2021 Annual Report
Dear Adoptions Together Family,

I started my reflection in 2020 stating, “What a year 2020 was for all of us.” That sentiment still rings true in 2021 as we have all learned to navigate the hardships of a global pandemic. As in 2020, I hope that you and your loved ones have remained as healthy as possible, both physically and mentally, amidst the struggles of the year.

As you can imagine, the fear and restrictions from the pandemic have created special challenges for families who are raising children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and years in foster care. The uncertainty of school and loss of connections to friends and extended family members has been especially tough for children who have already suffered so much trauma and loss.

Through support from our community, Adoptions Together has quickly been able to respond and offer assistance. This year, we increased our individual and family counseling services for families in crisis. Our team expanded our support groups to encourage families to support and learn from each other, with an intentional focus on giving interracial families the opportunity to create peer connections for their children. With the convenience of participating in groups from home, attendance at our virtual groups grew significantly.

Our team also provided trauma-informed training to more than 1,000 professionals and first responders in public and private agencies, departments, and hospitals over the last year. With our training, these professionals are now asking their clients, “What happened to you?” instead of, “What’s wrong with you?” We then provide the necessary tools to help them understand the impact of trauma and strategies for helping others heal.

Adoptions Together has long been a trauma-informed workplace and we have had to be creative during the pandemic to ensure that our staff members remain healthy and whole while caring for our community. We have worked hard to make sure that we take care of each other in order to continue providing optimal services to families and children during the pandemic. I am so proud of how hard our staff works with their heads and their hearts.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of spirit and resources that you have provided to us. Thanks to you — our inspiring supporters — we will be able to meet the needs that continue to grow, ensuring we are truly able to support every child, every family, every step of the way.

With Gratitude,

Janice Goldwater, LCSW-C
Founder & CEO
MISSION:
Adoptions Together builds healthy lifelong family connections for every child and advocates for continuous improvement of systems that promote the well being of children.

VISION:
Every child will have lifelong connections to a caring, nurturing family.

ADOPTIONS TOGETHER PLACEMENT PROGRAMS:
- home study
- domestic infant placement
- foster care adoption

FAMILYWORKS TOGETHER SUPPORT PROGRAMS:
- counseling
- training
- education
- family finding programs

If you are moved by our mission and want to support Adoptions Together please contact Margo Devine at mdevine@adoptionstogether.org.
DOMESTIC INFANT PROGRAM

341 expectant parents received all options counseling (web inquiries, on-demand chat services, phone, email, Parent Finder, social media, community-based referrals)

25 birth parents used 223 days of interim care while exploring an adoption plan

23 infants were placed with adoptive parents from our waiting families pool
POST-ADOPTION CONNECTIONS

825 messages exchanged between birth families and adoptive families

358 Lifebooks (letters, pictures, and videos) exchanged between birth families and adoptive families

44 meetings facilitated between birth families and adoptive families

16 searches completed for adoptees or birth parents seeking to reconnect
Families hoping to adopt a child from foster care must attend a 30-hour Foster Care Adoption Training. In this training, families prepare to parent children with emotional challenges through a specialized program focused on developing awareness in the prospective parent while teaching effective parenting strategies.

32 individuals attended the 30-hour training for foster care adoption

40 foster care adoption home studies completed in 2021

12 foster care adoption placements finalized in 2021
The Heart Gallery welcomes all children within our region who need the support to find their forever families. To take a look at the digital gallery, click here.

67 area youth who are waiting for a family are featured on the Heart Gallery.
Adoptions Together provided culturally-competent, individualized home studies to families in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

Our Home Study team ensured that families were ready to bring home a child through diligent processes, interviews, and inspections that meet state requirements.

268 home study reports completed

268 post-placement reports completed
COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

2,041 trauma-informed, adoption-competent in-person and telehealth counseling sessions held

SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS

Virtual Support Group 52
Adoptions Together INTAG and Maryland Post-Adoption Program 23
INTAG (Interracial Adoption Groups)
The Family Find Step Down Project in Baltimore City and the Extreme Family Find Program in Prince George's County create permanency for children and youth in foster care by removing barriers and creating opportunities utilizing a collection of best practices in recruitment and permanency work.

76 children in foster care found permanent family connections

- lifelong connection: 18
- kinship: 17
- adoption: 16
- guardianship: 13
- reunification: 12
Our dynamic trainings for families focus on building relationships, connecting with children with difficult histories, and using neuroscience and principles of resilience to create safety and connection.

For professionals, we provide organizational assessments, training, and coaching to help groups identify and address their core challenges and assets as they seek to create a trauma-informed environment and provide trauma-responsive care.

900 individuals who adopted or plan to adopt attended webinars, conferences, and in-person trainings

1,034 professionals were taught at 44 trainings
YEAR IN FINANCES

INCOME

- 48.5% PUBLIC FUNDS
- 14.9% PRIVATE FUNDS
- 35% SELF PAY
- 1.5% OTHER

EXPENSES

- 67.4% DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENSES
- 6.9% FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
- 25.6% OPERATING EXPENSES

Thank you for your support of our mission.

GRANTS
Congressional Sports for Charity
Greater Washington Community Foundation
Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation
The Helen J. Serini Foundation
The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
The Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund

ORGANIZATIONS
1-800-GOT-JUNK
4 & Co Salon
Aesthetic Center of Northern Virginia
Altria
Amazon Smile
America’s Charities
AMR Commercial, LLC
B&O Railroad Museum
Bank of America
Barbie B LLC
Barnes Evans & Lohse LLC
Barrel Oak Winery
Black Ankle Vineyards
Blu Water Day Spa
Body Double Swimwear
Boxwood Winery
Brown Advisory
Butler's Orchard
Cava Mezze
Central Florida Softball League
Cohm Reznick
Collins Investment Group
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
Doerfer Insurance Services Inc.
Edward St. John Foundation (St. John Properties)
ERP International LLC
Facebook
Flying Buddha Studio
Geico
Giant Food
Go Ape
Harman Cain Foundation
Heritage Properties, Inc.
International Monetary Fund
Jireh's Flowers
Joe's Seafood, Prime
Steak & Stone Crab
Karen's Rocks & Rags
Kay Family Foundation
Kelly Integral Solutions, LLC
Kendra Scott
Ledo Pizza
Letterpress Printing
Limoncello Restaurant and Wine Bar
Live! Casino & Hotel
Lucky Dog LLC
M&T Bank (Baltimore)
Made by MacLean LLC
McClintock Distilling
MLM Home Improvements
NFP
NASCAR Hall of Fame
Network For Good
New Wave Salon and Day Spa
O'Donnells Market
Old Westminster Winery
OmegaCor Technologies
On Cloud Nine
Payroll Network
Phenomenal Faces
Potomac Grocer
Premium RX National LLC
Sandy Spring Bank
SC&H Group LLC
Serpent Ridge Vineyard
Soleado Lavender Farm
Sterling Households
The David S. Bender Fund
The Meltzer Group
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way South Hampton Roads
UnitedHealth Group
USAA
Washington Football Team
Washington Nationals Baseball Club
Wintergreen Resort

HOUSEHOLDS
Abel
Ahmed and Dickison
Alberti
Alberts
Albo
Aler and Colella
Alexander and Mosher
Altenburg
Alvord
Amerman
Anderson
Arbelaez
Askenas
Baird
Bamberger
Bank
Barnes
Barrocas
Beaman
Bernstein
Bieling
Bierkan
Birdsall and Randall
Bivens
Blitz
Bloom
Bodner and Greenfield
Bond
Boozer-Strother and Boozer
Boucher
Bowes
Boyers Kwatnoski and Kwatnoski
Boyle
Bracken
Bradley Carroll
Bragaw
Brennan
Brenneman
Brigham
Brittingham
Brodsy
Brody
Brooks
Brown and Frost-Brown
Brown Simmons and Simmons
Brynn
Buco
Burris
Burton
Butler
Campbell
Cannon
Caplan
Carlin
Carr
Cecil
Chappell
Chen
Chicca
Choi and Ferraro
Choi
Choi
Ciampa
Clark
Cohen and Lapidus
Cohen
Cohn
Colburn
Cole
Collins
Conkling
Constantinos
Conway
Cook and Mangino
Copeland
Corbey
Corcoran
Cowenhoven
Cowhey
Cox and O'Sullivan Cox
Cox
Croker
Cummings
Cunningham
Cutler and Parsons
Dankoff
Datz
Daughter
Davis
Day
Debenedictis
DeGroat
Deitch and Tosini
DeLoach
DeMattia
Detwiler
Devine
DiPietro
Dixon
Dobson and Thaker
Doerfer
Dolce
Dowier
Dragoumis
Drake
Drutch
Duffy
Dugan
Dungan
Durbin and Randolph
Dutta Chowdhury
Dworkin
Eads
Edwards
Eisman
Eliopoulos
Eliot
Engelhardt and Vacek
Engelhardt
Erbe
Escobero and Marcos
Escott
Evans
Fairbank
Farland
Favazzo and Gianferante
Feinberg
Feinsilber
Feinstein and Greenfield
Feldman
Felton
Felzer and Siegel
Fernholz
Fischer
Fischer
Fischer
Fishbein
Ford
Freed
Friedman
If you're interested in learning more about:

DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION

FOSTER CARE ADOPTION

FAMILY FINDING PROGRAMS

HOME STUDIES

COUNSELING

TRAINING

ONGOING EDUCATION

SERVICES TO PROFESSIONALS

HOW TO SUPPORT US

Please contact us at info@adoptionstogether.org.