

# Fall 2016 Adoption Education Series



## **AFTH Offers Classes Designed Especially for the Needs of Adoptive Parents**

The adoption journey is lifelong, so regardless of what stage of the adoption process families are in, AFTH's goal is to strengthen families by empowerment through knowledge. The AFTH Education Series is designed to offer support through educational opportunities and discussions to help better equip adoptive parents.

## **Class on the Effects of Parental Drug Use and Mental Health Disorders**

### **Effects of Prenatal Drug & Alcohol Use (Wynnewood, PA)**

Presenter Dr. Erin Meyer is an Internal Medicine and Pediatric Hospitalist who works in the NICU (neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at Christiana Hospital. Together we will be discussing the effects of drug and alcohol use during pregnancy on the newborn. We will also discuss withdrawal symptoms and effects and will leave plenty of time for your questions.

**Saturday, September 10th from 10:30am-Noon**

*Register By September 2nd*

**\$25/person or \$35/couple**

*Call (610) 642-7200 with questions.*

### **Being Aware: Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Illness in Birth Families (Henrico, VA)**

Adoption is all about being aware and one day helping your child be aware as well. Join us as Ms. Robertson helps us to understand drugs, alcohol and mental illness concerns in birth families. Robertson is a licensed professional counselor who has lectured and published internationally on mental health and psychotherapy. She has extensive experience working with individuals who are challenged by addiction, anxiety, depression, psychosis, trauma and stress. She works with foster and adoptive youth, and their families, at Lutheran Family services in Newport News, and has a private practice in Norfolk.

**Saturday, September 17th from 11:00am-12:30pm**

*Register By September 10th*

**\$25/person or \$35/couple**

*Call (757) 381-0008 with questions.*

### **Substance Abuse During Pregnancy: Understanding Short/Long Term Effects (Bethlehem, PA)**

Please join us in learning about the effects of substance abuse exposure during pregnancy. Time will be spent reviewing the profile key and answering any questions regarding the effects of substance use and abuse on the child. This is a great opportunity to educate yourself and spend time with a professional working in the field of maternal health. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Saturday, September 10th from 11:00am-1:00pm**

*Register By September 2nd*

**\$25/person or \$35/couple**

*Call (610) 432-2384 with questions.*

### **Substance Abuse During Pregnancy: Understanding Short/Long Term Effects (Brooklyn, NY)**

Please join us in learning about the effects of substance abuse exposure during pregnancy with Dr. Melissa Goldstein, MD from Carnegie Hill Pediatrics. Dr. Goldstein's practice is partially devoted to adoption medicine and pre-adoption medical counseling. Time will be spent reviewing the profile key and answering any questions regarding the effect of substance use and abuse on the child.

**Tuesday, September 27th from 5:30-7:30pm**

*Register By September 20th*

**\$25/person or \$35/couple**

*Call (610) 432-2384 with questions.*

**REGISTER ONLINE [www.afth.org/community-education](http://www.afth.org/community-education)**

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## **Child Care Classes**

### **Infant Care Class for Adoptive Parents (Harrisburg, PA)**

This infant care class especially for adoptive families will cover the basics of infant and child care including: newborn appearance, newborn behaviors, diapering and dressing, feeding, umbilical cord care, newborn health and safety basics, when to call your pediatrician as well as other changes that may come with new parenthood. This class is exclusively for prospective adoptive parents and allows them to learn in a non-medical environment without a focus on pregnancy and childbirth. There will plenty of time for questions at the end of the class.

**Monday, October 17th from 6:30-8:30pm**

*Register By October 10th*

**\$25/person or \$35/couple**

*Call (717) 399-7766 with questions.*

## **Birthparent Panel**

### **Birthparent Panel Discussion (Pittsburgh, PA)**

Come and meet several courageous women who will share their stories of why they chose adoption. They will talk about their feelings throughout their pregnancies, what they experienced at the hospital, and their feelings after placement. Discussion will include why they chose their respective adoptive families, what their feelings towards an open vs closed adoption, and what their hopes are for their future relationships with their children. Waiting families will learn more about the open adoption process and will gain a better understanding of the feelings of birthparents throughout the process

**Saturday, September 17th from 1:00-3:00pm**

*Register By August 17th*

**\$10/person or \$15/couple**

*Call (724) 853-6533 with questions.*

**REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE**

[www.afth.org/community-education](http://www.afth.org/community-education)

OR visit the calendar of events at the  
bottom of our homepage [www.afth.org](http://www.afth.org)