

We Build  
Beautiful Families



Annual Report  
2015-2016



Adoptions  
From The Heart®

# Mission Statement

Since 1985, the mission of Adoptions From The Heart, as a non-profit organization, has been to provide safe and loving homes for children and offer quality, comprehensive services to families, birth parents and children. Through educational efforts, counseling and support programs, we help strengthen families, support birth parents and educate the community. The agency's mission also extends out into the community at large by providing financial support to families and children in need and helping to educate the public by providing trainings to hospitals, clinics, schools and social workers. Adoptions From The Heart is also very active in continuing to help draft and propose legislation in various states that will positively impact the adoption and child welfare system.

## Core Values

C. H. O. I. C. E. S.

**C**ommunication: To listen well, be clear, respectful and inspiring

**H**onesty: To be truthful and sincere

**O**ppportunity: Offer opportunity for growth and development

**I**ntegrity: Make decisions that are consistent with the agency mission

**C**reativity: Use imagination to transcend traditional ideas and create meaningful new ideas

**E**quality: Treat all clients, employees and their families with respect and dignity regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, income level, or title

**S**upport: Support a woman's rights with regard to family planning



Adoptions From The Heart®

# The Joys of Adoption

Photos from the 2015 Find Her Footing 5K



# Building Our Future ..

## A message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

As usual, 2015-2016 has been a busy year. We are pleased to say that in early 2016, AFTH gained approval to grant CEU's to nurses in PA, DE, and CT. We are now able to offer adoption trainings for nurses at clinics and hospitals and can draw larger attendance with the addition of these continuing education credits. The trainings help AFTH spread awareness about new adoption practices and aid hospital and clinic staff to better serve those they come in contact with who are choosing adoption. Although our emergency placements from hospitals have dropped a bit since last year's all-time record, they are still a major source of referrals to our agency and so it is always helpful to have hospital staff who are educated on our practices.



**Maxine Chalker**  
**Executive Director**

AFTH's board selection committee awarded six scholarships this fiscal year to women who have placed their children for adoption and are trying to improve their lives by attending either a college or trade school. Thank you to each and every person who has made generous donations toward our Birth Parent Scholarship Fund. Your donations are making it possible for birth parents to transform their lives through education. Thank you also to those supporters who attended AFTH's 30th Anniversary celebration in October. When I began the agency in 1985, I couldn't have even imagined how much of an impact it would have on the lives of thousands of men, women and children over 30 years later.

In addition to raising funds for scholarships, AFTH had a stellar year with calendar sales, paper heart donations and other fundraisers benefitting our Expectant and Birth Parent Support Fund. The money raised is used to help expecting parents in need who are considering adoption or families who have already placed a child for adoption and are needing a little extra help during the holidays or with other setbacks that come up during the course of the year. We cannot thank our donors enough for their support. You are making a huge impact in the lives of others.

This has also been a very vocal year for racial and ethnic equality. The Black Lives Matter Movement has become a strong presence in the news and there has been an outcry for a revitalized focus on racial and ethnic equality. Several years ago AFTH took the bold step to equalize our fees for all placements regardless of a child's race but we never thought that was where we should stop when it comes to serving children of color. This year, we have focused on the realities of parents who are raising children through transracial adoption. We changed the way families can now select the racial background on their profile keys and started working on a class for families who will be parenting children of a different race or ethnicity than they are. We are committed to helping families and children thrive and are dedicated to equality in our practices to all of our clients.

We want to congratulate all the families who were brought together through adoption this past year and look forward to working with many new families who have chosen to expand their families through Adoptions From The Heart.

*Maxine Chalker*

# Building A Legacy ...

Through ongoing efforts to reach the agency's goals

## Agency Goals

- ♥ To assist in the placement of children in a permanent adoptive family, who understand a child's feelings and their need to have knowledge about, and/or keep in touch with, their birth family.
- ♥ To educate families regarding the positive impact that open communication with birth parents has on children entering families through adoption.
- ♥ To educate the public as to the positive values of adoption as an option.
- ♥ To help men and women who have placed children for adoption with education goals through our scholarship program.
- ♥ To provide educational programs that will strengthen the family unit for families who have chosen adoption.
- ♥ To provide counseling and support services to birth parents in the communities in which they live.
- ♥ To advocate for better legislation that will positively impact the adoption and child welfare system.
- ♥ To provide home studies, counseling and individual counseling for all families, doing private adoption or adoption with another agency.

# Building Stability ...

Through the direction of a dedicated Board of Directors

## Adoptions From The Heart Board of Directors 2015-2016

**Michael Offord**, Chairman, Yellow Pages Advertising Agency

**Stephen Facenda**, Secretary, Viamark Advertising

**McKenzie Ann Frankel**, MEd, Treasurer, Entrust Financial LLC

**Rita R. Roitman**, CSW, Therapist

**Lisa O'Mahony**, Broomall Pediatrics

**Dan Hall**, LevLane Advertising

**Han Nguyen**,

**Thom Rossi**, Emerging Technologies

**Maxine Chalker**, MSW / LSW, Executive Director, Adoptions From The Heart



# Building Strength...

By employing a profession, dedicated staff

## Staff



Some AFTH staff members, pictured at the 2016 Annual Picnic:  
Back row, from left: Raedelle Fritz, Amanda Aliberti, Amanda Klotz, Maxine Chalker, Jan Fox, Wayne Mollick, Brianne Terragino, Michaelina Bendig, Heather Orefice, Sophia Andujar, Terri Hill, Kristy Hartley-Galbraith, Samantha Snoots, Ashley Kodet, Jenna Caroccia, Chris Peszka, Rachel Zarayko, Jenna Smith  
Front Row: Stephanie Capriotti, Meredith Erdman, Heidi Gonzalez, Danielle Goodman, Chelsey Phillips, Michelle Davies, Kellie Gaffney, Martha Coulbourne, Luli Dhimitri

## Development Team

Maxine Chalker, MSW/LSW, Executive Director  
Heidi Gonzalez, MS, Assistant Director  
Kristy Hartley-Galbraith, BA  
Luljeta Dhimitri, BS  
Danielle Goodman, BSW

## Attorneys

Jeff Lochner, Esq.  
Greensburg, PA

Barbara C. Jones, Esq.  
Virginia

Debbie Spivack, Esq.  
DE, PA, NJ

Donald C. Cofsky, Esq.  
New Jersey

Linda Kling, Esq.  
Central PA

# Building Beautiful Families..

Through domestic and international programs and services

## Programs and Services for Adoptive Parents

### Open Domestic (U.S.A.) Adoption

*Adoptions From The Heart* places children born in the United States with adoptive families through open adoption. With open adoption, pregnant women select the adoptive families from letters, videos, and pictures. The adoptive family is required to support an open adoption philosophy with at least a semi-open adoption. This includes pre-placement meetings, the exchange of yearly pictures and letters as the child grows up, and yearly reunions between birth parents and the adoptive family. *AFTH* also encourages totally open adoption and the exchange of identifying information. Infants of all races are placed through the domestic program. The agency's Out of Area Domestic Program accepts applications from couples and singles from all over the country.

### International Adoption

*Adoptions From The Heart* completes home studies, international adoption education and post placement services for any families adopting from China, Russia, Ethiopia and other countries.





## Private Adoption Assistance

*Adoptions From The Heart* offers a variety of services to assist attorneys and families in successfully completing private adoption placements. Some of the services include counseling of birth and adoptive families, home study evaluations, parental placements in Virginia, A.C.I.s in New Jersey, DE Order of Reference, and Interstate Compact preparation, when applicable. In New Jersey and Connecticut, only a licensed agency can secure a 72-hour binding surrender of parental rights.

## Home Studies

*Adoptions From The Heart* prepares independent home studies for families who are pursuing private adoption, adoption through another agency, and for families working through embryo placements programs. Home Studies are required by law for domestic and international adoptions and by many embryo placement programs. A home study is a detailed written report with information about the prospective adoptive parents gathered through group and individual meetings and a home visit. This process is created to educate and evaluate families preparing to raise an adopted child.

## Required Educational Courses

*Adoptions From The Heart* knows that to have a successful adoption, families in the domestic program must be educated about the needs and feelings of adopted children, particularly their initial adjustment and cultural needs.

## Education Series

*Adoptions From The Heart* offers evening and weekend educational series that will help families with the varying issues as children grow up and as different issues arise. Adoption is a life-long process and there are different needs at different periods of time.



# Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors  
Adoptions from the Heart, Inc.  
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Adoptions from the Heart, Inc. (the "Agency") (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Adoptions from the Heart, Inc. as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

  
ZELENKOSFSKE AXELROD LLC

Jamison, Pennsylvania  
December 15, 2016

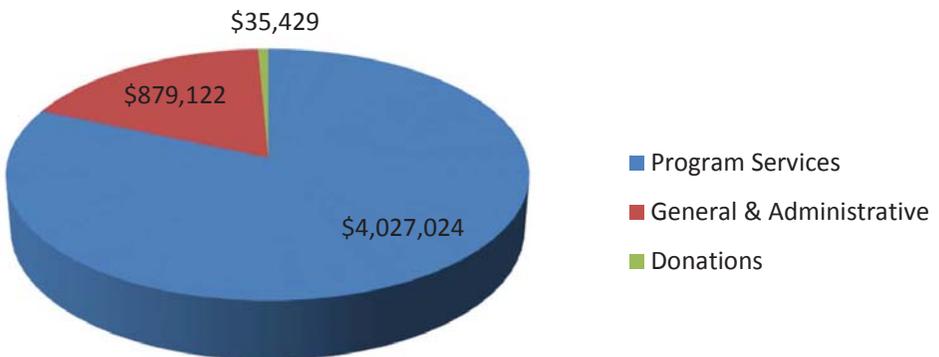
# Expense Breakdown

Program Services  
\$4,027,024

General & Administrative  
\$879,122

Donations in USA and Foreign Countries  
\$35,429

**Total Expenses**  
\$4,941,575



# Building Understanding...

Through education, training, and community services

## We Offer the Following Subsidiary Services:

- ♥ Training for professionals offering CEUs for nurses
- ♥ Conference workshops
- ♥ Training for prison staff
- ♥ Training for RAs in college dorms
- ♥ Post-adoption counseling for birth parents
- ♥ Educational seminars for prospective adoptive parents
- ♥ Online information webinars about adoption programs
- ♥ Birth parent and adoptive parent support groups
- ♥ Monetary donations to birth parents in need during the holidays
- ♥ Internships in social work and marketing/public relations
- ♥ Training for elementary school and high school staff
- ♥ Birth Parent Scholarship Funding
- ♥



### Support Groups:

Many of the AFTH offices have started hosting birth parent and birth mother support groups throughout the year. The Pittsburgh office even brings together these groups bi-monthly! The Virginia office always takes one of their quarterly support groups and makes it a little more informal. This usually happens around Birth Mother's Day to have fun and celebrate the holiday! This year they had a painting party (pictured left)! The women enjoyed being pampered with the life long friends they have made through this group!

# Building Credibility...

Through membership in professional organizations

- ♥ Adoption Agency Council of New Jersey
- ♥ Adoption Development Outreach Planning Team (ADOPT)
- ♥ American Adoption Congress
- ♥ Connecticut Council on Adoption
- ♥ Delaware Valley Adoption Council (DVAC)
- ♥ North American Council on Adoptable Children
- ♥ Human Rights Campaign
- ♥ Independent Business Alliance
- ♥ National Council for Adoption
- ♥ Resolve: The National Infertility Association
- ♥ United Way of: *Camden County; Southeastern PA; Atlantic County; Delaware; Chester County; Lancaster County; the Capital Region; North Penn; Burlington County; the Greater Lehigh County; New York City, Central and Northeastern CT, Allegheny County, Westmoreland County, Lackawanna County, Berks County, Valley of the Sun, Bank of American United Way, AT&T United Way Employee Giving*
- ♥ Virginia Association of Licensed Child Placing Agencies (VALCPA)
- ♥ Westmoreland Health and Welfare Council

## Placement Statistics

In the fiscal year 2015-2016, *Adoptions From The Heart* placed 131 infants and toddlers in loving homes. The placements break down as follows, including one placement with “other” racial background:

- 61      Caucasian Children from the U.S.
- 46      African-American Children from the U.S.
- 23      Hispanic Children from the U.S.

# New this Fiscal Year!

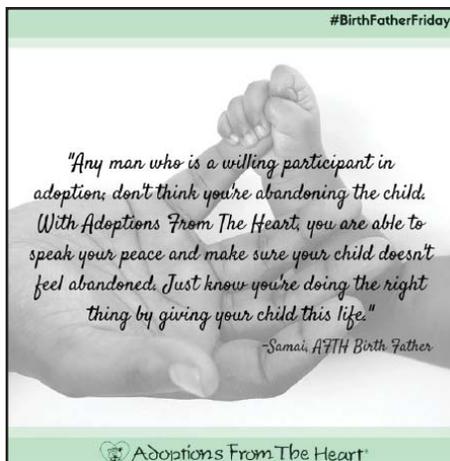


**Policy Changes-** This year, AFTH implemented a new "Minimum Openness Policy." This requires that all prospective families be open to be in our program. In addition to sending pictures and letters once a month for the first six months and once a year after and families must also be open to a minimum of one visit per year. This new policy reflects our focus on the benefits of open adoption for all those in the adoption triad.

**30th year event-** In October of 2015, AFTH held their 30th Year Anniversary Event. Cory Wade, model, musician, and television personality hosted the event at The Racquet Club in Philadelphia. Casino games, live music, food, drinks, and raffles and silent auctions were only a few of the activities attendees participated in for a night of raising awareness for the Birth Parent Scholarship Fund and honoring Maxine Chalker, Founder of AFTH!



**Social Media Efforts** - The positive feedback on our social media pages has been astounding and abundant and we have seen major increases in our followership on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This fiscal year, the organization has also aimed at providing more support for our Expectant and Birth Parent Fund as well as educational efforts for birth fathers through our social media channels with the campaign #BirthFatherFridays.



# New this Fiscal Year!



**Brava Award-** In the Spring of 2016, Adoptions from The Heart's Maxine Chalker, Founder and Executive Director, was nominated and selected as a winner of the Philadelphia area Brava Awards through Smart CEO Magazine. The Award applauded Chalker, and the other recipients', for their commitment to balancing a strong business model with mentorship development and passionate philanthropic views.

**Nurse CEU Training -** In May of 2016, AFTH became licensed to conduct Nurse CEU courses and began Infant Adoption Awareness Training. It is a free course for Registered Nurses, and participants will receive one CEU credit for one hour of training. The adoption social workers will be hosting this training in hospitals and clinics to accommodate the hectic schedules of the medical world.



**Women's Health Sharing Expo-** The Lehigh Valley Area Office of Adoptions From The Heart began a new annual tradition this fiscal year. The first annual Women's Health Sharing Expo was held in Bethlehem in May of 2016. Healthcare providers, women's shelters, other non-profits, and all types of organizations came out to share their efforts that help women's health needs. The idea was initiated when a group of students from Muhlenberg College contacted AFTH to see if, for their final project, the students could help AFTH run an event. We hope even more organizations can join us next year and contribute to supporting women's health initiatives!

# Adoption Events

AFTH held their 28th Annual Family Picnic at the Fort Washington State Park, in Pennsylvania on Saturday June 18, 2016. The sun was shining down on an estimated 1,300 people, including adoptive parents, grandparents, birth parents and children, all gathered from several different states to celebrate adoption.

The day consisted of arts and crafts, face painting, live music, raffle prizes, outdoor games, and of course, a lot of delicious food. In addition to all of the exciting activities, many families also spent some meaningful time reuniting with their child's birth parents.



“We really didn’t know what to expect when it came to the picnic,” admitted Eric, an adoptive father through AFTH. “This would be our first agency picnic, after all. When we got there, we were ecstatic to see an endless supply of smiling faces. Not only from the employees dressed in ‘placement purple’, but the other families as well. We spotted Kimberly (birth mother of Eric and Kristin’s daughter Colette) a few minutes later, caught up a bit and ate the sandwiches we brought.” The family enjoyed the time spent reuniting and bonding over their love for Colette. “She [Kimberly] loved on Colette as we showed her videos we had taken throughout the past couple months. We were happy to all be together in such a positive setting! We were happy to see such positive energy from all families in attendance. It almost felt like a huge family reunion.” The family was thrilled with the time spent at the AFTH 2016 Picnic. “We walked away with an unforgettable experience, reassurance in the supportive open adoption community and the commitment to ensure our calendar is open each year for this outstanding event.”

# Adoption Events



This year we had amazing live music from Egalitarian & Dinkendo Family Band for the families in attendance to enjoy! Thank you to our event sponsors CarranzaHomeRemodeling, Adoptimist, FarrynElectric, GoldfishSwimSchool, Admark 360, Keller Williams Real Estate, Bob Cermignano Air Conditioning and Heating, and Soccer Shots-- without you it would not have been possible.

Snacks and raffles were a huge hit as always and congratulations to the winners of our many raffle baskets that included items donated from:

- Avenue
- Zakes Café
- Sangkee Asian Bistro
- Applebee's
- Bahama Breeze
- Gypsy Blu
- Marcos Pizzeria
- MaGerks
- Corner Bakery Café
- Fireside Grill
- Cantina Lorito
- Cracker Barrel
- Cantina Feliz
- Grand Lux Café
- Whole Foods
- Target
- Giant
- Herra
- Just Born
- J&J Snacks
- Hersheys
- Wawa
- BJ'S
- Jack & Jill Ice Cream
- Donte's Delicious Dishes
- Break Time
- Mobile Kitchen
- Rolling Thunder
- Macys
- Cuisinart
- Omadix
- BlueParrot
- Sony
- FitBit
- Sky Zone
- Arnold's Family Fun Center
- State Theatre
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Crayola Factory
- Dorney Park
- Pet Value
- Philadelphia Rock Gym
- Oasis Family Fun Center
- Dutch Wonderland
- TAN Timeshare Vacations

# Adoption Events

**Virginia Office** - The picnic held at the Chesapeake City Park Fun Forrest on June 4th was attended by 112 people, 50 of whom were kids! The weather was great and everyone had lots of fun. 15 birthparent visits were also a part of the special day. This year, the picnic included family photos, both candid and posed, with a professional photographer! The AFTH raffles and sales at the picnic brought in \$113 for the Expectant and Birth Parent Fund.



**Connecticut Office** - About 73 people gathered at beautiful Wickham Park in CT for the annual AFTH picnic on June 26th. There were numerous arranged birth and adoptive family visits, with some families traveling from as far away as Pittsburgh! Thanks to some great raffles, money was raised for the Expectant and Birth Parent Fund. AFTH staff were happy to greet so many beautiful families and everyone enjoyed a relaxing day of spending time together!

**Pittsburgh Office** - On the first Friday of August, members of the AFTH community in and near Pittsburgh gather for a day of fun at Idlewild Park in Ligenier, PA. They spend the whole day at the park, eating, relaxing, and having fun. In 2016, their picnic will be held on August 5, and they are expecting a great turnout! In the past they have seen birth parent and adoptive family reunions and raised money for the Expectant and Birth Parent Fund. In 2015 they raised \$105!



# Giving Back...

## Fundraising Events

**Paper Heart Project** - Every year clients, adoption supporters, and local businesses join in Adoption From The Heart's Paper Heart Project during the month of November to show their support for AFTH and National Adoption Month.



Local business are able to register to help the cause and request an appropriate amount of paper hearts based on their business flow. They then promote their support of AFTH and National Adoption Month by collecting donations from patrons who can then sign and hang up their heart in the business.

The Paper Heart Project was very successful this year, raising over \$3,300! We were touched to see such huge community support. For \$1 donation, paper hearts were displayed at *AFTH* offices and in participating stores to spread adoption awareness and raise funds for the agency's Expecting and Birth Parent Support Fund. A special thank you to all of you who supported the project this year!



Participants this year included Levlane Advertising (Wynnewood), TEK HealthCare Services (VA), Robert Half Professional Staffing Services (NJ), Madison Avenue Salon (CT), Dakotas (Wynnewood), Alex Startoni (Lancaster), Admark360 (Wynnewood), Gamma Phi Beta-Lehigh University (Allentown), National Penn Banking (Wynnewood), The Tracy Family (DE), Phi Sigma Sigma Buffalo (Wynnewood), LexiLu.com (Pittsburgh), Mathnasium (NJ), Papa Lukes (Wynnewood), Shade Sunless Tanning (Wynnewood), Stewarts XEROX (Wynnewood), Friedmans Services (Allentown), Charlotte Fagraeus Vet Practice (DE), Bobs Bake at Home Pizza (Wynnewood), Kate's Place Caf  & Sandwich Shoppe (Lancaster)

# Giving Back...

## Fundraising Efforts

**Gift Card Donations** - Every year, AFTH donates over \$10,000 in gift cards to expecting and birth parents parenting children and are struggling to make ends meet, especially during the holidays. Thank you to all the supporters who donated gift card or contributed monetarily to support the Expecting and Birth Mother Fund. Jill, a birthmother who received gift cards this past holiday season was elated when surprised with the gift, "I have no words. I am so grateful. You made Christmas possible this year."

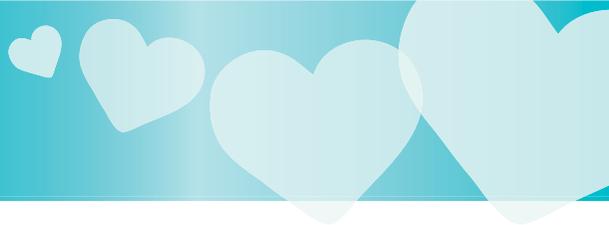
**Building Beautiful Families Calendar** - Each year AFTH designs, "Building Beautiful Families," a calendar featuring children placed through the agency from various programs. This year, over 589 calendars were sold, bringing in over \$2,700 benefiting the AFTH Expectant & Birth Parent Support Fund.



**Birth Parent Scholarship Fund-** Adoptions From The Heart has been working with birth parents and adoptive families for over 30 years. Our social workers have gotten to know many great men and women who placed a child for adoption and looked to further their education. Because of these inspiring individuals, AFTH has created a scholarship fund to help birth parents get on their feet and establish a long term career. Newly created in 2015, this is still a young fund. AFTH is happy to have already awarded seven scholarships to birth mothers, three of whom were AFTH mothers. Proceeds from AFTH's Building Beautiful Futures 30th Anniversary Event held in October 2015 benefitted the Scholarship Fund.

# Giving Back...

## Fundraising Events



**Find Her Footing 5K-** Despite the April snow, The 4th Annual Find Her Footing 5K went off without a hitch and raised over \$1,800 to support AFTH's Expectant and Birth Parent Support Fund as well as the Birthparent Scholarship Fund! The event was again held at Delaware County Community College in Media, PA.

Children lined up across the starting line and kicked off the morning with a fun 100 meter Kid's Dash. Each child was awarded a medal and certificate after sprinting past the finish line. Boing! Bounce Rentals hosted the Kid's Dash again this year and Boing! brought along a bounce house that all the kids enjoyed.



Before the runners and walkers set out to accomplish their 5K, we had an AFTH birthmother, Shawnee, speak on behalf of the Expectant and Birth Parent Support Fund. Shawnee captured the reason for our 5k, to support expecting parents and birth parents who are in need of help to regain their footing during a difficult time in their lives.



Shawnee shared "it's amazing to know that Adoptions From The Heart is supportive of birth parents even after the adoption."

Participants enjoyed music provided by local radio station, 92.5 XTU. T&N Homemade Kitchen Food Truck also provided delicious food throughout the day. Amazing donors participated so AFTH could have exciting raffle items this year as well! Thank you to Shawnee, the 5k participants, our sponsors and donors, volunteers, and all who attended this wonderful event. We can't wait for the 5K next

### Sponsors

- Boing! Bounce Rentals • Bryan Mawr Running Company • PFit Inc. •
- National Penn Bank • State Farm Insurance • Main Line Health •

# Building Trust...

Through quality birth parent services



## Services to Expecting Women

*Adoptions From The Heart* provides all available services to pregnant women at no charge to them. These services include counseling, support groups for birth parents and extended families, assistance with scheduling of and transportation to prenatal appointments, help with housing, medical coverage and

*Adoptions From The Heart's* dedicated counselors are available 24-hours a day/7 days a week for pregnant women who are considering adoption. Pregnant women simply need to call the agency's toll-free number, (800) 355-5500, to get in touch with a social worker. New this fiscal year, there are options to text our number 24/7 and chat with someone in English or Spanish via our website! *Adoptions From The Heart* has also continued providing support on [PregnancyAdoptionOptions.com](http://PregnancyAdoptionOptions.com) geared specifically towards those faced with an unplanned pregnancy.

The relationship between the agency and the birthmother and birthfather does not end when the baby is placed. The agency serves as a liaison between the two sets of parents, when requested. In addition, ongoing counseling is available to the birth family for as long as they need it, and many of the *Adoptions From The Heart* offices have established support groups.



# Building Support...

Through efforts to secure generous donations

As a nonprofit, social service organization, *Adoptions From The Heart* is supported through donations as well as fees. Supporters can direct their funding to the agency in the following ways:

**Fundraising:** Each and every year *Adoptions From The Heart* hosts and participates in fundraising events and opportunities to raise funds for both the AFTH mission as well as other charitable causes in the community. Fundraising in the 2015-2016 fiscal year included; Paper Heart Project, Find Her Footing 5K, and the AFTH calendar sales.

**Annual Appeal:** The funds raised each year go towards assistance programs for birth parents, and educational programs for all members of the adoption triad.

**The United Way:** Many regional United Way branch locations have accepted *Adoptions From The Heart* as a donor option recipient, allowing agency supporters from many areas to designate their pledges to *Adoptions From The Heart*.

**Matching Gifts:** Employers with matching gift programs will match all or part of an employee's charitable contribution to *Adoptions From The Heart*.

**Year Round Online Donation:** accepting tax deductible donations year round - donors can choose to designate money to specific areas of need at [www.afth.org](http://www.afth.org).

# Building Futures...

## Humanitarian Aid in the United States

With the help of donations from families, *Adoptions From The Heart* provides monetary and material support toward various humanitarian aid projects in the United States.

*Adoptions From The Heart* provides donations to birth families in need of assistance during the holiday season and throughout the year. Donations include gift certificates for furniture, clothing, food, and toys to help ease the financial burden on these families.

*AFTH* cannot provide for every birth family in need without help from donors. We have helped 131 birth parent singles or couples who worked with *Adoptions From The Heart* this past year to make an adoption plan for her infant. Here are some of their stories:



**Escaping Abuse:** The *AFTH* Birthmother Fund literally saved my life and the lives of my children age 2 and 4. I was living with my abusive, drug addict husband who would disappear for weeks at a time without paying our bills. I knew I needed out! The women's crisis center was too far to walk with my little ones and my car needed repairs which my husband refused to make to keep me home. *AFTH* hired a mechanic to do the repairs. I escaped to the shelter and then got permanent housing, however I didn't have grocery money for the first month on my own. *AFTH* provided groceries and gave me gift cards for Christmas to buy my children clothes and a few toys. Thank you to those who gave to the fund because without the help I don't know where I would be. My goal is to gain more stability so I can return the favor to *AFTH*. *Tracey from Pittsburgh, PA*



**Job Loss Changes Stability:** My girlfriend and I placed our newborn but were also parenting a son together. I lost my job and then our house and we moved in with my parents. Our car needed an inspection and with no way to get to work my girlfriend was about to lose her job. *AFTH* saved her job by paying for the inspection and gave us Walmart gift cards to help buy food. *AFTH* got us through one of the most difficult times in both of our lives. *Alex, birthfather from Harrisburg, PA*



**Kicked Out Because of Choosing Adoption:** Making an adoption plan was hard to do but being kicked out by my Mom because of doing it was devastating. My children and I were left without a place to live. Public housing had a waiting list and I didn't know where to go. *AFTH* paid a security deposit for alternative housing until I could get into public housing. It is one thing for me to have to live on the streets after being kicked out but my children – no way! Because of *AFTH*'s help, my children didn't have to live on the streets until we found a new place to live. *Toni from Lancaster, PA*

These women are only a few examples of those needing help from our Expecting and Birth Parent Support Fund. The generosity of donors is always appreciated no matter the size of the donation. Generous donors partner with *AFTH* to provide life-changing assistance to men and women in need of a little extra help.

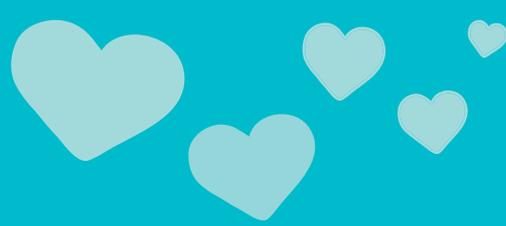
# Building Beautiful Families. ...Since 1985



2015-2016 Annual Report  
Adoptions From The Heart  
30-31 Hampstead Circle  
Wynnewood, PA 19096  
(610) 642-7200  
[www.afth.org](http://www.afth.org)



Thank you for the  
continued support!



**WYNNEWOOD, PA OFFICE**  
30-31 Hampstead Circle  
Wynnewood, PA 19096  
610.642.7200

**DELAWARE OFFICE**  
18-A Trolley Square  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
302.658.8883

**ALLENTOWN, PA OFFICE**  
2212 Union Blvd  
Allentown, PA 18109  
610.432.2384

**NEW JERSEY OFFICE**  
451 Woodland Avenue  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002  
856.665.5655  
732.335.8883

**CENTRAL, PA OFFICE**  
1525 Oregon Pike, Suite 402  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717.399.7766  
717.232.1787

**VIRGINIA OFFICE**  
1407 Stephanie Way, Suite H  
Chesapeake, VA 23320  
757.361.0008  
804.218.2569

**PITTSBURGH, PA OFFICE**  
1225 South Main St. Suite 207  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
724.853.6533

**CONNECTICUT OFFICE**  
703 Hebron Ave, 2nd Floor  
Glastonbury, CT 06033  
860.657.2626

**NEW YORK**  
1-800-355-5500

Visit Our Website:  
[www.afth.org](http://www.afth.org)



Adoptions From The Heart®

