

# 2009 Annual Report



CHILDREN  
AWAITING PARENTS **LIFT  
THE  
WAIT**



## It's been a good year!

While there are challenges and barriers still for the children who wait; it's been a good year. It is my pleasure to use this report to recognize those people who have supported Children Awaiting Parents during the fiscal year April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The finances reflected here are for that period of time. The programs, services and events described are through November 2009.

We are pleased to have served, both online and in print, more than 700 children across the country. Of those served, more than 258 of the longest waiting children now have "forever families" - It's been a good year! Our small staff of eight took calls and email inquiries from more than 2,136 families interested in our children. Our ability and willingness to answer phones directly and respond quickly and personally to all email requests, continues to be a strength for the organization. This is a true comfort to families helping to Lift the Wait for these amazing children.

The Judge Wagner Heart Gallery has traveled across upstate New York to libraries and other public areas to feature the children. The month of November, as National Adoption Month, was busy for the staff as well as the Heart Gallery. We continue to be grateful to the Strong National Museum of Play for hosting the gallery. This year we featured

40 children from New York and Florida at this location. What a perfect location to feature children waiting for families. Last year, a woman saw a child featured at Strong Museum of Play and today, they are in the process of becoming a family. It's been a good year!

Child-specific recruitment works. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has been compiling data to show this through their work with the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program. The data shows that the work pays off. We're getting ready to add to our caseload because the children we serve are being matched with families and resources they did not have before. Like many others across the country, CAP's finances suffered when the market plummeted this year. While it is promising that there are signs of recovery, we continue to be prudent about costs and intentional about how we use the precious dollars given to us. While there are still very real concerns for people about what will happen to our economy, I'd like to close with a little perspective.

We work with a young lady who is seeking a forever family. She is in fact in a pre-adoptive home but...she's a teenager and, well, acting like a teenager. She participated in a local adoption conference and was part of a panel discussion along with other teens. During that session she said "kids don't put up walls to keep people out; they put them up to see who cares enough to climb up over them." For the children who have waited the longest for homes, I think that she got it right. We continue to support those that strive to climb over walls to change the life of a child. Together we can make every year a good year for the children who wait for a family of their own. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Soule". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Mark W. Soule, Executive Director

# Generous Individual Donors

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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Ms. Kristen D. Clark  
Ms. Natasha Clark  
Ms. Candyce Colonna  
Ms. Lisa Cox  
Ms. Judith Coyne  
Mr. Kyle Crispo  
Mr. Zalman Dass  
Ms. Felicia Davis  
Yomara Delgado  
Ms. Sara A. Defries  
Mr. Steven Diaz  
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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](mailto:news@capbook.org). Thank you.



## A Waiting Child

**Wyatt** is described as a laid-back, easy going youth who loves jazz music. He likes arts and crafts, playing video games (especially Super Mario Bros, Wii and Nintendo 64), and working on the computer. Wyatt is quickly learning how to work with photos on the computer and he loves to create different images. He is described as an "adventurous eater" as he loves to eat salmon, Chinese food, chicken and crab. His favorite animals are "a wolverine and a white rabbit." In 7th grade special education classes, he loves all his subjects. Wyatt's hope for the future is to be adopted by a loving and patient family. He has stated that he is also looking for "a friend who can cheer me up when I am low and calm me down when I am upset."



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Manager

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Community Volunteer

## Staff

(Left to Right)

Mark Soule, Pat Burks, Ilona Frederick, Gretchen Wood, David Carsel, & Veronica Black (Top Row)  
Sarah Viggiani & Melanie Marciano (Bottom Row)



### 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.



(Left to Right) Mark Latture, Justin, Jeff Lake & dog Ginger

## Kids Need Real Parents

At the time he met his forever family, Justin was doing very well in his 11th grade high school classes and hoped to attend college to pursue his love of science. All he needed was a permanent family to encourage him in his interests and provide him with the stability and love to accomplish his dreams.

Mark Latture and Jeff Lake know how difficult it is to be on your own as a teenager. Jeff's father passed away when he was only 16 and his mother left him to fend for himself. Mark's father passed when he was six and his mother died when he was 18, partway through his freshman year of college. When Mark and Jeff began thinking about adoption, they decided that they wanted to provide a permanent family to a youth who was approximately the same age they were when they were first on their own.

Adoption programs and organizations, including Children Awaiting Parents, have played an important role in helping Mark and Jeff through their adoption journey and in making it possible for Justin to have a permanent

family. Justin's case was assigned to Rebecca Jentzer, Children Awaiting Parent's Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, and she worked diligently to find Justin his forever family. After Rebecca made contact with Jeff and Mark, she found they had an interest in Justin and the family submitted their homestudy and a photo booklet. Although Rebecca knew that Justin had previously mentioned that he would not want to be placed with a gay couple, she was amazed at the couple's similarities to Justin and felt she had to present them to Justin. Hesitant at first, Justin looked at the family's photo booklet and decided he wanted to meet Mark and Jeff.

Justin came into foster care when he was 14 years old. Thanks to Mark and Jeff's commitment to adopting an older youth, Justin, age 18, finally found his forever family. Mark and Jeff first met Justin in New York and he moved in to their home the summer before his senior year of high school. Mark and Jeff chose to finalize Justin's adoption in New York because the state would allow both parents to adopt him.

In Ohio, only one of Justin's parents would have been allowed to adopt.

As a gay couple who adopted a teenager, Mark and Jeff believe they are a somewhat rare kind of family. However, they are also very much like other families. Mark, Jeff, and Justin all get along well and enjoy spending time together—whether they're watching TV, playing video games, going to the movies, or having a family dinner. Since adopting Justin, Mark and Jeff have seen that their parenting styles differ from each other. Although those differences in styles caused some conflicts early on, they make a good parenting team now. Since finalizing Justin's adoption, the family has also found the adoption subsidy to be a valuable source of support, especially in helping cover some of the extra expenses involved in raising a teenager.

With so many children and youth in temporary foster care, Jeff and Mark remind us all of the core issue for all children who are waiting to be adopted: "Kids need real parents."

## Organization Donors

Bridgewater Associates  
Brooke Banbury Trust  
Catholic Family Center  
ChamberlainD' Amanda  
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Constellation Wines  
Copilevitz & Canter, LLC Attorneys at Law  
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Genesee Valley - Henrietta Lodge #2290  
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Heveron & Heveron CPA's  
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The US Charitable Gift Trust  
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## Foundation Grants

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption  
Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation  
Google  
Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust  
Neotrope  
Polisseni Family Foundation  
Rochester Female Charitable Society  
Seneca Foods Foundation

## Financial Summary For Annual Report:

	2009	2008
Support and Revenue:		
Gifts, Grants and Contributions	\$267,758	\$295,262
In-Kind Services	19,000	19,065
Special Events, Net of Direct Expenses	20,702	40,731
CAP Book Subscriptions	1,170	260
Child Registration Fees	24,400	29,600
Investment Income	22,073	30,569
Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(422,607)	(30,778)
Total Support and Revenue	67,504	384,709
Expenses:		
Program Services	403,717	370,733
Management and General	58,583	71,083
Fundraising	31,604	26,687
Total Expenses	493,904	468,503
Balance Sheet:		
Excess (Deficit) of Support and Revenue over Expenses	(561,408)	(83,794)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	1,248,872	1,272,666
Fund Balance - End of Year	687,464	1,188,872
Cash and Investments - End of Year	706,163	1,197,152

  
**CHILDREN**  
**AWAITING PARENTS** **LIFT THE WAIT**

Children Awaiting Parents, Inc.  
595 Blossom Road, Suite 306 • Rochester, NY 14610

888.835.8802 or 585.232.5110

Fax: 585.232.2634

Email: [info@capbook.org](mailto:info@capbook.org) • [www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org](http://www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org)