

2010 Annual Report



CHILDREN
AWAITING PARENTS **LIFT
THE
WAIT**

Combined Federal Campaign #12019.

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www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org



It is my pleasure to use this report to recognize those people who have supported Children Awaiting Parents during the fiscal year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. The finances, programs, services and events described are reflective of that time period. We are pleased to have served, both online and in print, more than 792 children across the country. Of those served, more than 247 of the longest waiting children now have "forever families."

As I write this update, summer is approaching. With children out of school, the season lends itself to exploring, playing with friends or just daydreaming the time away. I remember fondly the summer of 1979. The Soules, mom and dad and six children (all adopted), had just purchased a pop up camper and were heading out west. WHAT A DRIVE. At one point, in Arizona, the temp in the car was 80 degrees in the front seat, 90 in the middle and 100 in the back...guess where I was sitting for most of the trip.

As you can imagine, there were ups and downs on that trip, but I can't seem to remember the downs as I write this note (I'm sure my parents would have some choice memories of their six teenagers being complete angels on the trip west). As I reflect on my own that summer, or any summer, those memories revolve around family. I am sure this is the case for many of you. I'd welcome you all to take just a moment and think about a summer from your youth.

For our long-time friends, you know where this exercise is leading. For our new friends, as you remember that summer from your youth—take a moment to think about the children who wait in foster care for their forever family. Too many of these children have waited too long to be loved as part of a family. For many of these children summer just means...no school. It certainly can be a fun, relaxing time but what would our childhood memories be without the support, love and acceptance of those close to us, our families? Without the memory of being in the back seat of a car asking (as only a polite teenager can) "are we there yet?"

What began as a parent support group has grown into an organization serving children and families across the country. Over the years programs change, children enter and exit the system and laws change. The consistent factor remains...children are waiting. More than 120,000 children are free for adoption and living in foster care in the United States. Whether you were adopted, have adopted, supported our efforts financially, or all three, we appreciate you.

At Children Awaiting Parents we have the privilege of working with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program. I just came across a quote from Dave Thomas. He was a very well-known advocate in the adoption community and an obviously successful adopted child. I'll let him end this note. "Everyone's got to be for a child to have a home and love. I mean I don't know anyone who would be against that."

Happy Summer!


Mark W. Soule, Executive Director

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(Left to Right)
 Ilona Frederick, Gretchen Wood,
 Reny Ninan & Mark Soule

Children Awaiting Parents (CAP) would like to congratulate Reny Ninan as a 2010 ESL Jefferson Award recipient. A CAP volunteer for six years, he has utilized his computer technical skills to help find forever families.

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(Left to Right)
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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. However, if you see a misspelling, recognize an omission, or identify any other error, please contact us at 585.232.5110 or e-mail news@capbook.org. Thank you.

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Thank you! We are deeply grateful to the individuals, organizations, corporations, & foundations, plus hundreds of federal and state employees, who made it possible for Children Awaiting Parents to serve thousands of children and prospective adoptive and foster parents.

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Financial Summary

Income and Expense

	2010	2009
Support, Revenue, and Endowment Income		
Gifts, Grants and Contributions	288,773	267,758
Government Grant	-	60,000
In-Kind Services	22,247	19,000
Special Events, Net of Direct Expenses	29,967	20,702
Subscriptions and Fees	18,960	25,570
Endowment: Imputed Income	51,125	53,000
Special Withdrawal	33,000	15,000
Total Support and Revenue	444,072	461,030
Operating Expense		
Program Services	395,141	403,717
Management and General	59,417	58,072
Fundraising	24,154	31,604
Total Expenses	478,712	493,393
Net Operating Accounts	(34,640)	(32,363)
Total Return on Endowment Fund*	332,227	(411,036)
Balance Sheet:		
Endowment Fund*	931,816	683,714
Cash and Other Investments	61,413	(1,870)
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	151,427	180,087
Total Assets	1,144,656	861,931
Total Liabilities	79,150	54,467
Total Net Assets	1,065,506	807,464

* Including assets treated as endowment

Florence is a teenager with a zest for life! She loves getting her nails done, going shopping and make-up. If she was told she could, Florence would dye her hair pink! A vibrant and cheerful youth, she needs a forever family who will embrace her fun-loving attitude and encourage her creative side. Currently in 10th grade special education classes, her academic and emotional needs are addressed. Florence hopes for a forever family who will love her unconditionally and show patience as she transitions into her new environment. She greatly cherishes people and her relationships and needs a consistent love that will guide her into adulthood.



Photograph by Juli-Ann Cialone



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What Love Can do

For Lorry Dinsel, adopting through the foster care system was an easy decision. Though not experienced with the foster care system, this fundraising professional quickly focused on special needs adoptions.



Klarissa & Andrea Dinsel

Lorry and Lee Dinsel started their adoption adventure through the Pennsylvania state system when they fell in love with, and adopted, two beautiful daughters with special needs. But they were not done there. Their youngest daughter Klarissa longed for a younger sister. Lorry started her search again. She came upon the Children Awaiting Parents (CAP) website and found then four-year-old Andrea. "She tugged at my heart, I kept coming back to that little face," said Dinsel.

pre-adoption by phone to Florida. Lorry and her two daughters packed their car and left Pennsylvania for a "girl's road trip" to pick up Andrea. They took three days on the return trip to Pennsylvania to make the transition from the warm Florida heat to the northeast cold easier on Andrea. "We learned a lot about each other on that trip," said Dinsel.

Once the Dinsels started the process they found out that Andrea was in Florida and had many special medical needs. She spoke with Andrea's foster mother regarding all of her medical conditions and hit the books and started researching. After researching Andrea's conditions, such as Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome and Sickle Cell Disease, she was not frightened about what she found. Her older daughters have special needs as well and she felt prepared to be Andrea's mother.



Dinsel Family
(Left to Right)

Klarissa, Lee, Lorry & Andrea Dinsel

Within three months, the Dinsels had finalized Andrea's

old and has gone beyond what every doctor told them she would do. She has succeeded in walking, crawling, and maturing developmentally. Her progress has astounded her family as well as her doctors, her aide, therapists and teacher. Andrea's Sickle Cell physician, Dr. Lakshmanam Krishnamurti, MD, Director, Comprehensive Hemoglobinopathy Program, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh UPMC stated that, "This is not the same child that first came to my office." "My proudest moments are seeing my girls succeed," says Dinsel.

Dinsel stated that her relationship with CAP helped significantly with the process. She feels like she has built a relationship and partnership with CAP. "The staff follow-up with me in e-mail and by phone calls, I feel like I know the whole staff by name," states Dinsel.

As an adoptive parent to special needs children, Lorry's advice to parents would be to read through the child's case and medical files and don't be intimidated by what they find. Dinsel stresses, "You need to be the advocate for your child....their hero." She has also learned that by giving your children a loving, child-focused home, time to bond and quality time, kids can achieve anything.

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Children Awaiting Parents' Programs:

1. CAP's **website**, www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org, is a dynamic resource that provides photos, narratives and videos of waiting children, as well as pre- and post-adoption information for prospective foster and adoptive parents. CAP offers personal adoption information to families at every stage of the process.
2. CAP provides **media outreach** in regional and national publications throughout the United States. Children are featured in newspapers, magazines and parent group newsletters. We seek exposure in special interest (such as developmental disabilities, gay/lesbian etc.) publications that reach families who are potential adoptive resources for our children.
3. **The Heart Gallery** is a national movement that showcases exceptional portraits of children currently in foster care and available for adoption. CAP holds Heart Gallery exhibits during November (National Adoption Month) at the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York. The display also travels to numerous Western New York venues throughout the year.
4. **Faith in Children** is a special adoption recruitment campaign initiated by Children Awaiting Parents to reach out to the community through faith-based organizations to identify and recruit permanent families for America's waiting children.
5. For more than 30 years, the **Friday's Child** television feature has been spotlighting area waiting children on Rochester's 13WHAM News.
6. Since 2007, CAP has received grants from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to implement a **Wendy's Wonderful Kids** effort. The Foundation has awarded grants to local adoption organizations throughout the U.S. Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters execute aggressive, child-focused recruitment efforts targeted exclusively at placing children in foster care with adoptive families.
7. CAP is a founding member of The Adoption Exchange Association and Voice for Adoption. Both are coalitions of organizations and child welfare advocates that address the urgent needs of waiting children nationwide.
8. The **HandsOn Hearts** mentoring program is a new initiative. CAP and Successful Pathways (a Rochester, NY, nonprofit organization) are collaborating to provide mentors for children in the foster care system and other at-risk youth.
9. **Post Adoption Services** consist of the Council of Adoptive Parents, a foundation program of CAP. The Council of Adoptive Parents is a dynamic group of foster and adoptive parents who provide each other with encouragement and support through all stages of the adoption process.
10. CAP provides **training services**, developed by professionals with extensive experience related to foster care and adoption. These courses are open to public and private agencies.

Vision

A loving adoptive family is found for every child waiting in foster care.

Mission

Find loving adoptive families for children waiting in foster care. Advocate nationally for adoption by bringing attention to the children, by promoting interest among people who could become permanent adoptive families, and by encouraging adoption friendly policies.