



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

*A Letter from the Communications Director*

Greetings! We hope you're having a great year so far and are enjoying your summer! There is lots of great news to share with you and we ask that you take a few minutes to read our newsletter. As we mentioned in the last newsletter, our goal is to keep you up to date with agency news and adoption information.

Our agency is always looking for ways to get involved in our local community and let those around us know we are here to help in any way we can. After brainstorming some possible projects, we decided a clothing & toy drive would be a great way to give back. However, we were hoping you might be able to help us in our venture as well. Please consider sending us any clothing, jackets, shoes, or toys that your child (ren) has outgrown. You can ship them to us (or, if you live in the area, drop them by during office hours). We are more than happy to provide you with a generic tax letter so that you are able to write off the donation. Our plan is to distribute everything we collect to local non-profit organizations who service families in need of these items.

Other simple ways to help our agency include:

- ❖ Engage with us on social media (Facebook: "Adoption Alliance," Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/adoptalliance/boards/](http://www.pinterest.com/adoptalliance/boards/), Twitter: @adoptalliance)
- ❖ Hop online and give us a review on city search, google, yahoo, yelp
  - **This really helps us gain online traction and hopefully generate more business as a result**
- ❖ Keep your contact info up to date with us
- ❖ Refer your family & friends our way

On another note, we have some exciting agency announcements:

- ❖ Our website was recently re-done - a complete makeover and it looks great! We invite you to check it out for yourself at [www.adoptionalliance.com](http://www.adoptionalliance.com).
- ❖ Film class students from San Antonio College, Northwest Vista, recently partnered with our agency to produce an original promotional video. The video can be found on our website and features some of the current staff.

We wish you, your family and friends a wonderful summer. Keep a look out for another newsletter in November - that one will be highlighting Adoption Awareness Month!

Warmest Regards,

Mariah Fink  
Communications Director

### Our Staff

#### *Texas Office*

- ❖ **Justin Johnson**  
*Executive Director*
- ❖ **Bridget Baker**  
*Intern*
- ❖ **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

We wanted to take the time to share with you some recent news headlines on adoption.

### *What has been happening in the world of adoption?*

**\*For clarification purposes, our agency is not taking any stance on the news coverage we are sharing with you. We are only reporting highlights of what has been in the media as of late.\***

- ❖ New York adoptees continue to fight for access to their birth certificates. This has been a heated debate, especially as of late. The argument for releasing birth certificates to adoptees is so they can know where they came from as well as have a glimpse into their medical history, especially if an illness plagues them.

If you would like to read more on this, please visit [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/16/nyregion/adopted-children-fight-for-access-to-birth-certificates.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/16/nyregion/adopted-children-fight-for-access-to-birth-certificates.html?_r=0)

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- ❖ Mormon family 18 children, 9 of which are adopted. A recent article about the family chronicles their life and their passion for adoption.

If you would like to read more on this, please visit <http://m.deseretnews.com/article/865605394/Utah-Mormon-parents-of-18-children-share-story-of-love-family-and-adoption.html?ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F>

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- ❖ Luxembourg is the latest country to approve same-sex marriage and adoption rights.

If you would like to read more on this, please visit <http://urbantimes.co/2014/06/luxembourg-samesex/>

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- ❖ Scissortailsilk.com publishes an editorial article on importance of choosing adoption, especially when birth parents feel they cannot parent.

If you would like to read more on this, please visit <http://www.scissortailsilk.com/2014/06/20/to-the-pregnant-woman-without-options/>

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- ❖ Desert News published an editorial article urging policy makers (and the general public) to continue educating themselves on the benefits on the adoption system, reminding readers that children's welfare and needs should come first.

If you would like to read more on this, please visit <http://m.deseretnews.com/article/865605588/Understanding-adoption-key-to-encouraging-public-support-for-this-vital-institution.html?ref=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.google.com%252F>

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)