

S.T.A.R. News

Vol. 6, Issue No. 4 Adoption S.T.A.R., Inc.-A Non-Profit, NYS Authorized Adoption Agency Summer 2007

How an Email Changed Our Lives

By Jodie Gardner

Two years ago today our world turned upside down, in the best possible way. For most people, when they are adopting they wait for "the call." For us, it was a bit different. On April 8, 2005 we got "the email." We weren't expecting it. In fact, Brent and I were just beginning the process of adopting a two year old boy with Down syndrome from Columbia. Tyler was just over ten months old and we knew that Miguel's adoption would take several months at best. We were in control. We knew where we were headed and what our plans were. We had our reservations about adopting from Columbia, but we felt like we needed to head down that road, unless and until, Heavenly Father told us otherwise. Well, He told us alright, in a big way.

I remember clearly laying Tyler down for a nap and going upstairs to check my email. There was an email from Michele. I wasn't particularly surprised to hear from her. The subject line wasn't anything suspicious. When I opened the email, that's when everything went topsy-turvy. It was a short note. Something along these lines -- Jodie, give me a call. We have a situation we think you might be interested in. It is a baby girl, born April 6. Possible special needs due to pre-natal drug and alcohol use. Baby is tiny, no pre-natal care but she seems to be about six weeks early. Call me ASAP. Michele

I think I read the email about a dozen times and then called Brent at work. We couldn't believe it. What did this mean? Were we supposed to adopt this baby girl? Weren't we supposed to adopt Miguel? What was Heavenly Father trying to tell us? We figured we had better take it one step at a time and we called Michele. Michele gave us as much information as she had. It was indeed a baby girl. She was tiny, just over four pounds. She was very sick. She was born at a smaller hospital and had to be rushed to the children's hospital in Buffalo. She was on a ventilator and wasn't eating on her own. They didn't know if she would have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, but it was a strong possibility. They were discussing placing a feeding tube. The birth parents had both signed to terminate their parental rights and wanted a closed adoption. There were many unknowns about her future medically. Did we think we might be interested?

I honestly can't remember much else about that initial conversation. I remember being so caught off guard. I know that I hit my knees and said a prayer asking for help and guidance. Then Brent and I talked for a long time. Turns out, we both had our doubts and concerns about Miguel's adoption, but hadn't really voiced them. We wanted so badly for his adoption to be right for our family.

We already loved that little boy and it was very difficult to admit that he wasn't meant to be our child. We prayed together to know if this little girl was meant to be ours. The answer came quickly. We called Michele.

We already loved that little boy and it was very difficult to admit that he wasn't meant to be our child. We prayed together to know if this little girl was meant to be ours. The answer came quickly. We called Michele.



A Mom Because of Her

*Written in honor of my daughter's birth mother
On our first "Mother's Day"*

The joy I feel today is somehow mixed with pain,
A title once hers, now offered up for me to gain.
You see, I became a mother in a not so usual way,
At the loving hands of someone else, I celebrate today.

I am now called Mother, because she made it so;
She sacrificed her role with love, and let her baby go.
Now cards and flowers are mine, and happy wishes too;
Will you remember her as well, or will you have no clue.

She too is still a mother, even on this special day
Though no longer in her arms does her baby lay,
But forever in her heart remains a love so strong and pure
And as I enjoy this day, I remember
I'm a mom because of her.

~Susan Reardon 2004



Continued on page 8



Shannon, Scott and Dylan

INFERTILITY WAS THE BEST-UNANSWERED PRAYER

By Shannon McDonald

I know saying that infertility was the best of anything sounds crazy but let me explain. My husband and I got married October of 2001. We knew that we wanted a family so we started right away. Well, after about a year we had no success. We then sought help from infertility doctors. We had so much hope of a pregnancy. We both went through tests showing nothing wrong. I took fertility drugs, underwent surgery, sonogram after sonogram, and gave myself daily injections. I became an expert having my blood drawn. I felt I probably could have done it myself. Through all of this I said I wouldn't adopt, I couldn't adopt. I wanted to get pregnant so bad; I just couldn't bring myself to accept that I could not get pregnant. I felt such disappointment, I felt numb. Finally after four years and the last round of injections, sonograms and inseminations we said we were done.

We met with Adoption Star in October 2005. We had so many questions about adopting - open adoptions versus closed adoptions, the wait time, financial, and so many other questions you think of before adopting. We started our home study classes in January 2006 and were proud parents of Dylan by September with only two days notice. The stressful two weeks of waiting in Florida before we could come home with him, and the October Storm didn't give us much time to let it all sink in. But we have had 7 months to enjoy every minute of it. Being a parent is the best thing that ever happened to us. Dylan is such a great baby. Watching him grow is amazing. Everyday he does something new. He smiles, giggles, jumps in his jumperoo, coos, snuggles, babbles, and so much more.

One day I was driving to work and the song "Anyway" by Martina McBride came on. It made me start to think about everything we went through. The song says that if you have a dream, to dream it even if it doesn't come true. I was thinking about the infertility treatment we went through and how at the time it was draining and disappointing but that I was glad that we had at least tried. This made me think of another song "Unanswered Prayers" by Garth Brooks. The song says there is a reason why not all prayers are answered. I just started to cry. I was so happy that I never got pregnant. I knew right there that not getting pregnant was the best thing that ever happened to me. If I had gotten pregnant, Dylan wouldn't be our son. That this little boy wouldn't be bringing us so much joy everyday. We wouldn't have known him or loved him. I cannot imagine these things or my life without my son. Dylan is the best thing to ever happen to us. He is the reason I am so glad that I never got pregnant. He is the reason I am so relieved that those countless hours I spent hoping that this month would be it, never was it. ☆

***Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers
Remember when you're talkin' to the man upstairs
That just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers***

~ Garth Brooks

Anyway Lyrics

Artist: Martina McBride

You can spend your whole life building
Something from nothin'
One storm can come and blow it all away
Build it anyway

You can chase a dream
That seems so out of reach
And you know it might never come your way
Dream it anyway

God is great
But sometimes life ain't good
And when I pray
It doesn't always turn out like I think it should
But I do it anyway
I do it anyway

This world's gone crazy
It's hard to believe
That tomorrow will be better than today
Believe it anyway

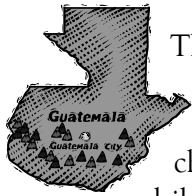
You can love someone with all your heart
For all the right reasons
In a moment they can choose to walk away
Love 'em anyway

God is great
But sometimes life ain't good
And when I pray
It doesn't always turn out like I think it should
But I do it anyway
I do it anyway

You can pour your soul out singing
A song you believe in
That tomorrow they'll forget you ever sang
Sing it anyway
Yea - sing it anyway

I sing
I dream
I love
Anyway

CITING ABUSES, U.S. ISSUES STRONG CAUTION ON ADOPTION FROM GUATEMALA



The U.S. Department of State issued a notice on March 1 "strongly" cautioning prospective adoptive parents to consider whether they should adopt from Guatemala in light of recent problems including the arrests of adoption facilitators illegally smuggling Guatemalan children to the U.S. for adoption, fraudulent documents concerning adoption, and cases of children being illegally relinquished for adoption by individuals posing as biological parents. As a result, the notice stated that pending adoption cases will be reviewed with more scrutiny - which may slow down processing. At the same time, the U.S. government is supporting and working with the Guatemalan government to implement reforms to protect children involved in intercountry adoptions. In a March 2 notice, the DOS announced that the Guatemalan government had issued a new "Manual of Good Practices" intended to be a first step in preparing authorities for a national law to implement the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. The Hague Convention, which seeks to protect children involved in international adoptions, is expected to come into full force in the U.S. this year. To read the March 1 notice, go to: http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_3147.html; to read the March 2 notice, go to: http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_3146.html; to read the DOS frequently asked questions for prospective parents seeking to adopt from Guatemala, go to: http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention_3170.html

Please Join Adoption STAR at the 7th Annual Adoptive Family Summer



Sunday, August 5th
1 p.m.

Ellicott Creek Park, Tonawanda
Shelters 10A and 10B

Adoption STAR staff, volunteers, adoptive families (and their families), and waiting families (and their families) are all invited. The day promises to be full of fun and excitement with numerous **playground** areas, **crafts** and **live entertainment** for the children. And the adults always have a great time catching up with other families and meeting new ones!

Hot dogs and Hamburgers will be provided. We would appreciate if everyone could bring a **side dish** or **dessert** to pass. Please RSVP by **July 30th** to Adoption STAR at (716) 639-3900 or info@adoptionstar.com with the number of people attending and the dish you plan to bring.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!!!

Teri and Howie Henick and family had an egg hunt party and invited their STAR friends. Here are some photos of the cold but fun day...



A Message from a Client: (Printed with permission)

Dear Sara:

I'm just writing to vent. I am on two adoption message boards and I find myself irritated by my fellow prospective adoptive peers. I did my home work before coming to Adoption STAR. I attended several boring orientation sessions at other agencies even as far as four hours away and checked on attorney and agency references. Both my husband and I are hard workers and most likely will need to continue to work when we become parents. I want to share this with you as I don't want you to think I am insensitive to families of lower incomes as we have had our share of financial struggles. But I am at a loss regarding how to respond to my peers who constantly complain about registration fees, profiling fees, placement fees, attorney fees, medical bills, etc. After compiling all of my information my husband and I decided to choose an agency that we felt most closely connected to. We chose Adoption STAR for many, many strong reasons, but it may be silly to admit, one of our strongest reasons was your agency's fees and fee structure.

I wish that everyone would do their home work before complaining. First of all Adoption STAR has one of the lowest registration fees in the country. In fact many domestic and international adoption agencies have a pre-application fee and then an application fee well into the thousands! In addition to your agency's competitive home study fee that INCLUDES educational classes, I was unable to identify an agency that did not require a large deposit of the placement fee to be paid a short time after application. And let's not get into the numbers of clients these other agencies accept annually...

The agencies I explored had fees for virtually every service including counseling of the birth parents that were in addition to the placement fee. I was unable to find an agency that permitted adoptive parents to pay a placement fee as reasonable as STAR's sliding scale range.

As a full time staff person for a local non profit, I am a bit insulted that my peers think ANYONE is making a profit by running an adoption agency. In fact my husband and I wonder how you are able to afford all the pre and post adoption services you provide to both adoptive families and birth families.

I am writing to you for two reasons I guess (in addition to venting myself), one because if my peers are so free to complain online then I am guessing they are complaining to you too, and if that is the case, I want to offer you a pleasant email thanking you for your good work. And secondly, if you could provide any advice to me and how best to address this sensitive financial issue with those I really do wish to be friendly with, please know it will be greatly appreciated.

Response from Sara:



Thank you for taking the time out of your day to write such an honest and kind email. I have shared your email with the rest of the staff and since it is a necessary part of our job – the issue of fees related to adoption – I knew they would appreciate your email. We do not often receive complaints about our fees and perhaps the message boards you are referring to are assisting as necessary if there is a comfort level with “complaining.” I sincerely hope that anyone genuinely concerned about their personal situation or our agency's fees would contact us directly. Certainly you can attest to how difficult waiting is.

We are impressed with your insightfulness in regard to non-profits as well as the fact that you really did your research regarding policies and fees before registering with Adoption STAR. I think your business sense allows you to understand what it takes financially to run a business, especially a non-profit business. STAR is especially proud to have kept its placement fees the same in 2007 as they were in 2006.

The best advice I can think of is to tell others to do their home work as you have and to contact agencies locally and afar to learn not only about their fees but their fee policies and general philosophies. In addition, if you are comfortable I would encourage any concerned clients to contact us to address their financial concerns.

Submissions Requested

Would you like to submit something to our newsletter?

Submissions may include:

- Your adoption story
 - Poetry
 - Pictures
- Articles relating to pre or post adoption or parenthood

If you're interested in submitting, please do so by emailing us at info@adoptionstar.com

**We can not promise submission will be printed.

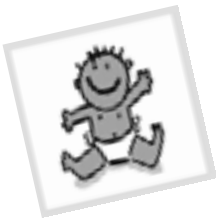
**All submissions are subject to editing.



Grace



Matthew



SOFIA NEWS

Supporting Our Families Interested In Adoption:
an Adoptive Family Support & Social Group

SOFIA, Supporting Our Families Interested In Adoption, is a group for all adoptive parents (whether you are waiting to adopt or have already adopted.) You do not need to be affiliated with Adoption STAR to become a member of SOFIA. Membership to this adoptive family social and support group is only \$30 per year and not only includes a multitude of post adoption educational classes, but access to the SOFIA warm-line where you can receive support from fellow adoptive parents. SOFIA also offers numerous social events for adults and children, as well as discounts to family sponsored events such as an annual Halloween Bash, Disney on Ice and Fantasy Island, and so many wonderful and friendly adoptive families and children. Please contact our co-presidents, Sue Reardon at shawnsue4ever@yahoo.com or at home at 585-613-6743 or Guenevere Wilber at monteandgen@mac.com or at (716) 632-9595 for a membership application, or with your desire to get more involved to help at an event, etc.

THE ADOPTION BOOK CLUB

The Adoption Book Club meets the second Monday of every month from **6:30 pm—8:00 pm** at Anderson's at 3724 Union Road in Cheektowaga and is open to everyone!

For more information or if you have a book suggestion, please contact Melissa at greesb@adelphia.net or Wendy at nymassage@earthlink.net.

June 11: Love in the Driest Season: A Family Memoir, by Neely Tucker

This is the riveting account of how two Mississippians, newspaper reporter Tucker, who is white, and his African-American wife, Vita, adopted a baby.

July 9: A Member of the Family: A Novel, by Susan Merrell

This provocative book will make every reader think hard about the responsibilities of parenting and the complexities of marriage. A potential Oprah pick!

★ The Shining Star Fundraiser Needs You!

It may seem a bit soon to be thinking about a fundraiser for next year, however now's the time to start planning for the next Shining Star Fundraising Event. The money raised during each year's event is used solely to defray the costs associated with the adoption of infants with disabilities and enable the agency to place several children with minimal or no fees.

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the planning of another Shining Star fundraiser. By doing so you are not only helping children with special needs find permanent families, but you are bringing much needed awareness to the beauty of adoption and to the dedicated work of the agency.

If you attended the January 31st event you know what an incredible party it was and how much fun the event was. You can also attest to the fact that this event has truly grown over the years. It is even more important to continue to spread the news about this event and to do this, we need your help.

For more information on how you can help the Shining Star fundraiser please contact Adoption STAR.



*Every woman is a mother when she...
Folds her hand in prayer
For a child.*

*Feeds one when he's hungry,
Clothes him when he's cold,
Or hold him when he's scared.*

*Smiles as a child walks by,
Or cries when she knows just one
Child is crying somewhere in the world*

*The conception for this woman becoming a mother
Takes place in her heart,
And the delivery comes through her hands.*

*Every woman carries the ability and power
To change the world one child at a time.*

*This birth is not measured in months,
But spans her lifetime.*

*Every woman is a mother when she
makes a difference
In just one child.*

Have you chosen to be a mother?

Janice Asien LaRosa © 1993



Meet The Robinsons *New Disney Movie Causes a Stir*

Emailed on April 9, 2007:

Dear Friends, after receiving countless emails from adoptive parents and adoption professionals on this subject, I felt it was the responsible thing to forward information regarding a Disney Movie currently in theaters called "Meet the Robinsons."

I decided not to reinvent the wheel by writing an original e-mail regarding this movie as I have not viewed it myself. However many of my peers in the professional adoption field have viewed this film and have strong feelings regarding it's content. If you agree it may be beneficial to contact your local theatre management in addition to Disney to let them know about your concerns. In addition, if you have children who are old enough to ask to go see this movie, I advise being honest with them. My seven year old who is not adopted but who has adopted siblings has been asking all weekend to go see "Meet the Robinsons." I told her that mommy was told that the movie had messages about adoption that we are not comfortable with and because of that did not think it was appropriate to go see. I don't know if she *really* understood what I said, but she quickly had ideas for other movies to see!

The following press release was prepared by Vicki Peterson of Wide Horizons for Children. As her email suggests, please feel free to share this message with anyone you know who you feel might benefit from knowing about this warning. -- Michele

We feel that it is important to warn you about a Disney movie called "Meet the Robinsons" that is now playing in many local cinemas. The advertising for this animated feature makes it sound like a great movie for any young child, but this is misleading. Fortunately, one of our adoptive parents alerted us about the negative adoption messages in the story and the very unhappy experience she had with both of her children who were greatly disturbed by the messages conveyed in this film. As a result, I went to see the film to decide if it warranted putting out an alert to our adoptive parent community. Indeed, I thought the concerns raised were completely justified.

The movie is filled with extraordinarily inappropriate messages about adoption. The basic story is about an adorable baby whose birthmother leaves him on the doorstep of an orphanage. Portrayed as loving, sweet, extremely smart and overly appealing, he spends the next 12 years of his life wanting a family and being turned down by one family after another. In all, more than 100 couples refuse to adopt him. One scene shows a prospective dad losing interest in adoption because this very smart little boy is more interested in science than sports. The prospective parents leave the disappointed child in an angry huff when he accidentally splatters them with some food from his science project. This is supposed to be funny.

Continued on page 7

Thank you for the article in the last newsletter entitled, "Beyond the Color Lines." I just wanted to send a quick note to tell you how much I appreciated this article. It is such a difficult subject sometimes to help friends understand when they discuss possibly adopting a child of mixed race. I grew up knowing I was half "white" and half "Iranian". I was mistaken for being Hispanic a lot. I was always fine with it, because my parents were so wonderful at helping me understand what it meant to be a child of God first and foremost. Then, we discovered our similarities and differences. One of my sisters is a biological half sister (the "white" side), and the other is blonde with blue eyes just like our adoptive mom. I never had any trouble developing my identity. I knew that I was the only me. Thank you for your candid article.

~ Diana

*Some STAR babies
at a recent play date:
Aidan, Makena, Jacob, and AJ*



With recent victories for adoptees in New Hampshire, Tennessee, Oregon, Alabama and Delaware, and records already open in Kansas and Alaska since the 1950's, New Yorkers want our state to be next.

At a recent meeting of ACE, Adoptee Circle of Experience, the adult adoptee support group of Adoption STAR, they discussed the NYS Unsealed Initiative which hopes to open records for adult adoptees.

Here are three links to learn more information about this initiative:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/adoption.htm

http://www.unsealedinitiative.org/html/bill_summary.html

http://www.unsealedinitiative.org/html/more_info.html

Meet the Robinsons

Continued from page 6

Since no one else wants him, the child invents a time machine in order to go back in time to find his birth mother. The "bad guy" in his time travel journey turns out to be his best buddy from childhood, once his orphanage roommate. Now an emotional wreck resulting from being left behind when the orphanage was closed and shut down, the once-cute orphan is now mean and devious. Another chuckle. Various monsters attack the child as continues his birth mother search. You get the picture!

I found "Meet the Robinsons" to be both tasteless and totally insensitive regarding adoption issues. Please think very carefully before taking your child to see it, whether adopted or not. You may want to preview the movie yourself before deciding whether your child should see it or not. At the very least, help prepare your child by letting him or her know about the adoption theme before seeing it. It is important for our children to know that orphanages no longer exist in the U.S. and that the adoption process is totally different from what is portrayed in this "pretend" movie. I will write the Disney Corporation to let them know about my concerns about their flippant way of dealing with issues that are extremely important and not funny for millions of adoptees and their families in this country and around the world.

Feel free to share this message with anyone you know who you feel might benefit from knowing about this warning.
Vicki Peterson, Executive Director of External Affairs
Wide Horizons For Children, Inc.

Some Responses:

Thank you for emailing this. I just took my two adopted sons on Friday and was absolutely shocked at the content. I didn't know whether to walk out or stay. My boys are 4 and 5 and I think most everything went over their heads.

I can't believe the bad judgment used in producing this movie.

Christina

Thanks!

I had my nieces on Friday and I was going to take them to the movies. The only one that was playing that was "age appropriate" was this one; however the timing wasn't good. Thank God I didn't waste our time or money on this!

Theresa

I took my soon to be five year son who I adopted at 11 months to this movie. My nephew (6), and two nieces (10 and 3) were with us (not adopted). I did not think about the messages you described during or after the movie. The kids loved it and laughed during most of it. The boy and his roommate actually had happy endings with good adoptive parents. So many kids' movies have themes of parents dying (Bambi, Lion king, etc.) or neglect (Cinderella) etc. Most, if not all end with a message of resiliency and heroism.

I don't think the Robinsons' is much different. Just my opinion.....

Katherine Maciol

I took my 6y old adopted daughter and WE loved it. Yes it was sensationalized but I liked the beginning with the birth mother. I loved that they showed the birth mother hug and kiss the baby -- she loved the baby but couldn't parent him -- isn't that what we tell ALL our adoptees -- isn't the adoption -- the LOVING choice? And in the end -- he found the right family.-- the family that was right for him. It gave me and my daughter time to talk about adoption.

Taunya


For anyone who would like to share their thoughts, positive or negative, with Disney, please write to:

Mr. Robert A. Iger, President and CEO


Walt Disney Company, 500 S. Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521

We Need Your E-Mail Address!

Whether you are a client of Adoption STAR or not, we would love to have your E-Mail address! If you have not provided the agency with your E-Mail address please do so today by calling the agency at 716-639-3900 or by E-Mailing the agency at info@adoptionstar.com

Many of you provided your E-Mail addresses to us when you first contacted the agency, but often  E-Mail addresses change, so please update the agency with your most recent E-Mail address!

If you do not have an E-Mail address, but do have access to a computer, we would highly recommend that you obtain a free E-Mail address and can do so through many search engines, like Yahoo or MSN.

Remember, call us or E-Mail us with your E-Mail address! You are missing out on monthly E-Mail Newsletters, an online adoptive parent  support group, in addition to postings on available adoption situations, etc.

How an Email Changed Our Lives

Continued from page 1

We, of course, weren't the only family they had called. We knew that would be the case. They needed to keep all their options open. We understood and told Michele that we absolutely wanted to be considered. We were scared. Although Brent and I were open to most special needs, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was one of those things that we didn't know much about and felt ill prepared to handle. We researched and tried to put our minds at ease. We knew that this was out of our hands. If she was meant to be our child, it would work out.

I honestly don't remember much else about the next twelve days. It is now a bit of a blur. A few days after "the email" we finally got "the call." Michele called us to tell us that yes; they did want us to be the parents to this baby girl. We were in heaven. We already knew somewhere deep inside, that this was our child. We couldn't be happier. We chose her name, Emmalee Ann. We spelled it this way for a reason, Lee is my middle name and we wanted to include it. We chose Ann for her middle name because it is my sister's as well as my oldest niece's middle name. At that time we still lived in Utah so we had to make flight plans and hotel reservations and pack and get everything ready to bring home a new little one. We bombarded Michele and Sara with emails and phone calls. We had the wonderful task of sharing the news with family and friends. We were ecstatic.

Emmalee Ann was placed in our arms on April 20, 2005. She was two weeks old to the day and smaller than any baby I had ever held before. As you can guess, we were thrilled.

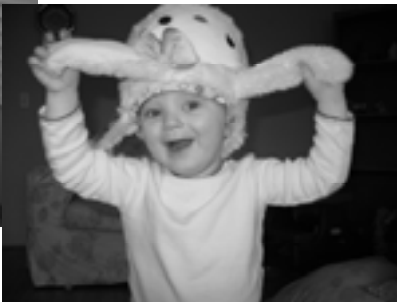
Fast forward to present day... Emmalee does not appear to have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. In fact, she appears to be a perfectly healthy, happy two-year old. We certainly understand that there could be fetal alcohol exposure issues that show up later in life, nonetheless we have learned that miracles never cease!

Now I sit here reflecting back on that day, two years ago, when everything changed. Being an adoptive mom has taught me a great deal about patience. I have learned that despite my desire to control everything, I really have little control over our situation. My purpose is to

plan, prepare and be ready for the miracles when Heavenly Father is ready to send them. I am thankful we were ready for the miracle of Emmalee. She has changed our lives. She has made me a better person. I only hope I can be the best mom possible to her and Tyler and any other miracle children we are blessed with. ☆



Jodie and Emmalee on placement day



Emmalee now



Community Hero Awards
Shining the Light on Volunteer Achievement

Congratulation to Sharon Chick for her nomination for a United Way Community Hero Volunteer Award! Sharon was nominated by Adoption STAR for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Shining Star Fundraiser.



Katherine



Grace



Jude



Gabe

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Adoption STAR adoptive moms enjoying motherhood



UPCOMING EVENTS



SCRAP BOOKING CLASS

Geared to help you put a profile together that introduces you to prospective birth parents.

Please call the office to RSVP.

June 05, Tuesday, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

June 14, Thursday, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

FREE INFORMATION SESSION

Join us for these free orientation sessions to learn more about adoption and the Adoption STAR Agency. Please call to RSVP!

June 05, Tuesday, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

July 22, Sunday, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

August 26, Sunday, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

ADOPTION BOOK CLUB

Free and open to the public! The Adoption Book Club meets on the second Monday of every month to discuss an adoption-related book! Call for more info!

June 11, Monday, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

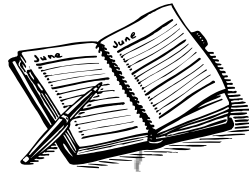
July 9, Monday, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

A.C.E.: ADOPTEE CIRCLE OF EXPERIENCE

If you are an adult adoptee, age 18 and up, this support and social group is for you. For more information contact Christian@adoptionstar.com

June 13, Wednesday, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

August 16, Thursday, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm



FAMILY ADOPTION FORUM

June 12, Tuesday, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

This class is for our clients who have finished the home study classes. You are invited to bring one or more family members and/or friends with you so they too can learn more about everything you have learned about. Free! Please RSVP!

FAMILY ADOPTION DAY AT FANTASY ISLAND

July 21, Saturday, 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

A fun day at the park organized by SOFIA, the adoptive family support group. All adoptive families and children are welcome. Contact kathy@adoptionstar.com for group rate tickets.

HAIR CARE CLASS

August 01, Wednesday, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

This class is run by hair and skin care professionals and is geared towards parents raising African American or Biracial children. \$5.00 per couple - Free for SOFIA members!

ANNUAL ADOPTIVE FAMILY SUMMER PICNIC

August 05, Sunday, 1:00 pm, Ellicott Creek Park, Tonawanda, NY Shelters 10A and 10B

Each year this is a spectacular event with delicious food, entertainment and crafts! See you there!

47 Plaza Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 571
BUFFALO, NY