



Adoption & Children's Service

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Donaldson Adoption Institute

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Remember to tell your families and friends if they are interested in adoption that our **FREE** Orientations are held every first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in our Port Chester Office.

Upcoming

Orientations:

November 6, 2013

December 4, 2013

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

November is here and that means it's National Adoption Month! This month's newsletter is a special edition, highlighting events celebrating and promoting adoption. Those of us who think about, talk about, and support adoption all the time get a national platform for what we already know but many do not--adoption can be a wonderful way to build a family.

Mia Diamond Padwa



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

November 23, 2013

National Adoption Day is an extraordinary day during an already amazing month celebrating

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adoption. All over the country, courtrooms are setting aside a day to perform adoption finalizations of children previously in foster care. In many jurisdictions, the National Adoption Day incorporates a celebration of adoption complete with balloons and cake. As for presents, the adoptive parents receive the best gift of all-a child to love. The children adopted receive the birthright of every child-a permanent loving family. To see get more information about National Adoption Day celebrations near you, [Click Here.](#)



ADOPTION NEWS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Here in Westchester County, National Adoption Month is celebrated with pride. Judge Kathie Davidson takes a day out of her busy schedule in Family Court to give children what every child deserves-a safe, loving, permanent home. On the Friday before Thanksgiving, this year, November 22nd, the Court hosts its own Adoption Day. This year's will be the 10th annual Adoption Day. The Department of Social Services currently predicts that 15-17 children currently in foster care will be permanently adopted on that day.

That's not all that's happening in Westchester. The Westchester County Department of Social Services will host its annual Heart Gallery, Dec. 3 - 5, 2013 at the Greenburgh Public Library. This is a travelling showcase of portraits to raise

awareness about children available for adoption. The point is to show each child as he or she really is - a wonderful child in need of a second chance.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 6, prospective adoptive families will have two choices of information meetings about different adoption pathways. At 6pm, Adoption Specialist Elizabeth Phillips, LMSW, will offer an Orientation meeting to present adoption options offered through Family Services of Westchester. Liz will review FSW's adoption tracks for domestic infants, children in foster care, and international children, and provide a thorough explanation of the homestudy process for each. This meeting will be held at A&CS' office at One Gateway Plaza, Port Chester, NY 10573. For those using a GPS or other traffic guidance system, it is helpful to use the address 55 South Main Street. [Click Here](#) for directions.



If you can't make it to Port Chester by 6pm, A&CS Director Mia Diamond Padwa will be presenting an information meeting entitled "All Roads Lead Home," at 7pm, at the Riverdale YMWHA at 5625 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, New York 10471. This meeting will include a discussion of the differences between domestic and international adoption pursuits, and how to make the best adoption decision for your family. [Click Here](#) for directions.



ADOPTION CONFERENCES

[New Jersey:](#)

Registration is available now for the "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference on Saturday, November 9, from 8am-4pm on the Rutgers University Busch Campus. This year's keynote address is entitled, "To Have and To Hold; Learning the Dance of Attachment." Speaker Holly Van



Gulden, author of "Real Parents, Real Children" will discuss the building blocks of attachment-permanence and constancy. To register online, [Click here](#)



New York:

The tri-state area's biggest adoption event, the Adoptive Parents' Committee Conference, will take place in Brooklyn, New York. This all-day event, held annually on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, brings together hundreds of people from the adoption community at one location to learn and discuss all things adoption related. Keynote speaker Kim Stevens will open with "The Journey of Adoption," from 9:00-10:15am. She is an adoptive mother and works for the North American Council on Adoptable Children. There will be 75 workshops throughout the day on such topics as Adopting Transracially, Adopting over 50, Birthparent Perspective, Adoption and the Internet, and many more. New this year-A&CS Director Mia Diamond Padwa will appear on a Workshop panel discussing Domestic Adoption: Agency vs. Independent Placement, from 12:15-1:15pm. Don't miss it! This year's conference will take place on November 24, at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY. For further information, go [Here](#)

HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR FOSTER/ADOPTED CHILDREN

FSW was the lucky beneficiary of a fun Halloween



event for foster/adopted children, generously given by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- Westchester Alumnae Chapter, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The children at the party came from both the Adoption & Children's Services and Therapeutic Foster Care

programs. They enjoyed a pizza dinner, fun Halloween crafts such as Pin-the-Tail on the Pumpkin, Halloween-themed Freeze Dancing, and photo-frame decorating, followed by an ice cream social. The children got to wear their Halloween costumes and enjoy a special evening. In the words of one child there, "This is so fun!" Thanks to the sorority and fraternity volunteers for putting together this special evening and bringing it to FSW.

FUN FOR FAMILIES

For those of you with photos of your own little ghosts and goblins, Adoptive Families Magazine is sponsoring its annual Halloween Photo Contest. [Click here](#) for more information.



PHOTO CONTEST

DONATE

Please consider donating to Adoption & Children's Services of Family Services of Westchester. Your generosity fuels the important work we do on behalf of children and families. Thank you in advance for your support.

DONATE NOW



Our Mission:

Family Services of Westchester, founded in 1954, offers a broad range of social and mental health services to strengthen and support families, children and individuals at every stage of the life cycle, from infancy to adulthood.

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