



# 2021 Annual Report

**ADOPTIONS  
TOGETHER**



# JANICE GOLDWATER

## LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER & CEO



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

# ADOPTIONS TOGETHER & FAMILYWORKS TOGETHER

## 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](mailto: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



# FOSTER CARE ADOPTION



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

# HEART GALLERY



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](#).

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**67**

area youth who  
are waiting for a family are  
featured on the Heart Gallery



MARYLAND  
20 kids



VIRGINIA  
38 kids



DC  
9 kids

# HOME STUDIES



## NECESSITY & STANDARDS:

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  
INTAG (Interracial Adoption Groups) **23**

# FAMILY FINDING PROGRAMS



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**

# TRAINING



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**

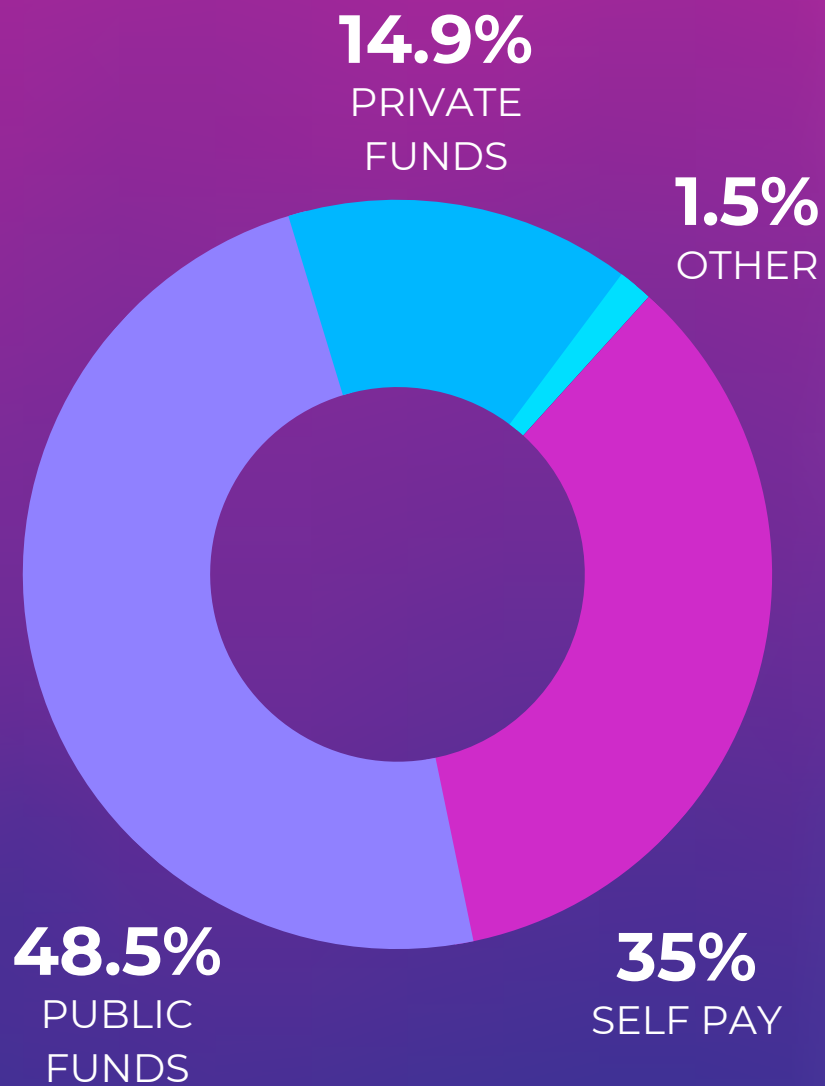
individuals who adopted or plan to adopt attended webinars, conferences, and in-person trainings

**1,034**

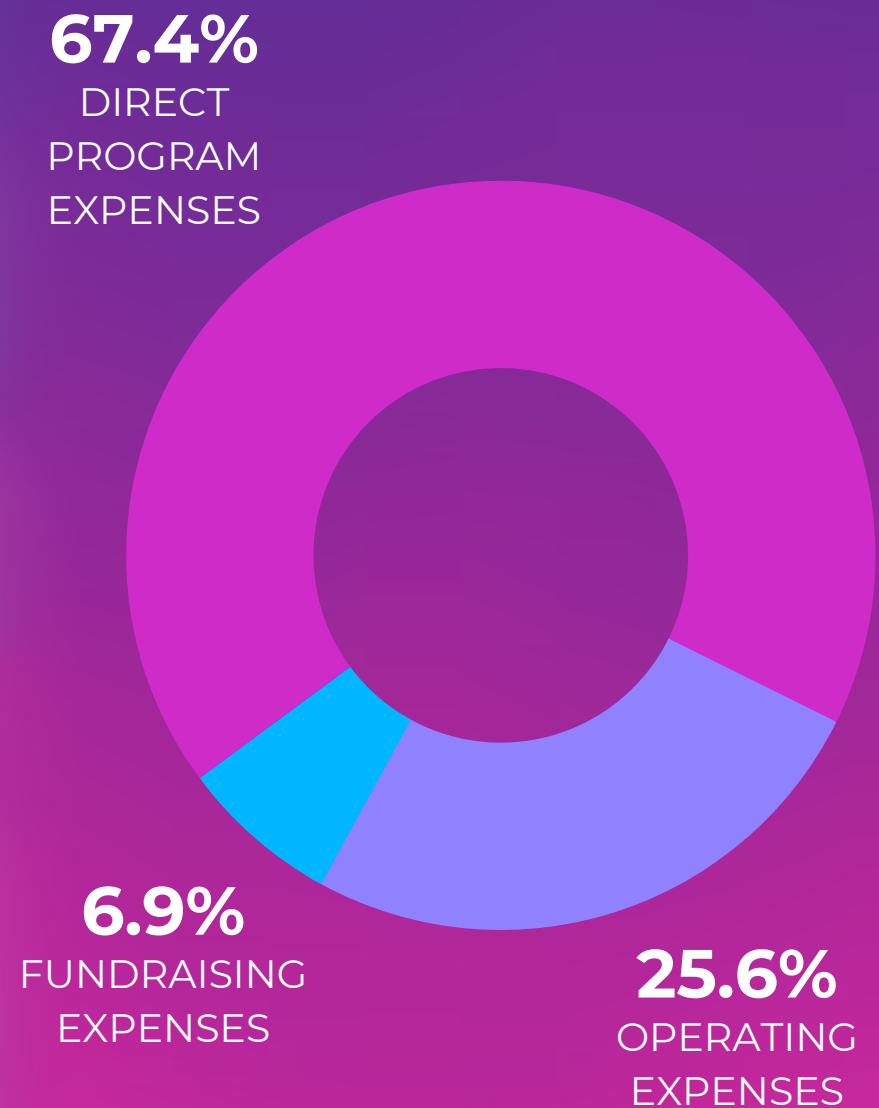
professionals were taught at 44 trainings

# YEAR IN FINANCES

## INCOME



## 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 Zanyvl 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  
Cohn 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

- Schwab Charitable Fund  
Serpent Ridge Vineyard  
Soleado Lavender Farm  
Sterling Household  
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  
Brodsky  
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  
Daughtry  
Davis  
Day  
Debenedictis  
DeGroat  
Deitch and Tosini
- DeLoach  
DeMattia  
Detwiler  
Devine  
DiPietro  
Dixon  
Dobson and Thaker  
Doefer  
Dolce  
Dozier  
Dragoumis  
Drake  
Drutch  
Duffy  
Dugan  
Dunbar  
Dunbar  
Durkin 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

Friese	Heymann	Lee	Mierzewski	Pingho	Seay	Tatel
Furlong	Hitchens	LePage	Milam	Polissky	Seedor	Teotia
Furst	Hodge	Lerner	Miles	Politis	Seelye	Terrell
Garnes	Hoehler	Leslie	Miller and McGreevy	Poniatowski	Segall and Gross	Thomas
Garruto	Hoene	Levy and Perle	Miller and	Poole	Seidel	Thomas
Gebhardt	Hogan	Lewis	Scarborough	Pothayee and Diaz-	Sepulveda	Thometz
Geddings	Holloway	Lieberman	Miller	Luna	Sequeira	Thompson
Gelfand	Horn	Limmer	Miller	Prybyl	Seward	Thompson
George	Hovermill	Lind	Milton	Queso Cup Golf	Seymour	Thorn
Gerhold	Huffman	Lindgren	Mitchell	Tournament	Shannon	Thornton and Carr
Gessler	Hunt	Lindsay	Moede	Ragsdale	Sheffield	Tomic
Getson and Rudner	Hunt	Linick	Molk	Rakas and Krahn	Shepherd	Tomick
Giesener	Huppmann and	Liptak	Monell	Raskin	Shepherd	Tripoli
Glazer	Bonangelino	Lipton	Moodee	Ratner	Sherblom	Tufts
Goldberg and	Hurd	Liss	Moore	Reid	Sherwood	Tung
Schmidt	Hurd	Lober	Moreland	Reinhold	Shine	Underhill
Goldberg	Iannucci and Blotzer	Lockner	Morrison	Rhum	Short	Van Winkle
Goldberg	Ilardo	Lorber	Morse and Scherlinder	Richard	Short	Van Wye
Goldwater	Ives and Rublee	Lucien	Dobb	Richter	Short	Vaught
Goldwater	Jackatey and	Lucore and Carroll	Mosher	Rismiller	Shotel	Vertin
Goodman	Clomegah	Ludman and Laskin	Mullens	Rittberg	Siegel	Vieira
Goodwin	Janis	Maggs	Muncey	Rivers	Sikes	Vincent
Grabow	Jennings	Magill	Murphy	Rizvi	Sikon	Vo
Grassel	Jennings White	Malis	Musgrave	Robinson	Silverthorn	Vyskocil
Green and Kofsky	Johnson	Malley	Myers	Rochford	Simon	Walker
Greenberg	Johnson	Manko	Nagan	Rodman	Simonini	Walker
Greenblatt	Jordan	Manthei	Narcavage	Rodrick	Simons	Wall
Greene and Ahearn	Kader	Marchand	Nash and Hunt	Romadka and Fahl	Sims	Wallace
Greenspan	Kain	Marks	Neal	Rosen	Sirota	Washburn
Greer and Williams	Kaleyias	Marrkand	Nealon	Rosenbaum	Skedsvold and	Watkins
Greninger	Kelleher	Marshall	Nell	Rosenberg	Szymanski	Watters
Grey	Kellner	Martin	Nicolodi	Rosing and Ashford	Skelton	Welch
Grosh	Kennedy	Martin	Nordberg	Roth	Slapnik and Stark-	Wetzler
Gross	Keogh	Masley	Norwood	Ruffner	Slapnik	Wheatley
Grubb	Kiely	Masters	Novotny	Ryan	Slotnick	Whelan
Grundy	Kiken	Masters	O'Donnell	Sachs	Smith and Rosenblum	Whiddon
Guarinello	Kirsch	Matathias	O'Flahavan	Sagall	Smith	Whitmore
Guite	Kirschenbaum	Matcherson	Oglevee	Sakach	Smith	Widder
Gulevich	Klein	Matthai	Olshonsky and Forst	Sauder	Smyth	Wiley
Gutierrez	Kleinman	Mayer	Onyeozili	Savercool	Sober	Wilkinson
Hall	Kleinman	McArver and	Ordway	Savidge	Spano-Harrison	Williams
Halliday	Kleinman	Buchanan	Oros	Sayre	Spinosa	and Matthews
Halpern	Klekner and Segretto	McCarthy	Orye	Schaeberle	Spivack	Williams
Hamer and Peterzell	Knox	McComak	Palacios and Zeman	Schafer	St. Amand	Williams
Hamilton	Koehn	McEwen	Papkin	Schaub	St. Amand	Williams
Hammer	Kosterlitz	McGhee	Park	Schaub	St. Amand	Woods
Hansen	Kotler	McGowan	Pasha	Scherr	St. Germain and	Wooten and Ilao
Hanson and	Koudellou	McGuire	Pat	Schevitz	Wheeler	Wurmstich
Konigsberg	Kracov	McKee	Paul	Schick	Stavac	Wurmstich
Harding	Kramer and Starr	McKeon	Pearce	Schissler	Stein	York
Harman	Kranz	McKinstry	Pearsall	Schmalz	Steller	Yost
Harris	Kratz	McMurray	Pearson and Ialongo	Schoon	Stephenson	Zhuo
Harrison	Krauss	McRoberts	Peeples	Schuberg	Stewart and Rogers	Zombrun
Hayden	Krcma	McWhorter and	Perkins	Schuster	Stewart	
Heaven	Kruszon-Adams	Abadian	Perlman	Schveibinz	Stinson	
Hefferon	Kwoka	Meket	Persons	Schwartz	Stocksdale	
Helde and Abrams	Landfried	Melnicoff-Brown	Peterson and Feffer	Schwartzbeck	Strickland and Costella	
Henderson	Landolf	and Brown	Peterson	Schweitzer	Strittmater	
Hermann Applebaum	Langdon	Menconi	Petty	Scott	Sukhotskiy	
and Applebaum	Lao and Pastorelli	Menick	Pfaff	Scott	Summerill and Bizzell	
Herrick	Lavery	Merrey	Picerno	Scott Morrison and	Swiski	
Hersheld	Leahy	Michael	Piggee	Addison Ballman	Tanner	



# CONNECT WITH US



*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](mailto:info@adoptionstogether.org).***