

Helping kids find their forever

Family



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022
May 1, 2021–April 30, 2022

NCFA
National Council For Adoption

Letter from the President

“Adoption isn’t easy. It’s emotional and draining and the most exhausting thing my husband and I have ever done. I never imagined some of the struggles we’ve gone through with our son, but adoption is also the most rewarding experience of my life. I can’t imagine life without my son.”

I think about those words often, shared with NCFA by a parent who participated in Profiles in Adoption, a groundbreaking, game-changing survey of adoption experiences that you helped make possible. I’m glad to have a chance to tell you more about it — and to introduce myself.

Last fall, NCFA’s longtime president and CEO Chuck Johnson announced his intention to step away after nearly eighteen years. I worked closely with Chuck for five years before his departure, spearheading research, member services, and education projects, and I was proud to be named as his successor in May 2022.

Before joining NCFA, I worked as the executive director for an agency, so I was able to understand what adoption professionals need to do their jobs well. I also have experience with foster care casework and with child protective services, so I’ve also seen how great the need is for stability, safety, and permanency for our most vulnerable children. And since my wife Laurel and I are parents to four children, the youngest of whom joined our family through adoption, I’m also fortunate to have a father’s perspective.

It’s because of these experiences that I’m so profoundly grateful for the support that our donors and partners have given to NCFA. It’s because of you that children are finding safe places to call home and families are bonding and thriving even in the midst of great challenges.

This annual report details how we’ve achieved that, together, during our 2022 fiscal year, which ended on April 30th. It shares how your support has made the difference for thousands of children and families, from headline-making emergencies like children caught up in the war in Ukraine, to the quiet desperation of parents seeking and finding help for a child’s mental health diagnosis.

Tens of thousands of children in the U.S, however, and tens of millions worldwide still wait for a home to call their own and a family to love them forever. New research that you’ve made possible shows us where the gaps are, and over the year ahead, with your help, we’ll move to fill those gaps.

Adoption isn’t easy — but because of you, we’re helping families find their way.
Thank you.

Sincerely,


Dr. Ryan Hanlon
President & CEO



NCFA IS ACE-APPROVED!



We're now an Approved Continuing Education provider for the Association of Social Work Boards. This sought-after designation certifies the high quality of our adoption education programs and allows NCFA to offer continuing education credits, which are essential for child welfare professionals to maintain their licensure, for all our programming.

NCFA launched eight new adoption education webinars in fiscal year 2022, which were taken by 1,713 professionals and parents.

The webinar provided valuable content for families navigating the adoption process and making it less overwhelming."



FOR PARENTS

- Adoption 101
- Adoption Finance 101



FOR PROFESSIONALS

- Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) for Adoption Professionals
- Hague Compliance in Intercountry Adoption
- Best Practices in Home Study Assessment, Parts 1 and 2



FOR BOTH *"Thank you for bringing forward adoptees' voices!"*

- Navigating Anti-Asian Racism: Tools for the Adoption Community
- Contemporary Realities in Search and Reunion

National Adoption Conference 2021

Three days, 25 sessions, 606 attendees

NCFA's annual conference was again held virtually last year, to meet the needs of adoption social workers and service providers who needed to meet their continuing education requirements. We introduced two distinct tracks: a Clinical track tailored for those who provide direct service, focusing on topics like mental health, and a Management and Leadership track to help agency leadership navigate new challenges.

"It is hard to find adoption specific training. We have participated for the past two years and both times have walked about with many ideas (and excitement) about how to improve our services."

Profiles in Adoption

adoptioncouncil.org/profiles

Last year, as we looked to launch new services for the adoption community, we realized that the information we had about adoptive families — what challenges they face, and what they need to thrive — was both incomplete and outdated. Friends and partners all over the country jumped in to help us reach the widest audience possible with our survey of adoptive parents, and in the end, we collected 4,200 responses representing 6,600+ adoptions — making this the largest study of adoptive households ever completed.

The survey encompasses more than 200 possible questions covering every facet of the adoption experience. Parents were asked about:

- perceptions of and attitudes toward adoption prior to beginning the process
- any barriers they may have faced to starting the process
- what resources helped them to learn more and answer any questions
- their family dynamics prior to the adoption
- what factors led to their decision to adopt, including questions about their motivations
- experiences with their adoption agency and related service providers, including the length and cost of the process
- any subsidies or other financial assistance received
- the availability, quality, and utilization of any post-adoption services
- how the adoption process affected their work and vice versa, including whether they received adoption benefits or practical support from their employers
- their child's intellectual, emotional, and physical development and adjustment following adoption
- the extent and quality of contact with their child's birth family
- experiences with adopting a child from a different race or culture
- their education levels and professional attainment; economic and demographic categories; religion and religious practice; military service or veteran status; marital satisfaction; and presence of other children in the home.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Adoption has changed a lot in this generation.

- The cost of an adoption continues to increase, particularly in private domestic adoption, where the cost has doubled.
- Contact between the adoptive and birth family is much more common, and increasingly the norm in private domestic adoption.
- Most children adopted from other countries since 2014 have a special need.

Adoptive parents find their experiences to be challenging, but rewarding.

- Large percentages of adoptees receive therapeutic services or education accommodations — and their parents report they also have very positive educational outcomes.
- A large majority of adoptive parents who have a child of a different race or ethnicity participate in activities — like holiday traditions — that incorporate elements of the child's race, ethnicity, and culture.
- Adoptive parents reported they would still make the same decision to adopt their child and adoption satisfaction rates were quite high across all types of adoption.

WHAT'S NEXT WITH THESE RESULTS?

- Working with member agencies to point them toward unmet needs expressed in our survey results, so they can better prepare new adoptive parents for what to expect and strengthen their post-adoption support services.
- Meeting with Members of Congress, the U.S. State Department, and other policymakers to help them understand what adoptive families need and bring down barriers to adoption identified in the survey — and especially what steps we can take to lower the cost of an adoption.
- Correcting misinformation and dispelling myths to help more people both understand the challenges and realities of adoption, and to embrace it as a positive option
- Developing new adoption education resources to help more families start their adoption journeys.

STAY TUNED

The second phase of Profiles in Adoption, a study of the experiences of birth parents, is now underway. Early in 2023, we'll launch the third phase, talking to adult adoptees to get their views.



Scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone to read the full details on Phase 1 of our Profiles in Adoption report.

Safe at Home: A Ball at Nationals Park

Congratulations to all those
honored at Safe at Home
Wayne and Linda Sharp, Ruby
Lee Piester Adoption Award

Akin Gump Strauss
Hauer & Feld LLP,
Adoption Hall of Fame

Chuck Johnson, Adoption
Hall of Fame

Stacey and Kevin Reynolds,
Friend of Adoption

Together, we hit a home run for adoption! On April 30, 2022, friends of adoption from throughout the country gathered at Washington D.C.'s Nationals Park for a delayed, family-friendly celebration of NCFE's 40th anniversary.

The evening opened with a program on the field, as a diverse group of special guests talked about the many ways that adoption has shaped and changed their lives. More than 450 attendees enjoyed the ballpark throughout the night, with the event raising \$545,000 over two years to support core programming and new initiatives at NCFE!



"He calls me and he says, DeMarcus, have you ever considered adoption?... Would you want it to be a girl or a boy? I said, it doesn't matter, I'm ready to bless a child. When I got that call, it was the most important call of my life....and for all those football fans, the Dallas Cowboys call was second. I want to thank everybody for this award but also for letting me share my story of how amazing adoption is and how it will change your life." –DeMarcus Ware, adoptive parent and former NFL player

"I saw Sandra Bullock on TV talking about adoption. I googled her age. She was my age!... And then I wondered, why not me? ... I took out a yellow pad and I wrote, 11:26 am. This is when my life changes. And the two greatest words on the face of the earth came out of her mouth — you know what they were? — she's here." —Hoda Kotb, adoptive parent and Co-Host, The TODAY Show



"And this journey for me and my family has been filled with love, and it'll forever be my favorite love story." –Kitty Carruthers Conrad, adoptee and adoptive parent, Olympic figure skater

Thank you to all our sponsors for Safe At Home: A Ball at Nationals Park – including those who kept faith with us from our canceled spring 2020 event! Your support is moving closer to a world in which every child, everywhere, can be safe at home with a loving, permanent family.

Home Plate

The Opt Institute
Morgridge Family
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Coach's Box

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Dr. Dana Johnson
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Academy of Adoption
and Assisted
Reproduction Attorneys
David & Martha Foster
Ann Loudon
Monte & Todd Monash
The Newell Family
Cathy & Michael
Gildenhorn

Jacky & Jeff Copeland
Otolaryngology
Associates
Joan & Howard Katz
Bare Family Fund
Kirton McConkie
Adam Bataran and Family



See a video of the evening's highlights —
including our special guest speakers!

Answering a Crisis Half a World Away

When war broke out last winter in Ukraine, NCFA staff saw a flood of phone calls and emails from terrified parents-to-be and adoption professionals who didn't know how to help them.

At least 200 U.S. families were already in the process to adopt children from Ukraine, and overnight, many of them didn't know where those children were, whether they were safe, and when or if they might ever get to bring them home.

For others, the war brought up deep fears and complex emotional trauma — those adopted from Ukraine worried about the safety of biological family members, whether or not they'd ever met.

One young woman shared with us the fear that her biological mother might be killed before they'd ever had the chance to find one another and form a relationship. Others, adopted from Russia before that country closed its doors to U.S. families last decade, struggled with feelings of guilt and shame.

**As one adoptive family told us,
“Because of you, we didn't feel alone.”**

NCFA's government relations team leveraged decades of relationships and experience working with national and international authorities to help these families get information and find answers.

We also hosted a series of conversations with concerned families and the dedicated adoption professionals who serve them, helping them understand the situation and seek appropriate support.

There isn't yet a happy ending to this story. Many families are still waiting, but because of your support for NCFA, they don't wait alone.

NCFA's member agencies report that last year, they:

Completed adoptions for 3,173 families, including 1,396 intercountry adoptions and 1,041 adoptions from foster care

Counseled 3,986 expectant parents and served 2,919 birth parents


Provided additional services (homestudy and/or post placement) for 6,361 families




Nearly 400 members of Congress in 46 states were reached by over 830 constituents through 2,779 adoption advocacy actions on NCFA's website advocacy platform in FY22.

We know that a quarter of Americans consider adopting at some point in their lives. It's urgent that we help more of them take the next step — unparented children the world over are counting on it. NCFA's advocacy is focused on lowering the cost to adopt, reducing unhelpful regulation, and pulling down barriers to adoption.

In FY22, NCFA staff held 47 meetings with congressional offices

 "As a prospective, middle-income adoptive parent, the Adoption Tax Credit will allow me the financial opportunity to adopt siblings instead of a single child, which will result in less children left waiting for loving homes. There are tens of thousands of families like mine and hundreds of thousands of foster children whose lives will improve and whose families will come together through this tax credit."

 In May, we released Adoption by the Numbers, a regular research study that provides the only comprehensive count of the number of adoptions by type and by state. The report shows troubling trends between 2019 and 2020.

- private domestic adoptions declined 24%
- adoptions from foster care declined 13%
- intercountry adoptions declined another 45%, continuing a multi-year decline, which resulted in the lowest number of intercountry adoptions ever in a single year

In FY22, NCFA made sure that the perspectives and experiences of adoptive parents, adopted individuals, and expectant and birth parents showed up in these national media outlets.



The Washington Post

Newsweek

yahoo!news



FORTUNE





Financial Reporting

Income - FY22

Contributions and grants	\$762,213
Program revenue	\$169,389
Building sale proceeds	\$1,853,709
Other income	\$11,683
Total Income, FY22	\$2,796,994

Expenses

Program Services	\$631,807
Management and General	\$468,586
Fundraising	\$129,667
Total Expenses, FY22	\$1,230,060

Memorial gifts were kindly made to NCFA FY22 to honor the lives and legacies of these individuals:

Joseph Galm
Jeffrey Mayden
Glenda Wallace

The following individuals are helping secure the future of adoption as Charter Contributors to the Families For All Development Fund:

Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Sharp
Leigh and Robert Bowman
Heidi Bruegel Cox
Dr. Dana Johnson
William Rosen III
Lisa Sinclair

Catherine Sharp
Stephen and Peggy Sharp
Steven Sunday, Pamela Stevenson
Mike and Maggie Thorne
Gary and Mary Beth Walker

Help us find a forever family for more kids

MAKE A GIFT THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE

Many employers offer payroll deductions or matching gifts to increase the impact of your support. Check with your human resources office to see if these options are offered. NCFA is registered for workplace gifts via United Way, Independent Charities of America (ICA), and the Combined Federal Campaign (ID # 12128).



Search this database for your employer to find matching opportunities.

SHOP FOR A CAUSE

Every little bit adds up! Set NCFA as your Amazon Smile charity and start here every time you shop on Amazon, and we'll receive .5 percent of your total. Prefer PayPal? Use the QR code to set us as your preferred charity and choose to round up your purchase whenever you check out.



Scan this code to set NCFA as your Amazon Smile recipient



Scan this code to set NCFA as your PayPal Giving Fund charity of choice

HOST AN ONLINE FUNDRAISER

Friends of adoption like you are the best advocates for our work, especially within your own social circle. It's easy to set up your own fundraiser for NCFA via your personal Facebook page. Celebrate a birthday, an adoption day, or special awareness opportunities like National Foster Care Month with a social media fundraiser.



Scan this code to create a Facebook fundraiser

CONTRIBUTE STOCK OR OTHER SECURITIES

Your broker may electronically deliver the gift of shares directly to our account at UBS using the following information: DTC #0221 to National Council For Adoption's account, #TS34816-DK, UBS Financial Services, 200 Park Avenue, 30th Floor, New York, New York 10166.

SECURE THE FUTURE OF ADOPTION

In early 2021, NCFA announced the culmination of a longtime organizational goal to create an investment fund that will help sustain our work until the day that it is no longer needed — until every child, everywhere has a permanent, loving family. Pledges and gifts are now being taken for the Families For All Development Fund, established by Dr. Wayne W. Sharp and Mrs. Linda Whitbeck Sharp. We invite you to discuss with us how you can become a Charter Contributor — call us at (703) 299-6633 or email mjudt@adoptioncouncil.org.



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