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Strengthening Adoptive Family Ties!

www.coalitionofadoptivefamilies.org

COFAF Winter-Spring Series: “Creating Family Through Adoption”

Click the links below for more information!

[1/19/17 – The Brady Bunch We’re Not: Blending a Family When Adopting a Traumatized Child.](#)

[2/16/17 – First/Birth Family Real or Imagined: Benefits and Challenges of Open Adoptions.](#)

[3/16/17 - In the Rearview Mirror: 10 Things Adult Adoptees Wished Their Parents Knew Growing up.](#)

[4/24/17 – Unique Challenges of International Adoption and Transracial/Transcultural Families.](#)

[5/18/17 – Trust: Why It is So Hard to Get and So Easy to Loose.](#)

The Brady Bunch We’re Not: Blending a Family When Adopting a Traumatized Child

What is a blended family? Typically a blended family is a family that includes children of a previous marriage of one spouse or both—much like the Brady Bunch.

A blended family can also be created through adoption where an adopted child is being raised in the same family as birth children.

But can a family blend where the child being adopted has been traumatized prior to “coming home”?

As adoptive parents with children through birth or previous adoption, we may hold the belief that adopting another child will take some adjustments, but ultimately love will prevail. *“The reality however is that most children available for adoption have had a traumatic past that will significantly impact how they interact*

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Why “Post-Adoption” Services Need to be Funded

On 12/12/16 COFAF Director wrote a letter to the editor of the Columbus Dispatch around the need for post adoption training for adoptive parents—especially those adopting internationally. *“The trauma a child experiences, even a young infant from loss of original family, country, culture and language, compounded by institutionalization in an orphanage has long-lasting effects. The effects may not show up for years and parents might not connect their child issues around control, anger, or their perfectionist tendencies as being associated with adoption trauma.”*

Miller-Gnann states further *“(a)doptive parents, particularly international adoptive parents, are on their own to figure out these complex issues. Adoptive families need access to information, resource identification, and support”.*

COFAF has organized to fill some of this need, “...but services need to be associated with established institutions and available when families need them.”

Sisters in Adoption. *“Prospective families often recognize that adding another child to the family will increase the grocery list, the pile of laundry and the transportation duties—but do not always recognize that time will also be diverted due to parental attention, and professional services. In addition... (p)arents struggling with their own ambivalence may fail to notice that their resident children are (also) grappling with the changes in the family.”*

If the following statements resonate with you:

Your family’s life begins to revolve around fixing the problems of your child- so the family can resume life in the same manner as prior to the adoption.

Your “resident children” perceive the way to gain parent attention is to act out or over achieve.

And your traditional parenting techniques aren’t working--

Then the January 19 discussion group is for you. We will be discussing how we can support the healing of our traumatized children, without neglecting the needs of the children already in the home, as well as discussing how to move from an immobilized family to a mobilized one.

Special Education Issues for Parents: Seminar for Parents

Saturday, January 21, 2016, 10AM-12PM

Brookwood Academy

- Help for students with learning,

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COFAF will have a table at the Worthington Farmer's Market- one of the largest farmer's markets in Central Ohio.

Come see us!

The farmers market is located in The Shops at Worthington Place, 7227 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

- Learn how and when to effectively request special education identification.
- Learn about community resources available to parents for assistance.
- Learn about transition to adulthood planning through the IEP process—
And more!

To make a reservation call: 613-235-2351 or

Email : ellen_wristen@yahoo.com

COFAF Facebook Page: A Source for Adoption News and Information!

Frank and honest information and news related to adoption is rare via most media outlets- so we are on the look out for information that enlightens and brings understanding to the adoption experience. Visit the Coalition of Adoptive Families Facebook page and ***Like Us*** to spread the word!

[Click here to like our page!](#)

At the Movies!

LION

Lion follows the incredible true story of Saroo Brierley, who at five years of age while begging at the Khandwa train station in Burhanpur, India, falls asleep in a train car and finds himself in Calcutta, 930 miles from his hometown. After surviving as a street kid and eventually being adopted by a couple in Australia, 25 years later, Brierley with the help of Google Earth, traces a spider's web worth of train tracks, all spiraling out from the city now known as Kolkata. He eventually comes across something he recognized. From there, puzzle pieces — blurred but familiar — slowly fell into place. A train-station platform. A pedestrian bridge. A ravine. It was the

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an elderly woman who looked back in shock she knowingly reached out, and touched her son. “For people who have been in similar situations, wandering and yearning to find their loved ones, their family or whatever it may be — I hope that this movie empowers them,” Brierley concludes.

News From the Donaldson Adoption Institute

THOUSANDS HOPE US CONGRESS ADOPTS ADOPTEE CITIZEN ACT

12/09/2016 - AUTHOR: CCTV AMERICA STAFF

This was originally posted on [CCTV America](#).

The United States adopts more children from abroad than any other country in the world. But adoption procedures have at times been flawed.

The Washington Post estimates tens of thousands of international adoptees are not U.S. citizens – despite having lived in this country almost all their lives.

CCTV’s Andrea Arenas has this story.

In 2000, the U.S. Congress approved the Child Citizenship Act that granted citizenship to adoptees retroactively.

Advocates estimate over 100,000 international adoptees in the U.S. under the age of 18 gained citizenship but not everyone was covered.

These adoptees are visiting Congress to convince lawmakers to pass the Adoptee Citizen Act. California Democratic Representative Judy Chu supports it.

The proposed legislation would grant retroactive citizenship to all internationally adopted individuals, regardless of age and allow those who have been deported to return to the country.

Without citizenship adoptees who are convicted of a crime even if it is a minor offense are at risk of being deported. Legislation supporters hope Congress will pass the Adoptee Citizen Act so adoptees can technically become U.S. citizens.

DAI posts news articles and commentary in areas relevant to adoption and foster care adoption as a way to aggregate information for members of our community.

Links to the original article and publication source are included in each post. The views expressed in the articles posted on our News and Views section do not necessarily represent those of DAI, our staff, agents or affiliates. If you wish to read original commentary by DAI, check the blogs on our [website](#) as well as at [The Huffington Post](#).

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