March 8, 2018. This bipartisan bill would grant individuals such as Justin, automatic citizenship if they meet the following criteria:

1. Adopted by a U.S. citizen parent before reaching the age of 18;
2. Physically present in the

U.S. in the legal custody of a U.S. citizen parent (pursuant to a lawful admission) before reaching the age of 18;

3. Never acquired U.S. citizenship before the enactment of this bill; and

4. Resides in the U.S. on the date of the enactment of this bill.

**TAKE ACTION NOW!**

How can you help get this bill passed?

Write or call your congressman and encourage the passing of the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 to protect our adult adoptees born outside the U.S.

For more specifics and information on this Act, please visit: <https://immigrationforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Adoptee-Citizenship-Act-of-2018-Bill-Summary.pdf>.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**EVEN IF YOU HAVE A CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP FOR YOUR CHILD, THEIR CITIZENSHIP STATUS MAY NOT BE LISTED CORRECTLY WITH SOCIAL SECURITY. TO CHECK, CALL SOCIAL SECURITY AT 1-800-772-1213. FOR MORE INFO ON**

**CORRECTING INFO:**

**[WWW.SSA.GOV/SSNUMBER/SS5DOC.HTM](http://WWW.SSA.GOV/SSNUMBER/SS5DOC.HTM)**



**IF YOU ADOPTED A CHILD INTERNATIONALLY YOU MAY WANT TO REVIEW YOUR CHILD'S ADULT ADOPTEE'S PAPERWORK, 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).

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# NEW JERSEY ADOPTION RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

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



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

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## CONFERENCES AND MORE

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Looking for a conference, support group or other adoption-related events? Check out our website under "Events." Here are some coming up:

**November 18, 2018:** Adoptive Parents Committee (APC) 37th Annual Adoption Conference. St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY. [www.adoptiveparents.org/annual-conference/](http://www.adoptiveparents.org/annual-conference/).

**April 3-6, 2019:** American Adoption Congress: Honoring our Past, Welcoming our Future, Washington, DC. [www.americanadoptioncongress.org/conference\\_information.php](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org/conference_information.php).

**May 4, 2019:** 37th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference. Sponsored by Concerned Persons for Adoption and Rutgers University. Keynote: Adam Pertman. [www.cpfanji.org](http://www.cpfanji.org).

**May 21-23, 2019:** National IV-E Roundtable for Child Welfare Training and Education. <https://stockton.edu/child-welfare-education-institute/iv-e-roundtable/index.html>.

**May 30- June 1, 2019:** The Coalition's 30th Annual NY State Foster Care and Adoption Conference for foster, adoptive and relative caregivers. Albany NY. <https://affcnny.org/conference/>

**June 5-7, 2019:** One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare. Sponsored by Field Center for Children's Policy, University of Pennsylvania [www.onechildmanyhands.org](http://www.onechildmanyhands.org)

*The staff at NJ ARCH wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season!*

