



Strengthening Family Ties

Memberships and Donations to COFAF are Now Tax Exempt

For the last two years, the Coalition of Adoptive Families (COFAF) has been working to strengthen family ties by offering free parent “Discover and Discussion” groups. COFAF has always been an incorporated non-profit, however we just obtained the designation of exemption from taxation or 501(c)(3) status. Tax exempt status not only allows our members to deduct their dues and donations, but also opens up a number of fundraising activities.

Stay tuned for Fundraising Night at Panera’s, FUNraising at Max and Erma’s, and other family outings that raise money for COFAF!

Events at COFAF

The following events take place, Wednesday’s 7:00-9:00 pm 1550 Old Henderson Rd Suite N162, Columbus OH 43220

[1/20/16 – Early Trauma and Its Impact on Children and Attachment](#)

[2/17/16 – Conversations with Adult Adoptees](#)

[3/16/16 – Growing up in a Trans-racial and Trans-cultural Family](#)

The following event takes place, Saturday 10:00-11:00 am Northwest Church of the Nazarene, 5707 Olentangy River Rd, Columbus, OH 43235

[2/20/16 Learn About Financial Assistance for Your Child’s Therapy](#)

What We are Reading

Real Parents, Real Children: Holly Van Gulden and Lisa M. Bartels-Rabb

It has been almost 20 years since I attended an adoption conference at Deer Creek and heard Holly Van Gulden speak; at that conference I received a copy of Real Parents, Real Children. At the time, my oldest child was two and life was pretty sweet. The book got shelved- I didn't see a need for it, ***we didn't have any of those challenges, our situation was different...***

As the years passed and with the adoption of a second child, I had many occasions to pull the book off the shelf; especially when I wasn't sure if my concerns were "normal" child developmental issues or child development exacerbated by adoption issues. One of the things I most valued was how the book was divided into age and development stages: "Early Infancy: The First Six Months" through "Adoption Issues in Adulthood." I have read the entire book-- one section at a time. When things came up, it was a dependable source of information: Real Parents, Real Kids was my Dr. Spock, a trusted resource in times of need.

Why Search and Reunion is Important for Adoptive Families

On March 20, 2015, 400,000 adult adoptees whose adoptions were finalized between 1964 and 1996 converged on the Ohio Department of Health to obtain their adoption file. It was a diverse group of women and men of different ages and races all lining up with the hope of learning something about themselves. As an adoptive parent witnessing the experience, it was an eye opener.

Michael P. Grand in his article, "What Every Adoptive Parent Should Know About Search and Reunion" writes, "(f)or most adoptees, search is experienced as an expansion of a sense of self and not as a rejection of the adoptive family. The need to know about oneself and one's roots is primal. In order to have a niche in the world we need to know, first of all, who we are." I worried that many adoptees born in other countries would not have the same opportunity.

Recently I received an email from the Center of Adoption Education and Support (C.A.S.E.) informing me that Dr. Amanda Baden, a licensed psychologist and adoptee from Hong Kong, will be presenting a live webinar that will discuss "Search and Reunion in International Adoption." The presentation will look at how advances in technology, DNA testing, and the explosion of social media platforms makes contact between adoptive families and birth families in other countries as both possible and often desirable. The presentation will be Tuesday, January 26, 2016 from 1:00-2:30 pm EST. For more

information go to caseadopt@adoptionsupport.org .
