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National Adoption Center®

There are no unwanted children, just unfound families®

E-Newsletter

November Edition 2011



Dear Friends,

The other day, I heard an expert on public health and nutrition talk about "food insecurity." It's the term she used to describe children who are anxious, unable to focus, at risk of illness because they wake up hungry in the morning and stay that way all day. In cities like Baltimore, Minneapolis and Philadelphia, doctors have seen the numbers of hungry kids double in the past two years. Children in a fourth grade class in New Jersey wrote that "hunger is like a hollow tree with no warmth."

It made me think that hunger has many faces. Sometimes it comes because there is no food. Sometimes it comes because there is no mom or dad to wipe away a tear or say, "I love you no matter what." That's the kind of child we see at the National Adoption Center, the child who says what all of them feel-- "The emptiness makes me feel lonely. It makes me want to cry."

This is National Adoption Month. We want to make the children stop crying, stop feeling empty, stop waking up hungry for the family they want so much.

Not everyone can adopt. But anyone can make adoption possible. If every person reading this message would make a [gift](#) to the Adoption Center in celebration of this special month, it would help us spread the word that nearly 110,000 children in our country wait to be adopted. If we all work together, more children won't wake up hungry anymore. They will feel cozy and secure, wrapped in the love of the family they want and deserve.

On their behalf, I thank you.

Ken Mullner
Executive Director



SAVE THE DATE!



To commemorate the National Adoption Center's 40th anniversary, Carolyn Johnson, the Center's founder, and Alba Martinez, a dynamic child and adoption advocate, will be inducted into the Adoption Hall of Fame.

Join us to honor them and to bid on unique works of art, created by local artists and inspired by stories of children who have lived in foster care. Live and silent auction, cocktail reception and gourmet dinner.

For more information, call 215-735-9988 x 343 or [click here](#).



40th Anniversary Premier Sponsor

CELEBRATING FAMILIES

Ezra, Jamie, Lucas, and siblings, Alaina, Isaiah, and Jonathan have something in common. They were all foster children dreaming of a family to love and keep them safe. That dream has come true for each of these children! All of them told their story, shared their dreams and opened up so their personalities could shine through during one or more of the recruitment opportunities we gave them - efforts like Freddie Mac Foundation's Wednesday's Child feature where Jane and John Thomas first saw a photo of the siblings they adopted. They knew in that moment they needed to meet the teens. The rest is history!



(L to R) Photo 1: Ezra a happy, popular high school senior loves football and is looking forward to attending college. Photo 2: Lucas and his adoptive parents, David and Nancy, say their favorite family activities are simply playing cards and spending time together laughing and telling stories.



(L to R) Photo 3: The Thomas family - Jordan, Isaiah, Jonathan, Jane, John, and Alaina (sitting), say their favorite thing is spending time together as a family (including Jane's four adult children who are not pictured here). Photo 4: Jaime is all smiles on her adoption finalization day!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



[Lincoln Financial Foundation](#) has been a longstanding and generous supporter of NAC over the past nine years. The Foundation funds, among other things, organizations that enhance the quality of life in local communities and help individuals face their futures with confidence. NAC fits right in! Since 2002, Lincoln Financial has provided over \$235,000 to help the Center find homes for foster children. Perhaps equally important to the financial support provided, Patricia Daly, Chief Counsel, Lincoln Financial Network, has served on NAC's board since 2007. Patricia has taken on a leadership role with the board, is now Vice President and is a member of the executive committee.

We are grateful for Patricia and her invaluable contributions and for our strong partnership with Lincoln Financial Foundation. Together we can make a

difference in the lives of the thousands of foster children looking for homes to call their own.

EVENTS

November is National Adoption Month!

We are busy this month with activities to promote adoption awareness and efforts to inspire and educate the community about foster care adoption.

- Every day during the month of November, [NAC's homepage \(www.adopt.org\)](http://www.adopt.org) will feature children and youth available for adoption. On "Success Fridays" families and children who have been united through adoption will be featured. Please join us each day in November as we celebrate National Adoption Month and pay tribute to the forever families formed through adoption.
- Keep your eyes open while out and about in Center City Philadelphia as we are hosting adoption information tables from 11am - 2pm. Our Adoption Coordinators will be on hand to provide you with adoption information, answer your inquiries and will be highlighting select youth who are in need of adoption.

Where:

November 11th - Shops at Liberty Place, 1625 Chestnut St.

November 18th - Comcast Center at 1701 J.F.K. Blvd.

- NAC will light up the sky November 19th through the 21st on the PECO Crown Lights in Center City Philadelphia!

AdoptMatch.org webinars

AdoptMatch.org is a free online national database that matches prospective adoptive parents with adoption agencies that best fit their needs. If you are from an adoption agency and are looking for more families to adopt children in your care, join our webinar to learn how our free service, AdoptMatch.org can

help you.

Thursday, November 10 at 2pm

Thursday, November 17 at 2 pm

For more information or to register, contact Alexandra Buczek at 215-735-9988 x 353 or abuczek@adopt.org

ADOPTION MOBILE ALERTS

Join our Adoption Mobile Alerts List!

Text **NAC** to **27138**

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Adoption Mobile alerts will be sent to your mobile phone 2x a month with timely adoption information.

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