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



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

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



## NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH 2019

**“Foster Care as a Support to Families,  
Not a Substitute for Parents”**

May is National Foster Care Month, a time 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 440,000 children and youth in foster care and we celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Recently the Anne E. Casey Foundation created a “Snapshot” report entitled “Keeping Kids in Families: Trends in US Foster Care Placement.” According to the report, child welfare systems across the country are making progress in putting family first. Data shows that over the past 10 years, U.S. states have consistently placed more of the young people who enter

their systems with relatives and foster families.\* Overall, fewer of these children and young people are placed in group settings and institutions. While research shows group placements are sometimes critical for a limited time, when unnecessary, these settings often compound the trauma children experience when separated from their parents in the first place. They may also fail to provide the individual care and support that all children need to thrive. States across the country are driving the trend of placing a higher percentage of children in families, with an increase of 81% in 2007 to 86% in 2017. Being part of a family is a basic human need and essential to well-being, especially for children, teens and young adults who are developing rapidly and transitioning to independence. The Family First Prevention Services Act, signed into law in 2018, seeks to accelerate movement toward this vision, emphasizing prevention

services, prioritizing family placement and incentivizing high-quality residential treatment. The law follows a long tradition of federal legislation designed to ensure children and teens grow up in a family. It recognizes that too many children are unnecessarily separated from parents who could provide safe and loving care if given access to needed mental health services, substance abuse treatment and/or guidance for improving their parenting skills.

\*For more information on this research, visit [www.aecf.org/resources/keeping-kids-in-families/](http://www.aecf.org/resources/keeping-kids-in-families/). For more information on National Foster Care month, visit [www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/about/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/about/).

For more information on how to become a NJ foster parent, please contact NJ ARCH at 877-427-2464 or embrella (formally Foster and Adoptive Family Services) [www.embrella.org](http://www.embrella.org) or call 800-222-0047.

## Do You Know?



NJ ARCH HAS A LIST OF  
HERITAGE /SPECIALTY  
CAMPS FOR ADOPTEEES.  
VISIT [WWW.NJARCH.ORG](http://WWW.NJARCH.ORG)  
OR CALL US ON THE WARM  
LINE AT 877-4ARCHNJ  
(877-427-2465)  
FOR INFORMATION.

\*\*\*\*\*



CHRISTOPHER



AUSTIN

## ADOPTEEES 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, as a result, 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 5,400 adult adoptees requests have been completed by the NJ Office of Vital Statis-

tics. After receiving their "NJ Adoptees Birthright Act," 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, or to download the forms, please visit our website at [www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org) and select "NJ Adoptees Birthright Act," visit [www.nj-care.org](http://www.nj-care.org), or go directly to the "New Records System for Birth Parents, Adult Adoptees" at [www.nj.gov/health/vital/adoption](http://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. Please contact NJ ARCH at 877-427-2465 with questions.

## DCP&P WAITING CHILDREN

### Christopher

Born 7/2007

Christopher is an energetic sports fanatic! He is not only an observer but an active participant in his favorite sports: basketball, football and baseball. When it comes to the NBA, Christopher follows the Cavaliers and his idol, Lebron James. His favorite NFL team is the New York Giants. When spring rolls around his favorite sport begins, baseball and the NY Yankees. The great Jackie Robinson is his all-time favorite. Christopher is not just about sports, he is a great student. Reading is his favorite subject. His teachers have described him as "kind and helpful." First responder careers, such as law enforcement and firefighters, are among his aspirations. Christopher is imaginative and creative in his pretend play in which he even wears a police costume. He does have a spe-

cial connection with a past caregiver which would need to be supported post adoption. A family without cats is necessary due to an allergy. For more information about Christopher, contact Amy Catalano, Exchange Specialist 609-888-7492.

### Austin

Born 9/2006

With one hundred billion possibilities, Austin will still find something new to do! "Inquisitive about life" and "enjoying the pleasures life brings" are phrases that describe him best. Participating in sports, accomplishing new dance techniques and enjoying food, Austin finds time to do it all. He plays the position of guard on his basketball team and hopes to play football in the fall. When not playing sports, Austin is rehearsing the latest dance moves. He recently performed the "worm" dance in a school talent show. His talent

earned him second place in the competition. Not only does Austin enjoy sports and creating dance moves; but he also enjoys a variety of foods. He is currently experimenting with the idea of becoming a vegetarian as he has begun to feel strongly that animals should not be killed for food.

Austin is confident in his academics and consistently earns honor roll status. His favorite subject is English. Austin is open to adoption and will need a family that can provide a high level of structure and a ton of love and patience. It is preferred that he be the only child or youngest child. Would you happen to be his forever family? For more information, please contact exchange specialist, Melissa Thomas, at 609-888-7486.



## SPOTLIGHT ON: FOSTER CARE COUNSELING PROJECT

May is National Foster Care Month, which shines a light on the needs of children in foster care and spreads awareness about important resources and information. For over 25 years, with support from the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services and United Way, the Foster Care Counseling Project (FCCP) has provided counseling and prevention services to nearly 700 children in foster care and their families. FCCP offer low-cost, evidence-based care to children and adolescents in need of trauma treatment and improve outcomes for children in foster care. FCCP provides services including evidence-based individual therapy (e.g., Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), conjoint parent-child therapy, group therapy, and parent management training to children and families with histories of trauma and maltreatment. FCCP also provides consultation and trainings to caregivers, agency workers, school personnel and other

professionals in topics such as adjustment to foster care, impact of trauma and loss, behavior management, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and stress management for caregivers.

Located within the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) at Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey, FCCP begins working with children following allegations of abuse and neglect, most often immediately following a child's placement in resource care. They provide trauma- and attachment-informed therapy as needed, collaborate with each foster family and school staff to create therapeutic environments for success, bring birth parents into treatment as reunification nears, and work with the birth family after reunification occurs. Clinicians are doctoral students at GSAPP, who are supervised by the FCCP Director and licensed psychologist, Dr. Lindsay Anderson. Transportation and mentorship opportunities, provided by

trained Rutgers undergraduate students, are also available to clients on a first-come, first-served basis. Additionally, FCCP services are accessible to children who are not in foster care, including children at risk of being removed from their homes and children who have open cases with the Division for Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), as well as children from the community with a history of trauma. FCCP services may benefit any child with a history of trauma, ages 3-18. There are no additional fees for children in foster care in Middlesex and Somerset County. A sliding fee scale is available for non-DCP&P clients.

To read more about the FCCP program, team, and philosophy, please visit the website: <https://gsapp.rutgers.edu/centers-clinical-services/FCCP/about-us>. For referrals, please call the FCCP main number, 848-445-7789 or Dr. Lindsay Anderson at 848-445-1152. Faxes can be sent to 732-445-4866. FCCP is located at 41 Gordon Road, Suite A, Piscataway, New Jersey.

## 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 is a grandparent or other relative. 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](http://KinKonnnect.org). This website has a wealth of resources for those raising relative's children including handbooks, publica-

tions, resources to support groups and more. Check out [www.kinkonnnect.org](http://www.kinkonnnect.org) or call our warm line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) to speak to a warm-line specialist or for more information.

## 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 NJ
- 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](mailto:DWFRIED@NJARCH.ORG)



PLEASE VISIT OUR SISTER  
SITE AT

[WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG](http://WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG)

## DID YOU KNOW?

ARE YOU AN ADULT  
ADOPTEE, OR THE  
PARENT OF A CHILD  
BORN OVERSEAS?  
YOU MAY WANT TO  
REVIEW THE  
PAPERWORK TO VERIFY  
CITIZENSHIP SUCH AS:

- FINAL ADOPTION DECREE
- BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- CURRENT PASSPORT
- NATURALIZATION/  
CITIZENSHIP PAPERS
- SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

WITH UPDATED CITIZENSHIP  
STATUS (IF OBTAINED PRIOR  
TO OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP)



### TIP:

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

## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION: Understanding the Decline

The U.S. Department of State's 2018 annual report on Intercountry adoption was released on March 14, 2019. This year's report shows a continuation of the decline in international adoptions. In 2018, only 4,059 children were adopted internationally. This is a decline of 13 percent from last year. Overall, intercountry adoption has dropped by 82 percent in the past fifteen years. In 2004, 22,884 children from other countries were adopted by families in the United States, 18,825 more than in 2018. This year, a decrease in adoptions from China and a ban from Ethiopia on intercountry adoption were of greatest impact on the numbers. Colombia and India had increases in adoptions to the United States, and 16 countries had their first intercountry adoptions in over a year, including Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Indonesia.

Why the steady decline in the past 15 years? According to the report, the largest threats to the continuation of intercountry adoption include missing post-placement/post-adoption reports, reports of unregulated custody transfers, and foreign government concerns. Post-Placement/Post-

Adoption reports are essential for maintaining the relationships with other countries. Without these first-hand accounts of the children's progress in their new families, foreign officials worry about the welfare of the children that were adopted by families in the United States and question the continuation of such programs. Unregulated custody transfers are another big concern for foreign governments. Reports of children adopted internationally being transferred to new parents in their adoptive countries, without the sending country's consent, erodes trust. Finally, unethical adoption activities by US Adoption Service Providers remain a concern. The Department of State has very high professional and ethical standards for Adoption Service Providers and encourages foreign governments to report misconduct for review.

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA) responded to the new report from the Department of State with further concerns. They stated, "The report fails to put the disastrous decline in perspective. There are millions of children without families worldwide who would benefit from intercountry adoption and tens of thousands of qualified American families who are willing to adopt them." When interna-

tional adoption is not allowed, many children may grow up in institutions. The AAAA is working with the Department of State to help the intercountry adoption process run more smoothly and help more children and families unite. Recent news that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service may close all its offices abroad is troubling. All adoption paperwork and processes would then have to be handled by the Department of State, which may further delay, deter, and impact international adoptions. The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys is advocating for a reversal of this decision.

To read more please visit:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/NEWadoptionassets/pdfs/Tab%201%20Annual%20Report%20on%20Intercountry%20Adoptions.pdf>

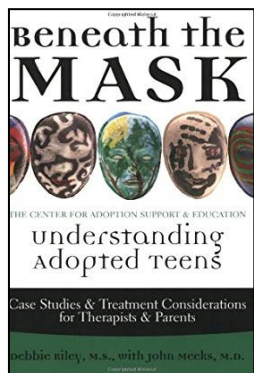
<http://virtual-strategy.com/2019/03/20/academy-of-adoption-and-assisted-reproduction-attorneys-reacts-to/>

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/16/world/international-adoption-main-story-decline/index.html>



## NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

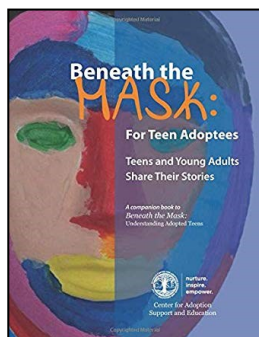
Welcome to our library corner!



### Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens

written by Debbie Riley and John Meeks of C.A.S.E. (the Center for Adoption Support and Excellence), this book is filled with resources that help professionals and parents work with adopted adolescents. According to Riley and Meeks, the key to helping an adopted adolescent achieve healthy development and a prosperous life lies in helping them find and accept who they truly are. The reader will gain foundational knowledge on adoption. Clinicians will acquire a step-by-step assessment model and other resources with regard to treatment and therapy tools. The reader will gain understanding of the six most common adoption roadblocks as well as the teen's quest for identity. The common "stuck-spots," as Riley & Meeks like to call them, are: reasons for adoption, missing or difficult information, differences in

appearance and culture, permanence, identity and loyalty. This book is generous in information and can be used as a guidebook when working with teen adoptees.



### Beneath the Mask: For Teen Adoptees

is a follow up to the first book reviewed. This book, also compiled by C.A.S.E., engages adolescent adoptees through reading and journaling. While the first book offers guidance to adults, parents, and clinicians, Beneath the Mask: For Teen Adoptees, takes the reader on a journey of self-exploration and emotional regulation through personal and genuine stories of adolescent adoptees. Teens, parents and clinicians alike will benefit from stories of loss, loyalty and growth. Both books work together to help teen adoptees navigate a path through their lives by looking into their own experiences, thoughts and emotions.

Jazzy's Quest: Adopted and Amazing! written by Carrie Goldman and Juliet Bong LCSW, is a charming story of a young adoptees pursuit to find

her own act for the community talent show. Jazzy has to answer a burning question: What makes you amazing? First looking to her adoptive family for similarities then to her birth family, Jazzy is left without an answer. Through this journey, Jazzy finally realizes exactly what makes her special.

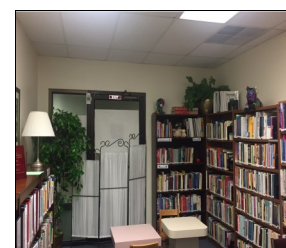


She comes to understand that her own qualities, like sewing and problem solving, are what make her amazing. A small glossary at the back of the book is geared toward adolescents and offers insight into common adoption terminology. This book offers a unique look at adoption and conveys just a few of the numerous emotions adoptees feel at a young age.

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

*This month's book reviews were written by NJ ARCH's student intern, Nicole Dymerski!*

## DID YOU KNOW?



WE HAVE OVER 1,500 BOOKS AND VIDEOS IN

OUR FREE NJARCH. LENDING LIBRARY.

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AND SELECT "LENDING LIBRARY"

THEN SEARCH YOUR TOPIC(S).

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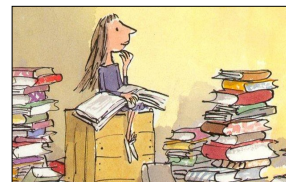
[WARMLINE@NJARCH.ORG](mailto:WARMLINE@NJARCH.ORG)

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

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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

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May 4: 37th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference. Coordinated by Concerned Persons for Adoption and Sponsored by Rutgers University School of Social Work. Keynote Speaker: Adam Pertman, CEO and Founder of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency. For more information, log onto [www.cpfanjanj.org](http://www.cpfanjanj.org).

May 15-17: 26th Annual National Foster Care Conference: "Footsteps to the Future." St. Petersburg, Florida. For more info: <https://www.danielkids.org/conferences/foster-care/>.

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

June 5- June 7: One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare. Philadelphia, PA. For information: <https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/one-child-many-hands/>

June 25: National Council for Adoption Conference: Adoption on My Mind; Atlanta GA. For more information, log onto [www.ncfaconference.org](http://www.ncfaconference.org).

July 17:- 20: North American Council on Adoptable Children, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, visit <https://www.nacac.org/get-training/conference/>.

October 19: Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) Mini-Conference: Focused on adopted children ages 9-12 and their parents. West Orange, NJ. [www.cpfanjanj.org/](http://www.cpfanjanj.org/).

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