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### NJ ARCH Features:

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



## PATHWAYS TO ADOPTION IN NEW JERSEY

*Exploring your options as a prospective adoptive family*

### Starting Your Journey

Beginning the adoption process can feel overwhelming and confusing. As a New Jersey resident, there are several adoption paths available to you. Whether you're looking to adopt an older child from foster care, privately adopt an infant, or explore international adoption, understanding your options is the first step.

### Public Foster Care Adoption (In-State)

Adopting through the New Jersey Department of Children and Families is the state's public adoption option. This path connects families with children in foster care who are legally free for adoption.

*What to Expect:*

- Complete a home study and attend state-sponsored trainings
- Access information about waiting children (not all are listed publicly) and coordinate directly with state workers throughout the process

**In most counties, New Jersey currently seeks adoptive families for:**

- Children with complex behavioral, developmental, or medical needs
- Teenagers (ages 13–17)
- Large sibling groups (typically 4 or more children)

### Out-of-State Foster Care Adoption

Families in New Jersey can also adopt from foster care systems in other U.S. states. This is another path for those open to adopting older children or children with special needs.

*What to Expect:*

- Work with a licensed private agency in New Jersey that specializes in older child adoption and provides advocacy and assists navigating cross-state logistics

### Private Domestic Infant Adoption

Private adoption allows families to adopt an infant, often through an agency or attorney. This route emphasizes building connections with expectant parents considering adoption.

*What to Expect:*

- Complete a home study through a licensed New Jersey agency
- Learn about open adoption
- Match with expectant parents via an agency or attorney

### International Adoption

International adoption involves adopting a child from another country and bringing them to the U.S. to live permanently. Some countries, like the US, have signed the Hague Convention on Protection of Child-

ren and adhere to strict ethical regulations to prevent the abduction, sale of, or trafficking of children. The Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act requires adoption services providers assisting families with intercountry adoption through non-Hague countries, to follow similar ethical practices.

*What to Expect:*

- You may have two agencies that help you in this journey
- You will need an accredited or approved agency that works with the child's country's central authority for adoption. This agency can be located anywhere in the United States
- You will then need to complete an international home study through a licensed NJ agency
- Your agency or agencies will help you navigate the immigration and legal processes and adhere to ethical standards

### You're Not Alone

Adoption is a significant decision and a lifelong process. Every adoption journey is different. Take time to explore your options and choose the path that's right for your family. When in doubt, reach out - support is available every step of the way. You never have to walk this journey alone. Email NJ ARCH at [warmline@njarch.org](mailto:warmline@njarch.org) or call us at 877-4ARCHNJ

## Do You Know?



### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A RESOURCE (FOSTER) PARENT ?

DCP&P is currently recruiting Resource Parents and Treatment Home Parents. Both programs especially need parents who are:

- Racially/culturally sensitive, and open to accepting children from diverse backgrounds
- Open to caring for children who have experienced trauma, and often have increased behavioral/mental health/medical needs
- Open to caring for sibling groups, and maintaining connections with siblings who cannot be placed together
- Willing to care for older youth (13-17) who need caring adults who will help them learn life skills, and successfully transition into adulthood.
- Open and affirming to LGBTQIA+ children and youth
- Willing to partner with DCP&P, courts, the treatment team, community partners, and ideally the child's family, to support reunification

For more information on how to become a NJ foster parent, please contact  
800-222-0047 or visit  
<https://www.nj.gov/>

## DCP&P WAITING CHILDREN



**Angelita**  
Born 2/2013

Angelita is a very loving, talented, and quite creative child with such a BIG personality! Her creativity shines in all her arts and crafts work, dancing routines (up for a good "dance off?") as well as challenging herself to learn new skills and experiences. Angelita loves singing along to her favorite tunes whether it's songs from the Disney catalog or some of her favorite artists like Selena, Beyonce, and Taylor Swift. Angelita is never one to shy away from doing karaoke! Currently, Angelita is in dance classes and recently started softball. She is motivated to continue learning and is a strong advocate for herself. Angelita's current favorite subjects in school are Math and Art. Angelita has a lot of love to give and would be a great addition in any family that is open to providing a forever home with lots of love, guidance, and opportunities. Angelita is open to pets in a home and has an affinity for cats!

For more information about Angelita, please email exchange specialist Lisa Scott at:  
[Lisa.Scott@DCF.state.nj.gov](mailto:Lisa.Scott@DCF.state.nj.gov).

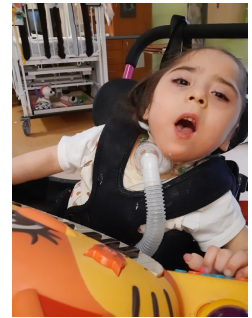


**Quashay**  
Born 9/2009

Quashay is an energetic, smart, and friendly young lady! She's a great communicator and will always advocate for herself. When she's not in school, she enjoys cooking, cleaning, and reading books. One of her special talents is doing her own hair and nails. Quashay is an animal lover and would like a home with a dog, cat, or even a pet bird. When she graduates high school, she would like to attend college and maybe become a pediatric nurse.

Quashay gets along well with children of all ages and would do great in any home. She is very close to her siblings and would need to maintain that contact after she is adopted.

For more information, please email Jacqueline DeMarco at:  
[Jacqueine.DeMarco@dcf.nj.gov](mailto:Jacqueine.DeMarco@dcf.nj.gov)



**Isabella**  
Born 11/2021

Isabella is a delightful, spirited girl whose feisty personality enchants everybody who meets her! Isabella can often be found enjoying her favorite show, "Paw Patrol," or playing with her toy piano. She loves listening to music and doing fun moves to the beat! Isabella really thrives during time on the play mat and enjoys bouncing on a yoga ball. Isabella loves playing with toys and has a fierce sense of individuality; she does not like when her preferred toys are taken from her!

Isabella requires a permanent home that understands her needs and is committed to providing lifelong safety, security, and love.

For more information about Isabella, please email exchange specialist Melinda Stevens at:  
[Melinda.Stevens@dcf.nj.gov](mailto:Melinda.Stevens@dcf.nj.gov)



## ADOPTION BY THE NUMBERS



The National Council For Adoption (NCFA) has provided comprehensive data on the number of adoptions within the United States in 2021 & 2022.

The report highlights the shifts across the adoption categories on a national and state level due to a variety of global and national events. Such events include, the COVID-19 pandemic, shifts in international adoption practices particularly from China and Ukraine, and the landmark Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision. These significant events have largely impacted the trends in adoption.

National numbers estimate that in 2022, 80,598 children were adopted. This was a slight decrease from the previous year. Adoption from foster care encompassed 66.48 percent of adoptions, private domestic adoptions were 31.64 percent of total adoptions, and international adoptions finished out the numbers with 1.88 percent.

### New Jersey Numbers:

- In 2022 estimates indicate that 1,499 children were adopted, a slight decrease from the previous year.
- Foster care adoption has dropped continuously since 2019. In 2022, 592 children were adopted from foster care. Foster care adoption was noted to be 35.56 percent of total adoptions in New Jersey in

2022, down from 38.79 percent in 2021.

- Private domestic adoptions has increased over the years. In 2022, 930 children were adopted through private domestic adoption. This was a 5.56 percent increase from 2021. Private domestic adoption accounted for 62 percent of total adoptions in NJ in 2022.
- Intercountry adoptions has remained in the 2 to 3 percent of total adoptions in New Jersey consistently over the past few years. In 2022, 39 children were adopted internationally. In 2021, 53 children were adopted internationally.

To read more of this extensive report, please visit: [adoptioncouncil.org/adoption-by-the-numbers](https://adoptioncouncil.org/adoption-by-the-numbers)

## DO YOU KNOW?

**NEW JERSEY  
OFFERS  
ADOPTION AND  
KINSHIP LEGAL  
GUARDIANSHIP  
CLINICAL  
SERVICES**



If you live in NJ, your children are under 20 years of age and placed with your family through NJ's Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), you may be eligible for free counseling.

For more information, contact the program coordinator at 551-224-2711 or e-mail [AKLGprogram@cafnsj.org](mailto:AKLGprogram@cafnsj.org).

## No More Paper. All the Same Great News

**NJ ARCH is Going Digital!** Starting next issue we're saying goodbye to paper newsletters and hello to a greener, faster future. No more waiting by the mailbox—your updates will now arrive conveniently in your inbox, with the same great content and a smaller footprint. It's our way of making things easier for you and better for the planet.

### Make sure you're on the list!

Sign up for the digital version at [Sign up for our eNewsletter](https://www.njarch.org/sign-up-for-our-eNewsletter) or scan the code below! If you need any help contact us at [warmline@njarch.org](mailto:warmline@njarch.org) or give us a call at (877-554-5463).



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Via Email!**

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code to  
subscribe →



## DID YOU KNOW?

**NOVEMBER IS  
NATIONAL  
ADOPTION MONTH  
AND  
NOVEMBER 22ND IS  
NATIONAL ADOPTION  
DAY!**

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION VISIT:

[HTTPS://  
NATIONALTODAY.COM/  
NATIONAL-ADOPTION-  
MONTH/](https://nationaltoday.com/national-adoption-month/)

AND

[WWW.NATIONALADOPTION  
DAY.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALADOPTIONDAY.ORG)

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**SEPTEMBER IS  
NATIONAL  
KINSHIP CARE  
MONTH**

**Touched by  
Kinship Care?**

Visit [www.kinkconnect.org](http://www.kinkconnect.org)  
or call our warm line at  
877-KLG-LINE (877-554-  
5463) to speak to a  
warm-line specialist or  
for more information.  
We are here to help.

For more information on  
kinship supports visit  
[www.grandfamilies.org/  
State-Fact-Sheets](http://www.grandfamilies.org/State-Fact-Sheets)



## MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

May is National Foster Family Month. We at NJ ARCH would like to acknowledge and offer our deepest gratitude to every single foster family! With almost 400,000 children currently in foster care across the United States, the need for compassionate and dedicated foster families for children in our nation is great. We thank you for opening your hearts and homes to children who need stability, love, and support.

*Thank you!*

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, so we thought it would be a good time to focus on self-care tips and strategies for foster/resource parents. Often times, parents put their needs to the side to care for their children. However, just like when you are on an airplane and you hear the safety announcement, "You need to put on your own oxygen mask first be-

fore you help others with their mask," caring for yourself will enable you to care for your children.

Here are some helpful tips:

**Tip #1: Build a Support Network**

Reach out to other foster parents in your community. Consider joining support groups or online platforms specific for foster parents as they will understand the unique challenges you may be experiencing. You are not meant to travel this parenting journey alone—lean on friends and family.

**Tip #2: Prioritize Personal Time**

Taking care of yourself is not selfish, it's necessary for your well-being. Make sure you dedicate time in your day for yourself, whether it is taking a 20-minute walk, reading a book, listening to music, or talking to a friend. Find some time each day to recharge.

**Tip #3: Evaluate Time Management**

Many changes will occur when bringing a child into your home. Consider what steps you can take to adjust your life in order to be ready. Use respite care when needed- it's a tool, not a failure.

**Tip #4: Boost your Physical Well-Being**

A regular sleep schedule helps regulate mood, immune function, and stress levels. Stay hydrated and keep healthy snacks available for you and your children. Move your body regularly; consider family walks or bike rides.

For more information on Foster Care Awareness Month, visit:

<https://nfpaonline.org>

[https://fosterplus.org/general/5-  
self-care-tips-for-foster-parents/](https://fosterplus.org/general/5-self-care-tips-for-foster-parents/)

For more information on Mental Health Awareness Month, visit:

[www.nami.org/mham](http://www.nami.org/mham)

## NJ ARCH WARMLINE INFORMATION

Do you have questions and don't know who to ask?

**Call NJ ARCH  
877-4ARCHNJ  
877-424-2465**

**Or Email  
[warmline@njarch.org](mailto:warmline@njarch.org)**

Our warmline is always open!

We can answer questions, help you find resources, and lend an empathic ear.

All contacts are confidential.

We have Spanish speaking warmline workers too.

Give us a call or email us anytime. We look forward to connecting!

Commonly Asked Questions:

*I need a therapist for my son.*

*I'm interested in adopting.  
Where do I begin?*

*I'm an adult adoptee and would like to search for my birthparents. Where do I start?*

*Who do I contact about my Adoption Subsidy?*

*We're looking for an adoption support group?*

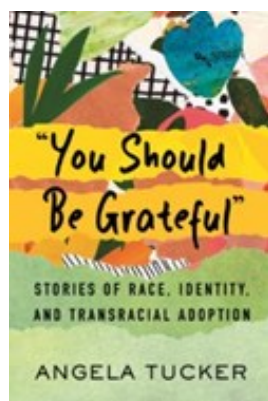
*I need book recommendations for my adopted daughter. Any ideas?*



## NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

**Hello Readers!**

***In this edition we are highlighting the incredible work of an adult adoptee, Angela Tucker.***

**You Should Be Grateful**

written by Tucker is a deeply personal and thought-provoking memoir that chronicles her journey as a transracial adoptee in search of her birth family. Raised in a white family in a predominantly white neighborhood, Tucker offers a powerful exploration of identity, race, and belonging. She describes the complicated yet healing reunion with her biological family and layers of emotions that comes with navigating two worlds—one shaped by her adoptive upbringing and another rooted in her family of origin.

Interwoven with her own story are compelling anecdotes from other adoptees, along with research and facts that highlight the broader complexities of the adoption experience. Tucker delves into the dynamics of the adoption triad—adoptee, birth fam-

ily, and adoptive family—while also addressing foster care, disability, and issues in adoption practices. Her very honest and vulnerable personal story provides a wider perspective on the different aspects of adoption, particularly how it intersects with race and systemic inequities. Tucker invites readers to rethink what it truly means to belong—and who gets to decide.



Be sure to check out Angela Tucker's podcast, "The Adoptee Next Door" available wherever you find your podcasts. This powerful series goes beyond the sparkly fairy tale of adoption. Tucker interviews and has deep conversations with adoptees on a wide range of topics from transracial adoption to reuniting with birth families which provides unique insight for the listener.



Adoptee Mentorship Society, a virtual mentorship by adoptees, for adoptees,

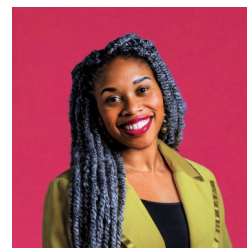
was created by Tucker in 2013. It provides a safe, supportive space for adoptees of all ages to openly share their thoughts and feelings. Many adoptees report feeling validated and empowered after being connected with an adoptee mentor who can truly understand and connect with their journey. There are several ways to get involved, visit [www.adopteementorship.org](http://www.adopteementorship.org) for more information.

Angela Tucker's extensive work also includes:

- **Closure**, a documentary about locating her birth family and their reunion.
- **The Adopted Life Episodes**, a video series of teenagers who were adopted transracially, discussing issues of race, relationships, and heritage.
- Consultation services for parents and professionals on developing adoptee-focused initiatives or navigating adoption-related issues
- Speaking events throughout the nation where she opens conversations about redefining family, transracial adoption and belonging.

Visit Angela Tucker's website for more information:

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



**Angela Tucker's  
personal note to  
NJ ARCH**

***"New Jersey  
adoptive families -***

*Thank you for listening to adoptee voices! I hope it'll encourage you to expand your Sondersphere (You can [join my Book Club](#) to learn about this made-up term!) in an attempt to support adoptee health. Please follow my writing on [my Substack](#) or you can always [schedule a consultation](#) with me if you'd like to get advice or support on your personal adoption journey."*

***-Angela***

# 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.*

## DISCLAIMER

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**Looking for a conference or training in the next few months? Many of the conferences below are offered virtually and listed on our NJ ARCH EVENTS page. Please check them out so you can join in!**

**June 25-27, 2025: National Adoption Conference:** Minneapolis, MN For more information visit: <https://adoptioncouncil.org/ncfa-conference-2025/>

**July 24-27, 2025: 2nd Annual BIPOC Adoptees VOICES Multi Day Conference:** Portland, OR For more information visit: [www.bipocadoptees.org/events/2nd-annual-bipoc-adoptee-voices-conference](http://www.bipocadoptees.org/events/2nd-annual-bipoc-adoptee-voices-conference)

**September 19-21, 2025: Men Having Babies (MHB) Surrogacy East Coast Conference,** NYC. For information visit: [menhavingbabies.org/surrogacy-seminars/ny/](http://menhavingbabies.org/surrogacy-seminars/ny/)

**October 6-8 2025: Family Rising (previously known as NACAC) Annual Conference:** Orlando, FL <https://wearefamiliesrising.org/families-rising-adoption-and-foster-care-conference/>

**October 18, 2025: CPFA (Concerned Persons for Adoption) 11th Annual Family Conference:** For more information visit: [www.cpfanjan.org](http://www.cpfanjan.org)

**Below are some options for on-line learning or conferences:**

**PACT— An Adoption Alliance:** <https://pactadopt.org/events-calendar/>

**Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.):** <https://adoptionssupport.org/>

**Spence Chapin for Adoption:** <https://spence-chapin.org/for-professionals/>

Looking for other educational resources? Check out our On-Line Learning, Podcasts and E-Learning options located on the Virtual Support Tab on [www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org).

