



*To all our special friends and families...*

To Our Friends & Family...  
A Letter from the Executive Director

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful 2013 and many blessings for this year. There is lots of great news to share with you and we ask that you take a few minutes to read our newsletter. We have not circulated a newsletter in a few years and, for that, we apologize.

Our goal is to keep you up to date with agency news and adoption information. How do we propose to do that?

Well, we recently hired a Communications Director back in September. Her responsibilities include website content & newsletter updates, collateral material distribution, social media, and partnership development among other things.

As other news goes, we had a great 2013 and are gearing up for continued success in 2014. Currently, we are at nearly 60% capacity for adoptive parents and are actively seeking to raise that percentage.

We are building our brand awareness and strategically spending on what we consider to be effective advertising strategies.

We invite you to visit our newly updated website at [www.adoptionalliance.com](http://www.adoptionalliance.com), like us on Facebook ("Adoption Alliance"), and/or follow up on Pinterest ([www.pinterest.com/adoptalliance/boards/](http://www.pinterest.com/adoptalliance/boards/)) & Twitter (@adoptalliance). We also have brochures and flyers available for distribution. They outline our services and cover general information regarding adoption.

Additionally, if you or anyone you know would like to make The Adoption Alliance your charity of choice, please remember the Adoption Alliance is a 501 c 3 Non-Profit Corporation, which makes any donation tax deductible. As always, we are grateful for everyone's support.

We wish you, your family and friends a happy and healthy 2014!

Warmest Regards,

Justin Johnson  
Executive Director

*Our Staff*

*Texas Office*

- ❖ **Justin Johnson**  
*Executive Director*
- ❖ **Natalie Carrizales**  
*Caseworker*
- ❖ **Donna Enders**  
*Administrative Assistant*
- ❖ **Mariah Fink**  
*Communications Director*
- ❖ **Yolanda Worlds**  
*Director of Case Management*

*Iowa Office*

- ❖ **Stacie Wiederin-Schmidt**  
*Director of Client Services*

[www.adoptionalliance.com](http://www.adoptionalliance.com)

## *Adoption News*

### *Positive Placement Highlight*

Our Baby Girl, given to us by a loving birth mother and the grace of God. But let me tell you her story, for she is a May baby, not December. This was our first Christmas with her, loving her, and thanking all who helped us get her. My husband and I had tried for two years to have a child. We spent 18 months working with an agency to adopt internationally in Colombia. We would have our hopes rise, only to be dashed in disappointment when Colombia made changes to their program. Nevertheless, we continued to prepare ourselves for that special day when we would have a child of our own. We continued to research and were directed to The Adoption Alliance. We made the call in early October 2012 and before the month was done, our paperwork was complete and our profile book was ready to go!

Five months later, we received a call from The Adoption Alliance. A young birthmother had just chosen us that morning and was due in less than 5 weeks. By the weekend, we made the 5 hour drive to visit the birthmother. We were astonished when we saw her. She was young and oh so very pretty. She had the most pleasant persona and, as difficult as it was to probably meet us, she was very honest and open. We shared conversations and many laughs over Italian food for nearly three hours. We talked about her wishes for the baby and promised that we would provide a true foundation for our baby girl to grow and thrive. She and I departed with happy tears that we found each other.

Fast forward five weeks, our gorgeous and very happy baby girl is born. I was in the delivery room as my husband paced the hallways of the hospital. Delivery took less than 15 minutes, but if you ask my husband, he'll say he was waiting for hours for an update. During the delivery, I talked with her about anything I could think of to distract her from the pain. When a tear slid down her cheek upon hearing the baby's first cry, I knew I would cherish that moment which evidenced her generosity and love for a child she was giving to us. As I wiped her tear, she urged me to go to the nurses and check on the baby. I held the baby in my arms and she instantly opened her eyes. What a miracle!

Fast forward another 6 months. In mid-December, we finalized the adoption. We look back and, while she has always been our baby girl, now she is truly ours with our names on her birth certificate. We've come to realize how we are bonded in love, how important we are to each other and how close we will become as she grows into a toddler, a child, and finally a young woman. Our hearts practically burst with love. The Attorney asked us before the Judge, "Are you ready to take care of her till she turns 57 years old? My husband humorously replied, "We are going to have to build an addition to the house, but whatever it takes." And so, our baby girl has become our best Christmas present ever and our Christmas miracle.

The Adoption Alliance has been the best agency to work with and it took exactly 7 months from our profile going live to the day we brought our baby girl home.

**If you would like your adoption story to be featured in one of our newsletters**

**OR**

**If you have any topic suggestions for future newsletters, please do not hesitate to contact Mariah Fink at [mariah@adoptionalliance.com](mailto:mariah@adoptionalliance.com)**