



The Adoption Alliance

Our Staff

Texas Office

- DiAnn Ortiz
Administrative Assistant
- Mollie Frederick
Comptroller
- Shelly Thompson-Lindig
Caseworker
- Justin Johnson
Executive Director
- Traci Frederick
Foster Mother
- Geri Womack
Foster Mother

Iowa Office

- Stacie Wiederin-Schmidt
Director

To all our special friends and families...

The Adoption Alliance staff is extremely excited because 2008 has been another very rewarding and exciting year! All of our families who have been blessed with a placement this year can surely attest to that. To those of you who received your little blessing(s) previously, we know you remain thankful of the gift bestowed upon you as well. Once again, we would like to say thank you to all of our clients who have allowed us to play a role in building their families and giving us the opportunity to do such meaningful work.

We do realize that many people have faced difficult economic times this past year. We want to reassure everyone that the agency is doing everything we can to help more and more families. With your abiding support, we will continue to provide services for many years to come. 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 generosity.

We wish all of our clients a wonderful holiday and a joyous New Year! We would now like to give you an update on our office staff and their accomplishments.

Nevada Office

As most of you know, the agency's Nevada office was closed earlier this year. This was primarily due to the difficulty of meeting State staffing requirements. If you received a placement through our Nevada office, please send pictures and correspondence to the San Antonio office.

Texas Office

Justin Johnson, Executive Director, continues to improve upon the efficiency and internal organization of the agency. He and his wife, Leah, are expecting their first baby in February 2009!

Shelly Thompson-Lindig, agency case-worker, provides counseling, education and guidance to birth and adoptive parents during the adoption process. Shelly has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and previous adoption experience. She was recently married.

DiAnn Ortiz, administrative assistant, is the newest addition to our team. She is responsible for answering your phone calls and handles all correspondence. DiAnn and her husband are expecting their second child in February 2009.

Mollie Frederick, agency comptroller, handles bookkeeping and provides information to new adoptive parents. Mollie's ten years of adoption experience continues to be a great asset to our organization. Mollie's sister, Traci, is one of the agency's foster parents.

Iowa Office

Stacie Wiederin-Schmidt, Director / Administrator, has 18 years of valuable experience in the adoption arena. She continues to help adoptive parents through the application and approval process. Stacie and her husband added two adorable puppies to their family; Bevo and Vivian.



For "Parents in Waiting"

For those of you who are "Parents in Waiting", you may find yourselves getting nervous whenever your phone rings... Or when it doesn't ring... Wondering when you will receive the special news that you have been chosen by a birth mother. It WILL happen for you, but we realize "the wait" can be challenging. Please remember the average wait from the time of approval is 12 to 18 months. Adoptive parents can potentially decrease their wait time by re-evaluating their preferences of ethnicity, gender, medical conditions, etc. Of course, it is important to remain comfortable with your preferences, but this may be an area you would like to revisit if you have been waiting for awhile.

You may not believe this until it happens, but your child will find you at the right time. Please read the story of hope below from an adoptive mother who received her bundle of joy in November 2007.

The Miracle of our son, Benjamin

I had stopped going to baby showers because I couldn't handle it emotionally. I felt that I was somehow unlucky or that the Lord had forgotten about me. I knew that I had lived a good life as a Social Worker, running homeless shelters and Battered Women's Shelters and helping teenagers to get into College as a School Social Worker. I knew that I had sent out enough good Karma into the universe but I could not understand why it was not coming back to me. Everybody else had babies and experienced the joy of motherhood and family except me- I thought.

My husband and I had been waiting on a list to adopt our daughter from China for almost four years. My friend, who inspired us to do this, had adopted her daughter, Ella, from China. Ella was 8 years old and we were still on the list.

One day a friend of mine gave me a card that said "Adoption Specialist." My friend urged me to call the phone number on the card and ask for help. The Adoption Specialist turned out to be Caren Sue Peet, the New York Social Worker Representative for the Adoption Alliance. I later learned that Caren goes out of her way for everyone who she helps to adopt a child.

I know that this is unusual, but we finished our paperwork for The Adoption Alliance in September of 2007 and our son was born in November of 2007. My husband and I arrived in Texas 24 hours after our son's birth and we have been in love with our son ever since. The Adoption Alliance walked us through every step during our entire stay in Texas. There are no words to express the caring and support that we received from Caren Sue Peet, Mollie Frederick and Stacie Wiederin-Schmidt.

There are so many reasons and things about our son that make it clear that we were meant to be his parents and that he was meant to be our son - Ben is the person who I have waited for all of my life - to love and to guide and to raise - my husband feels the same way. We have never felt so complete and genuinely happy as we watch our son thrive in our loving family. We feel blessed every single day and we realize now that we are just actors and that God is the director of this movie. We realize that there is a reason that we had to wait so long for our child - he was not born yet - and we were meant to be parents to this specific child. I think that if anyone had told me any of this while I was waiting, feeling hopeless and angry and cursed, I would have wanted to punch them. This journey is a long and painful one but it leads to the right path and the right family for each of us. We just have to keep the faith. God Bless you all on life's most challenging, but rewarding, journey.

With Love - Carrie Taibi

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