

Friends in Adoption journeys

Successfully creating families since 1982 through Compassionate Adoption Fall 2007



Our journey began in 2004



After several miscarriages we made the decision to adopt. After all, we knew that we had so much love to give a child and it didn't matter at all whether or not we gave birth to a baby or adopted one. Through a lot of research, we came in touch with Friends in Adoption in Vermont. We went to a Get Acquainted Weekend just to see what it was all about and ended up having a wonderful time. We met some really wonderful people both potential adoptive parents like ourselves and the warm staff at Friends in Adoption. We went home with a lot of information to absorb and took a few months to decide if this was the route we wanted to go. Before we went to the weekend, we had already been in touch with a social worker and had a home study done so that we could have a head start on the process. Upon months of contemplating, we both came

to the same conclusion, FIA was the agency we wanted to go with. We both got a very warm, sincere and down to earth impression of everyone and the agency as a whole at the weekend. What we liked was that they didn't sugar coat everything; they told us the good things and the bad things that could occur. We liked that everyone was honest. Steve works for a major television network that did a segment on adoption and after the show he spoke with the guest and told him that we were considering adoption and the first thing he asked Steve was did they tell you this could happen (one

negative thing after another) and when Steve said yes they did, he was told by the guest that this was a really good agency who didn't just paint everything as a rosy picture. After that, we decided to sign up with FIA and went up to the Clifton Park Office and signed up with Mary.

We got her input on setting up our profile and we began the adoption process. After all of the screening and extensive back ground checks (which we thought was a wonderful thing, and that it was comforting to know that in our state they will not just place children with anyone) our journey began.

We selected many photos that we thought represented who we really are and came up with the words to tell people how much love and support we have for each other and why we wanted to be parents so much. We went over everything with Mary and our profile was on its way to completion.

Now with our profile done and sent to FIA the wait began. When we signed up we were told that our wait could take up to three years and we were okay with that although I must admit that we were of course hoping it wouldn't. Every day we eagerly went to our mailbox

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Things don't always go as planned



Pulmonary Hypertension (PPHN) and the list continued.

All we knew about baby William was that he was born February 12th, weighing 1 lb. 13 oz., 15 weeks early. Mary gave us the highlights; no heart issues, no brain bleeds, no intestinal issues, he was off the ventilator and gaining weight.

Continued on page 13

dawn's desk

November is National
Adoption Awareness Month

Imagine that:

- You're thinking about making an adoption plan for your baby but you know nothing about adoption other than what your aunt told you 20 years ago and your best friend told you in elementary school.
- You and your partner have gone through six in vitro fertilization attempts without achieving a pregnancy – you are now considering adoption but haven't a clue of where to begin.
- You're an adopted person who is 26-years-old and you are now considering becoming pregnant and wish you had your biological medical history to give to your ob/gyn.
- You placed a baby eight years ago; you kept in contact with the adoptive family for the first couple of years but then lost contact. You would like to re-establish contact with the adoptive family.
- You are a high school counselor and one of your students confided in you and told you that she is pregnant, scared and doesn't know what to do.
- You're an emergency room nurse and a patient just delivered a baby. She tells you that she doesn't want to take the baby home with her.
- Your girlfriend just told you she is pregnant and that you are the father. You are petrified that your parents will find out. And you are in your last year of high school and just got accepted into the college of your choice.
- You have been approved to adopt. You have told your friends, family and co-workers and now every day people are asking you when the baby will be placed with you. Well intentioned people are putting you at your wit's end.
- You have adopted. The child is of a different race than you and not infrequently strangers come up to you and ask you about the "real parents".

Friends in Adoption, your local community resource, has received calls and e-mails with the above questions and concerns. With a quarter century of experience, we are equipped with kind, competent and confidential staff to address your needs.

Whether you are pregnant and want to meet with a staff person regarding options counseling or a person looking to adopt who would benefit from attending one of our Get Acquainted Workshops or whether you are an adopted person wishing to obtain some information on your birth family; or you are a nurse that works at a hospital that would like a staff training – we are a phone call (1-800-844-3630) or an e-mail (fia@friendsinadoption.org) away.

Friends in Adoption is located at 44 South Street, Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757 and 653 Plank Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

We look forward to hearing from you.

welcome home

our family

welcomes

Rich & Beth	Lilah
John, Gail & Madison	Hailee
Cathy, Michel & Andrew	Audrey
David, Carrie, Rachel, David & Elizabeth.....	Grayson
Shawn & Martha	Zachariah
Christine, Arend & Isabella.....	Elaina
Steve & Diane.....	Justin
Bernhard, Tina & Leonie.....	Finn
Billy & Danielle	Daria
Mark & Paul	Mikayla
Jackie & Glen.....	Henry
Dan & Kim.....	William
Erin & Nancy.....	Kamea
John, Tammy & Brendan	Kate
Jamie & Kendra	Cameron
Paul & Dee	Nicole
Mike & Juanita	Elaina
Bob, Lanie, Kayla & Sarah.....	Ava
Josh & Bridget	Clover
Stephen & Brent	Zachery
Deb & Chris	Judith
Kevin & Melissa	Isabella
Sean, Tricia & Abby	Grace
Kelly & Mike	Katelyn
Peter, Traci & Brendan	Kyra
Ken & Eli.....	Nicoline
Larry, Tammy & Braden	Bryce
Sue & Rich	Ellie
Jon, Naomi & Rohannah	Jasper
Kjartan & Nancy	Adam
David & Electa	Adison
Troy & Lisa	Taylor
Bob, Penny & Cody.....	Justin
Eric & Lisa.....	Meredith

Journeys is published two times
a year by Friends in Adoption.

Send your letters, photos and comments to:
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653 Plank Road, Suite 200
Clifton Park, NY 12065

mary@friendsinadoption.org
Letters may be edited for space.

fid kids

My name is Leah and I was adopted shortly after I was born. My birth mother made an adoption plan for because she was very young and didn't think she would be able to take care of me well enough. I think that makes her a very responsible person.



My adoptive parents did all the paperwork, and they got to take me home when I was about three months old. I look like my adoptive parents. Some kids don't and they have to answer a lot of questions because people can tell they are adopted. I really don't think about my adoption that much. I love my parents and I am proud we are a family.

For me, it feels very normal to be adopted. I am 11-years-old now but my parents told me about my adoption when I was very young, so I've always known about it. It's not like a big deal or a secret or anything.

I think I would be mad if my parents hadn't told me about being adopted. That would make it seem like there was something wrong with being adopted. One time, a kid in my class said it was bad to be adopted, but it's really not. It's just interesting and a little different.

It's nice to know other people who are adopted. It's disappointing when I end up in a class where no one else is adopted. When I have a classmate or a teacher who has been adopted, I feel like we have something in common.

Sometimes I think about my birth mother, but I don't remember her. The only parents I know are my adoptive parents, and they are the only ones I want.

Leah

Kayla

Dear Barb and Friends in Adoption,

Hi, it's Kayla, remember me? I am sure you do because my Mom and Dad said that you helped make their dreams come true. I am 9-years-old now and in the 4th grade. We are learning a lot in school these days. I just wanted to tell you thank you for introducing my mom and dad to my birth mother Amanda. I am really glad that I know her because I look a lot like her. She loves me so much. She found perfect parents for me. I think she did a great job. We try to see each other in the summer, sometimes we go to see her or sometimes she comes to see us. I wanted to ask if you could help us find a new baby for us. We have a great family and maybe you know someone looking for a great family.

Call me anytime.

Love,

Kayla

P.S. Mommy and Daddy said that being parents made their dreams come true and we want to thank Barb for that.

Conquering Birth Mother Fear

By Carolyn Berger, LCSW

New adoptive parents love nothing more than telling their “Adoption Story,” and people considering adopting never get tired of listening to it.

These stories generally begin with the adoptive parents’ difficulties trying to conceive a child and end with the day they met their baby. When the story is about a domestic adoption, one of the first questions people ask is, “Weren’t you worried that the birth mother would change her mind?” followed by, “Are you in contact with her?” These questions tend to be asked in the hushed tones people a generation or two ago used to reserve for “Does your child know she was adopted?”

“Birth mother fear” is so entrenched in our culture that many pre-adoptive parents immediately opt for international adoption, which places the birth mother far away and therefore, they think, much less likely to show up on their doorstep. These fears are fueled by newspaper headlines such as those earlier this year when Allison Quets of the U.S. fled to Canada with her biological twins after she had placed them with an adoptive couple in North Carolina. “Fugitive Mother Vows to Fight” blared The Ottawa Citizen last January. The fact is, scenarios like this rarely happen.

What does happen, though, is that sometimes birth mothers—and birth fathers—change their minds sometime during the process of planning an adoption. The reasons are as varied as human nature. They can range from electing to terminate the pregnancy to marrying the birth father to getting the birth mother’s family to support raising the child. For some it’s a slow realization process, for others it hits them just before the birth. Note well, though, only a very small number of birth mothers—experts say fewer than one percent—choose to contest the adoption after the birth mother has relinquished parental rights and the baby has gone home with the adoptive parents.

One of the best ways to overcome birth mother fear is to understand it. Step into the birth mother’s shoes for a moment. According to the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute’s 2006 study “Safeguarding the Rights and Well-Being of Birth parents in the Adoption Process,” voluntarily placing a child for adoption is exceedingly difficult for the vast majority of women traveling this path. For most, it is a step that causes deep pain and reverberates through the course of their lives, even when they make the choice in a self-determined manner.” Yet, according to the study, approximately 14,000 birth mothers follow through on their adoption plan each year. (Go to www.adoptioninstitute.org/publications and look under “Birth parents” for the complete study.)

When a birth mother begins to consider placing her child, she is invariably coping with a sense of impending loss and pre-adoptive parents are often in the midst of grieving over the loss of the biological children they could not have. Pre-adoptive parents can begin to view a birth mother as someone with the power to take their pain away and replace it with joy. The birth mother can, and often does, become feared because of her ability to “withhold” the baby and create a new loss for the pre-adoptive parents.

With emotions running high, a birth mother and pre-adoptive parents can become adversaries in the course of planning an adoption. Dawn Smith-Pliner, Executive Director of Friends in Adoption, an adoption agency in Vermont, encourages all the adults to put their needs aside long enough to recognize their common goal: “They all want to make a plan that will enable the child to grow into a healthy child and a healthy adult.”

The vast majority of adoption professionals believe that open adoption, where connections among birth parents, adoptive parents and adopted child are maintained, is in the best interest of the child.

Creating and fostering an open adoption takes hard work on the part of birth parents and adoptive parents. For this reason, Smith-Pliner encourages birth parents coming to her agency to get counseling for support and help with their decision-making. Lately, she has noticed a new trend: Adoptive parents, too, are seeking counseling—often because the social worker conducting the adoption home study is recommending it. Counseling can provide them with the opportunity to discuss their fears about adopting and begin to manage them before stepping into what can be an emotionally turbulent process.

Ronnie, 45, the adoptive parent of 6-month old Zach, describes the fears she experienced two years ago when she and her husband Ben, also 45, decided to adopt. She was exhausted from infertility treatments when she approached adoption, and angry, too, that she could not conceive a child. She found the whole concept of adoption anxiety provoking. She worried about all the possible glitches. It would take years for her adoption agency to find a match; the birth mother would push for too much involvement with the child; or she would fall in love with the baby only to have the birth mother change her mind.

Today, Ronnie is able to smile at her fears, saying that she has come 180 degrees in her attitude toward birth mothers and open adoption. How that happened will make a wonderful story to tell Zach one day. Like many good adoption stories it begins with a twist of fate, and ends with transformation and joy: It was already snowing when Ronnie and Ben dashed up to the hospital where Zach was born. Before they knew it, the roads were closed and they realized they were snowed in. The hospital was filled to capacity and with nowhere to go Ronnie, Ben, the birth mother Jen and Zach suddenly found themselves spending the night in Jen’s hospital room. In those tight quarters birth mother, adoptive parents and baby Zach got to know each other very well. Ronnie’s fears about Jen and her own life as an adoptive parent dissolved. This adoption was going to work!

While Ronnie and Jen made a schedule about how and when they would be in contact, they trust each other enough to use it flexibly. They know that they will be there for each other in a practical way—if, for example, Jen develops a medical condition that could be passed down to the baby she will alert Ronnie. Both women know that the baby will grow up having a relationship with his birth mother as well as her family. Zach will know his own adoption story—including where he came from and why he was placed for adoption—opening the way to a greater sense of self-acceptance and a solid identity.

Ronnie has just one regret about her son’s adoption: She believes her “birth mother fear” cheated her of the days of happy anticipation she might have enjoyed leading up to Zach’s birth.

Sometimes a birth mother and adoptive parents develop a relationship that unfolds seamlessly. Carmela and Stephen, who adopted with the help of an independent adoption attorney, met Roxanne over the Internet. Roxanne already had a child and knew that she could not parent another. The first time Roxanne and Carmela met, Roxanne knew she had found the person she wanted to parent her unborn child. Carmela says it was like a blind date where both people “just clicked.” Carmela and Steve made it clear from the start that

they wanted Roxanne to feel sure about her decision and would understand if she should change her mind.

She didn't. When Maribelle was born six weeks early, Roxanne had the couple by her side and give Carmela the honor of cutting the chord. Roxanne gave Carmela and Steve a pink teddy bear for Mirabelle. Carmela gave the birth mother the baby's hospital bracelet and footprints, one of two sets she had the hospital make.

Over the last two-and-a-half years, the relationship continued to expand with Carmela viewing Roxanne as a family member. Still, knowing that adoptions inevitably bring challenges, Carmela and Steve belong to an adoptive parent support group.

Maybe it's not possible to conquer birth mother fear—the baby the birth mother is carrying is too important to her and the adoptive parents to allow for that. Perhaps managing birth mother fear is a more realistic goal. And by getting to know the birth mother as a person rather than our personal baby-maker, we may come to understand and maybe sympathize if she has a change of heart.

But if the adoption goes as most do, open conversations between adoptive and birth parents will give them a chance to deepen their mutual appreciation and celebrate the child they all want to see grow up happy, healthy and fortified for life with a strong sense of self and family.

This article has been reprinted with the permission of the American Fertility Association. Carolyn Berger, LCSW, is Adoption Coordinator of the AFA. She has two sons, one biological and one adopted domestically. She experienced birth mother fear, survived a birth mother's change of heart, and thinks about her son's birth mother every day.

From a Birth Mom



When deciding to share my story with you, I had a lot to consider... do I start from the beginning? Wait, where is the beginning? Because it's more than just a story, it's my life! Well, first things first: My name is Jessica, and in April of 2006 I placed my son, David, with a couple through FIA. My journey to open adoption has been a wonderful one, but no journey goes without a few bumps in the road!

After college, I was just beginning to get used to living on my own, and struggling to get my career in graphic design started. I was also dating Tony, a long time co-worker and friend. When I would come home from college in the summers, we would always pick up where we left off, and the casual relationship seemed to work for us. When fall came around, we seemed to drift our separate ways, running into each other occasionally, and maintaining our mutual friends. I think we were both just looking for different things.

At that time, things weren't going so well financially. I was in debt from college, and I couldn't afford health insurance. Since I was 16, I have dealt with the effects of having Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome, and told by my doctor at that time that pregnancy was going to be difficult if not impossible. I had learned to deal with the side effects of the condition, and didn't really consider pregnancy was the cause of my weight gain the summer after college ended. I also remember being at a holiday meal, poking my ever-growing physique and saying to my mom, 'Gee, I better get to the gym!' It wasn't until my birthday, February 1st, that I finally had enough and took a pregnancy test.

Things were a bit of a blur after those little pink lines showed up on the test strip. A trip to Planned Parenthood confirmed it—I was nearly seven months pregnant. That is when Friends In

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family album



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Adoption came into my life. I met with Mary and looked at profiles of couples wanting to adopt. Somehow, I narrowed it down to one couple. I met them that very week, had pleasant conversation for a couple hours, and that was about it. I thought, ok, this will work, and told Mary it was fine to continue with my adoption plan. The couple and I exchanged emails and handshakes and went our separate ways.

A week later, Mary called with unfortunate news. The couple I had met and agreed to work with had been presented with a baby from another agency that would be born sooner. I was crushed, that they didn't want me or my baby, and discouraged, because I thought things were all set with this adoption. Back to the drawing board, I looked at more profiles with Mary, and chose a couple from Rhode Island: Lisa and Anthony. I met them that following weekend and from the moment we sat down to talk, I felt like I was talking to old friends. They were warm and funny, genuine people. Needless to say, I was thrilled to tell Mary that we were going to move forward again!

I went into labor April 14th. Lisa and Anthony were able to drive up from Rhode Island in time to see 'David Michael' be born into this world. He was absolutely perfect in every way. I knew, at first sight, that I was in love. But I also remembered the reality of my current situation, and I knew that at the time, Lisa and Anthony could do so much better for David than I could have, with Tony not wanting to raise a child. To this day, I have no regrets about my decision, though my grief was something very real. Lisa and Anthony, unknowingly, gave both David and I a second chance at life.

Eighteen months since those emotional days in the hospital, my life has changed immensely. I have become a successful graphic designer, and love what I do. I also began working with FIA to help others see the birth family's side of open adoption. And most importantly, I feel as though I have gained a whole other extended family, and this family is built on love and trust and patience. I have enjoyed two FIA picnics with Lisa, Anthony, and David (of course!) and we leave the day with warm hugs and cameras full of pictures. I was even able to travel down to Rhode Island to see David for his 1st birthday, and stay the night with them. I feel so lucky to have met these wonderful, inspiring people, and for them to accept me as I am. I know that the amount of 'openness' in this adoption is somewhat rare, and it does take time and effort to maintain. While at first we used the agency as a 'buffer' to communicate, we have moved on to keeping this relationship alive by our own means. Lisa and I email regularly, with pictures, funny stories, and sloppy kisses always attached.

ADOPTION LEGAL SERVICES

Debbie Steincolor, Esq.

I will hear your opinions while guiding you through your legal options to empower you.

As an adoption attorney for nineteen years, I provide individualized services in domestic adoption plans, placements, and finalization proceedings to prospective adoptive parents and potential birth parents, and also, in re-adoption proceedings.

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Kara for Birth Mother's Day

Sue & Sue

Tom & Melissa

United Way



Our story is amazing!

Dearest Dawn, Kim, everyone at FIA and all the families looking for hope and happy ending,

Our story is amazing! We are Shane and Mitzie. We are in the process of hopefully adopting a beautiful and very happy 4½-year-old little girl named Francis.

As many of you, we started the process of adoption thinking "we must have a newborn" not realizing that fate may have more control than we can imagine.

We signed up with FIA and within a very short time the agency contacted us with this 3-year-old who needed parents. At that time, we were not ready to commit to this case and decided to decline. FIA supported our decision and continued to send our profiles to many birth families. Nine months later we were contacted again with the same case for this now 4-year-old. We decided to have our profile sent to the birth family only to find out that another family had already been chosen. We thought, okay, as long as this 4-year-old is placed in a happy home, we'll be happy for her. One week later we received yet another call from FIA with the news that that the previous family and the birth family had decided not to continue working together and that we had been selected as the family that Francis wanted! We could not help but think..wow, why does this little girl keep finding her way back to us? We decided to meet her and immediately fell in love with her!

We have been very fortunate to spend lots of time with Francis and her grandmother. We were even more fortunate to meet Francis' birth mother, siblings and extended family. They have all welcomed us and we have become one big family! Since that magical day (the day we met our daughter) the level of open communication and the love and respect we feel towards her birth family is wonderful. What is more spectacular is that they feel the same towards Shane and I. Francis' grandmother told us that we are her shining star and that she would do anything she has to do to make sure that Francis' star never goes away! Her birth mother and I have constant communication and we call each other "mommy". Francis thinks she is a very good girl because she has two mommies and she is thrilled to have one of her dreams come true...her own daddy! (And don't forget Monte – her very own puppy too.)

At this time we, Dawn, Kim, Kate, our lawyer Anne, FIA's lawyer, case workers, Grandma, birth mom and all of the representatives are working together to make Francis' adoption a dream come true. Of course, as with most adoptions, we are dealing with bumps and curves in our path. We are hopeful that everything will turn out okay. We feel that our unconditional love towards Francis will see everything through. As Dawn says "love conquers all."

Her birth mother and grandmother have given us the most tender gift of all... a life... a life that we promise to treasure and cherish. Any family would have been blessed to have Francis as their daughter; we are so glad we were the lucky ones to have been chosen.



We pray we get to keep this precious little princess forever! We'll keep you posted.

All our love,
Mitzie and Shane

*Family is the bond that unites individuals
Together with the golden ribbon of love
Family supports each other through good times and bad
Like the never ending universe, Family has no end.
It exists with steadfast love through belonging and
Believing in each other. Family endures forever.*

ADOPTION LEGAL SERVICES



KURT M. HUGHES, ESQ.
MARGARET M. GLAZIER, PARALEGAL
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Kurt is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and provides adoption related legal services to both adoptive and birth parents including:

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mail

Dear Friends & Family,

Here is a new picture of Audrey (5½) & Trevor (3½) for FIA. They're still adorable aren't they?

It's been very busy since our last picture. Audrey took ski lessons this winter and did awesome! She goes to the summit now and can ski with control all on her own. We had a lot of fun skiing with her this winter. Trevor started to enjoy it a little toward the end but he still needs to have a harness. Next year he will take lessons too, so we hope that will help him enjoy it a bit more.

Audrey has a dance recital on May 19. This will be her first stage performance. As shy as she is, we think she'll do just fine. Audrey is also now in t-ball. She seems to really enjoy it. The best thing with all these activities is that she is meeting new kids and becoming more confident in herself! This should make the transition into kindergarten much smoother!

Trevor is still his rascally self. He ALWAYS has to do everything himself. He also has a bit of a temper when things don't go his way. We're working hard on that one! He is quite the natural athlete. Baseball, basketball or whatever, he can do it and do it well. Unfortunately, he's too young to be on any "real" team yet (he has to be 5).

Colby (our dog) turned 15 in March. What a great dog he has been. Hopefully he'll be with us a while longer.

Well, we're hoping our summer will be a good one. Lots of sun and activities. We wish you all the best and hope to see or talk to you soon.

Love, Caryn, Denise, Audrey, Trevor & Colby



*Dawn,
Get a load of this sweet family.
Louise*

Hello all,

We just wanted to take the time to thank you for everything that you have done for us in order to make the adoption process as smooth as it was. As some of you might not know, Joshua's adoption was finalized on Monday. It was and is an amazing feeling for us both.

Lynn,

Thank you for taking the time to always listen and calm me down and assure me that I wasn't crazy about some of my feelings and for answering all of our questions at any given time and for holding our hands before, during and after Joshua was born.

Mary,

Thank you for being there literally at the very beginning when we signed on with FIA and at the very end... finalization. You lucked out and missed all the middle parts of me breaking down, etc.

Kim,

What do I say to the person that would always call me at work at 9:01 AM on a Monday morning asking us to make the most important decision of our lives?

I think at the time I might have said something else other than thank you to you but now I can honestly say, thank you for encouraging us to speak with Joshua's birth mom when we weren't sure what to do since we didn't have any medical records, etc. to base our decision on.

Dawn,

How do we even begin to thank you for having an agency that focuses on the most important thing... the child. Your knowledge and expertise will never be forgotten. Over the years to come, we look forward to singing your praise from as many rooftops as possible.

If there is any one you would want us to speak to on your behalf or attend any weekend workshops, just let us know.

We are looking forward to seeing any and all of you at the APC convention in Montclair.

Robin and Greg



Hi all,

Just had to send a note to you.... Carter and I were at our regular Thursday morning playgroup and there was a friend of the hosts there. She looked very familiar to me but I couldn't place her. After a while we were all talking and someone asked me if my husband was fair skinned because Carter is so fair. I said that he was adopted and that started it... Michele said my kids are adopted too! I looked at her and said did you do some publicity for FIA and low and behold it was her. I recognized her from the publicity that I setup for FIA on Time Warner News Channel 10 here in Syracuse... What a small world it is! She is not a regular at this playgroup but she is going to come every week now! She is just great! Also, there's another mom there who has an adopted child...



Then at our Tuesday morning playgroup in Cazenovia there are nine moms there and it turns out that four of us have adopted children! It just amazes me how many families are made through adoption!

I have attached a recent photo of Carter...He is getting so big....He just started standing on his own last night so I guess walking is just around the corner! VERY EXCITING!

We are looking forward to our visit with Carter's birth mom Rebecca and her family. We can't wait for her to see him! Hope you are all well!

Diane

Dear Dawn,

We had such a nice visit with you last week. Thank you for welcoming us and more importantly, thank you and your staff for all you do. You've touched our lives and the lives of so many. Keep it up!

Love,

Diane, Doug, Kyle and Kiera



Birth Grandparent

Barb,

Thank you for everything you have done for my family. I remember how nervous I was to make that phone call. When I did, you were so comforting. You took the time to listen to everything and you kept telling me that everything was going to be okay. I called you so often to give me the strength I needed to get by everyday until I was able to do so myself. Words can't explain what we were going through, but you were so kind, caring and patient at all times! That meant so much to all of us! After the shock of this started to fade, I started to remember some of your advice. I began to realize what we were about to face and we needed to do the right thing. By developing a relationship with Martha and Shawn and the tremendous amount of support that my daughter had, not just from her Dad and me but from her aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. I think that is why she is doing so well. She knows that she is going to have a great family like she has! She is going to have the opportunities that she has and most of all, that she will be loved! That is why we are at peace with what we have done! That is all because of you! You took the time to guide us and give us advice to make the right decisions. You worked so hard to find us a family that was right for us. Everything you did and said made a difference throughout this very difficult time! You truly care and went above and beyond what you needed to do! Thank you so much for everything!

Love, a thankful Birth Grandmother



Thank you for making our dreams come true. We love you all!

Love, Lanie, Bob, Kayla, Sarah and Ava
XO

Hi Dawn,

This is a picture of our gorgeous daughter for you to keep. (David says that when you adopt, they can be as gorgeous as they want because they don't get stuck with your genes.)

We attended her senior assembly yesterday—she'll graduate from high school next week. I can't tell you how it felt to watch her grow up into this bright, beautiful, talented, incredibly kind and compassionate young woman. Yesterday as we watched her be awarded the most talented female athlete of the year (something she's worked for, anticipated and coveted for the four years she's been at MSH) I so much wished I could share this with her birth mom. I want her to know what an incredible person the baby she gave birth to is. I've been thinking about her so much recently.

Bethany will wear National Honor Society cords on her cap at graduation. She's done very well academically, too. But the thing that is really remarkable about her is her personality. "Nice" isn't a word that sounds very powerful in our society where "awesome" is used to describe a hamburger but it is the appropriate word to describe her. With a smile that lights up the world. She sets an example of how to be in the world.

We love her so much.

(I don't have a picture to share of Bennett. He's gorgeous, too. I'll try to get one to you. This e-technology is a little advanced for me.) He sets an example, too! Got to love him. He's starting high school next year. At almost 15, he's complicated right now.

Anyway, these are some of my early morning thoughts to you...

With love and hugs,
Meredith



Hi Dawn,

Enclosed are the fingerprint and SCR forms. Thanks for moving things along on our behalf. We are completely thrilled with Judy Virginia and couldn't love her more! We are so grateful to you and your staff for making our dream come true.

Thanks again,
Chris and Deb (and J.V.)

Dear FIA Family,

We are sorry we missed the picnic this year but both of us started new jobs and could not get any time off. Our beautiful Annie starts kindergarten on September 5th! Another milestone for our wonderful family but there will be a few tears at that bus stop!

Please send the enclosed envelope to Alma and James for us. Please use the check toward postage and the rest as a donation. We hope everyone is happy and healthy and we hope to see you all soon.

All of our love, Joe, Laura and Annie
xo xo



We are so grateful

Dear FIA,

Tom and I are so very grateful and thankful to all of you. I don't think these mere words can truly express our overwhelming gratitude and love to you.

All of you were always there to encourage and support us especially when we weren't feeling so optimistic. You were able to help us gain perspective and understanding as we waited for Allison.

We are so in love with her and feel so blessed and honored to be her adopted parents. We are eternally grateful to you for the gift of Allison. We cherish every moment with her.

Thank you for all that you do! May God bless all of you! We are so happy to be a part of the FIA family. See you in July!

Love & Peace,
Tom, Melissa, and Allison

Dear Barb,

Thanks so much for having Karen and I for lunch to meet Kim Bellavia, a new FIA case worker. We had such a nice time talking with you both. The food was excellent. We hope to be involved with FIA in the near future. You are always a pleasure to work with.

Thanks again,
Melani

Continued from page 1

and looked for a postcard telling us that our profile had been sent to a potential birth mother. Several postcards came and then we waited. Days went into weeks and nothing was ever heard. It was okay because we knew that this would happen. When two years approached, we decided to get the baby's room ready because it had to happen soon right? Plus we figured this would be a good way to really keep our minds occupied. More postcards came and then nothing, more disappointment. We kept trying to stay positive which was sometimes really hard when everyday people would say "haven't you heard anything yet or when are you going to get a baby), like we weren't thinking the same thing ourselves. Our answer would always be "the right baby will find its way to us". It became our standard answer. Although there were times when we started not to believe it. As we became deeper into our second year, I must say that our disappointment and frustration grew deeper. Sadness had started to set in and that positive feeling was starting to fade. Deep down we thought that maybe we weren't going to get our baby and then one day we got the call, the call that would change our lives forever. We got a call from Lynn from the Clifton Park office (whom we had never spoken to before) and she told us about a girl named Alyssa who would like to meet us. We planned on meeting that following Sunday and as we drove the 3 1/2 drive from our house, we remained calm and positive but very cautious and tried not to get our hopes up (we had been disappointed once before). When we arrived at the eatery we met Lynn first. We got along great. She told us a lot about the birth mother and it really seemed like we had so much in common. When Alyssa arrived and sat down, we immediately felt comfortable with her almost like we had known each other before. She had just lost her mom a few weeks before and I had lost my mom so we bonded instantly. In addition to that we were all huge animal lovers and Steve and she both LOVE the Simpsons. We all talked for about an hour when Lynn said that she had to leave and we decided to stay and get something to eat. We stayed for another 3 1/2 hours and talked and talked non-stop. We touched on a million different topics and she asked me how Steve and I met. I told her that I truly believe that my mom had sent him to me (since I met him a year after she passed away) and she said I really believe those things. I then told her that "I knew that her mom is watching out for her from above and that she will guide her to the right family whomever that is) just trust your heart. She said she believed it too. When it was time to go we hugged tightly and said what a pleasure it was for all of us to meet. When we got in our car Steve and I looked at each other and said that it couldn't have gone any better and had huge smiles on our face. I said that we can't get excited until we hear the words that she doesn't want to meet any other families and she wants us to be her baby's parents. We drove home happy, optimistic and very scared. We talked about how amazing she was and how well we got along and how eerie it was because it was as if we've known her for a really long time. I know that everyone at home (our family and friends and neighbors) all had their fingers crossed and were praying for us. The next day we both had the day off from work and were out doing some errands when our cell phone rang. It was Lynn, and it was the call we had been expecting for almost three years. She wanted us and didn't want to meet anyone else.

I can't even begin to tell you the feeling. It's hard to describe. The happiness that generated through us was overwhelming. She was due in six weeks and we had so much to do. We got everyone together the following weekend which was Father's Day (how appropriate) and told them. I've never seen so many tears of joy before. It was amazing. We had decided to go back up in a couple of weeks to celebrate her birthday with her because I knew that it was the first birthday without her mom and wanted to make it a little special for her. We brought her favorite things; chocolate, Simpsons DVDs and the Family Guy DVD as well as toys for her cats (she has 4). We had an unbelievable time and left so elated. We agreed that the next time we saw each other would be in the hospital. Before we left she gave us the most unbelievable gift, she asked us to be in the delivery room with her. The feeling was unbelievable. We spoke in between on the phone and then the day came. She called and said they were going to induce her that Tuesday so we booked a hotel and drove up on Monday so that we would be there for her first thing that morning. We arrived at the hospital the following morning and went into the room and met her father and brother. It was terrific. We felt like we were all family and bonded instantly. When it came time for the delivery, she asked her father and brother to leave and for us to stay. We were there for the whole thing and it was the most amazing experience of our lives. We held hands and smiled and our beautiful baby boy was born. He was perfect. The entire hospital experience was great. Everyone was so kind and gentle with all of us. We stayed in the room together with the baby and fed him. Our birth mother was so amazing. She wanted me to hold him first and let Steve feed him first. We stayed with her all day until the evening and shared stories and plans for the baby. Her brother and father joined us and as the nurses said to us "if we had not know the situation we would've thought you were all family and related". We all felt the same way. When the day came to leave the hospital the lawyer asked how we wanted to leave, who should go first. We said oh no, we will all leave together and we did. He said that in the 25 years he's been an adoption lawyer he has never seen such an unbelievable experience as our adoption. That's because we were a family right from the beginning.

As we got into our car I looked at Steve and it came to me, now I knew why we had to wait the almost three years to adopt. This is what we had been waiting for all this time. Not just the perfect baby but the perfect family and I truly believe that Alyssa's Mom and my Mom met up in heaven and arranged this whole thing. God bless both of them.

Well it's been over a month now and we are home with Justin and have been filling his birth mom in on all his adorable qualities with lots of picture, calls and e-mails. She has given us the most precious and gorgeous little boy who looks just like her and her brother and I sent her pictures to prove it.

We thank Alyssa, FIA and God (with our Mom's help) for such a blessing in our lives.

Steve and Diane

Proud parents of Justin Francis

Continued from page 1

The remainder of the week was shot. Who could concentrate with so many scenarios swimming in your head?

That Saturday we left ourselves some extra time, just in case we got lost or a flat tire; we didn't want to leave anything to chance. We arrived an hour early. We tried to get a table out of the way, so people wouldn't be able to overhear our conversation, but that proved futile as the lunch crowd soon filled the place. Mary had described Anne to us, but we were still worried that we would miss her, that she would come in and not see us right away and leave. We were at the disadvantage since she had seen our profile and knew what we looked like. This was all new to us, we were on our first interview, flying solo, hoping not to screw it up. 11:50 came and I really started to get nervous, literally on the edge of my chair, my tush was starting to get numb. Maybe we subconsciously didn't want her to show up. What do we say to her when she does? Will she think we are idiots and turn around and walk out? We told each other to relax and to treat this first birth mother meeting as a practice run for all the dozens of times to come. Quickly it was 12:10, then 12:30, soon it was 1pm and our waitress was getting impatient so we finally ordered lunch. I have to admit that when Anne didn't show I was a little relieved, kind of like when you had an oral presentation due in school, but you were saved by an early recess due to a snow storm. You were off the hook for the time being, but you knew that it was only a matter of time before you had to get up in front of the class.

At the same time we were relieved, we were also sad that it didn't happen. We had a good feeling about this baby. We assured ourselves that if it was meant to be then it would be, on its own terms in its own time.

We called Mary when we got back in the car at 1:40. She was her supportive and inspirational self and she told us not to worry. We said that if Anne wanted to meet us again in the future that we were willing.

That was Easter weekend. William, the preemie boy born at 25 weeks was now 32-weeks-old and 4 lbs. Still 8 weeks from being full-term, he had been in the hospital some 50 plus days, hard to imagine.

We spent the weekend with family and stayed positive. Everything happens for a reason. Soon we would come to know that. Just about three weeks passed and two days after my birthday on Sunday, April 29th, I made the prediction that we would hear something Monday and that we would know by Thursday if the little preemie boy William was meant to be our little boy.

Monday, April 30th 1 pm, Mary called to tell us that Anne wanted to meet again. The soonest we could arrange a meeting was for that Wednesday. Mary told us how she had thought about Anne that morning, when another attorney told her about a baby that was born weighing 1 lb., 13 ozs. When I told her we knew she would call today, it gave her goose bumps.

We were off to the same diner to meet Anne for lunch. Now baby William was 36-weeks-old and over 5½ lbs. This time we got there just about noon and Anne arrived a few minutes later. I was walking out of the ladies room heading back to the table when I spotted a young woman just as Mary had described, tall, very attractive, long smooth hair and glasses. She looked just as nervous as I felt. I walked up to her and asked if she was Anne.

This was our second attempt at a meeting and we had almost a month to prepare, but I still didn't know what to say and I don't know if she did either, but we just started talking. Right away she apologized for not making the first meeting, there was a family emergency, an accident, but everyone was okay. I apologized ahead of time and warned her that I cried easily, which Dan confirmed. We all did a lot of crying over the next six hours and the next few weeks.

She started to tell us about Will and we asked if she had some pictures. He was so beautiful, feeding and breathing tubes and all. Before we knew it, an hour and a half had passed, and despite worrying about what to say and talk about, we all did pretty well between the tears. Anne asked if we wanted to meet Will and we were off to the NICU.

No one there at the hospital knew that Anne was considering an adoption plan for Will, so we were introduced as family friends. I have to admit that we felt like just that. Anne felt like a friend we had known for years; it was very comfortable. She is easy to talk to and we both wanted the same for William, a nurturing loving home whether it was with Dan and me or with her, either way it was all about that little baby in the isolette.



Dan and I were nervous about what we would see in the NICU. What would William be hooked up to? Would Anne let us hold him? How would we feel the first time we saw him?

He was more beautiful in person. Anne let us both hold him. I got to feed him. We sat by his isolette for almost three hours while Anne spoke softly to him, he knew his mother's voice. We took a break from the NICU's beeping and buzzing and went to get something to eat in the cafeteria. It was there that we told Anne about what we had planned for the child we hoped to adopt. We described the nursery to her. She asked if we were prepared for William, or for whichever baby we decided to adopt, not knowing yet if we wanted to adopt Will. We turned to each other and then back to her and I said we want William. We knew that he was meant to be with us from the first time we heard his name.

The next two weeks before Will came home were hard for everyone. I can only imagine how difficult this was for Anne. Not only was she dealing with the stress of making an adoption plan, but all of the stress of having a child in the NICU as well.

Anne still continued to visit Will over the next two weeks and we spent as much time there as we could. We would stay overnight then go home a day and then back again. The nurses and Anne showed us how to care for Will. The first time that Dan fed him without his oxygen nose cannula Will stopped breathing. Nurse Janet was so calm as she flicked Will's little feet and rubbed her knuckles into his chest to stimulate him to take a breath. She told Dan not to worry, "This is good that it happened now so I can show you what to do." Dan was fear struck, but he got through it. Will stopped breathing two more times during that feeding, but Dan was able to stimulate him to breathe.

They were a scary first few days, but as we practiced feeding him it got easier. Also everyday Will got a little stronger and had less apnea episodes, where he stopped breathing. He would have to go at least seven days with no apnea episode before the doctors would release him. He also had some issues with reflux, but that was controlled with thickened feeding. William is a pretty tough little guy; he had no major issues and was gaining weight, a true miracle. Will was a miracle for us as well.

Two weeks from the day we first met our little Will he came home with us. That was one of the scariest and most exciting days of our lives. Anne was there to see him off and we made plans to see each other in the fall. It was a sad and happy, emotional day. Unless you have experienced it, it is just too difficult to explain.

Now nearly 3½ months later as I'm writing this William decided to roll over for the second time, which Dan got to witness this time. He is off his apnea monitor, weighs almost 17 lbs., is eating baby food, sleeping through the night and smiley all the time. He is truly a beautiful little person, just like his birth mom, Anne.

Later on in the process we learned that it is not often that you meet a birth mom and baby all in the same day, especially in the way we did. But these things can't be planned, they just happen as they happen. Maybe had we met Will three weeks earlier, things may have turned out differently.

Remember, things don't always go as planned and this time that was a good thing.

Kim and Dan

2007/08 events

Oct. 11-13	American Academy of Adoption Attorneys 2007 Mid-Year Conference: "International Law"	Baltimore, Maryland	jrgreene@cohenandgreene.com
Oct. 15-16	Ethics and Accountability Conference	Arlington, VA	Call 1-617-680-0808
Oct. 27	Moving Through Infertility: Learning Options, Making Choices Sponsored by Resolve of The Bay State	Marlborough, MA	Call 1-781-890-2225 or email admin@resolveofthebaystate.org
Nov. 3 8 am - 5 pm	16th Annual Conference sponsored by Adoption Resource Network (ARNI)	Penfield, NY	Call 1-716-586-9586
Nov. 3	Let's Talk About Adoption	Piscataway, NJ	Call 1-908-273-5694 or visit www.cpfan.org
Nov. 5 6:30 - 9 pm	12th Annual AFCR Adoption Fair	Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY	Call 1-518-448-5295
Nov. 18 9 am - 5 pm	27th Annual Tri-State Adoption Conference Montclair State University	Montclair, NJ	Call 1-210-920-0505 or email apc2007@optonline.net or www.adoptiveparents.org.
April 10-11	FIA's Attorney, Agency & Social Worker in Partnership Semi-Annual Meeting	Barrow's House Dorset, VT	Email fia@friendsinadoption.org
May 1-3	19th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys	St. Louis, MO	Robin Turner, rturner@drohanmgmt.com Call 1-703-234-4110
July 19	Friends in Adoption's Annual Picnic	Hapgood Pond, Peru, Vermont	Email Dawn@friendsinadoption.org

One year ago...

in September I was getting ready to start another new school year as a teacher while also "patiently" waiting with many other anxious adoptive parents. Then, in what seemed like a flash, my life changed forever with the arrival of Benjamin. Adopting Ben has changed my life in so many ways. In this past year, Ben has turned one and I now work for Friends In Adoption as a caseworker. I also have a relationship with his birth mother that I never thought I would or could have.

I had been teaching for a total of almost 12 years. When Ben was born, I thought that I would just take a few months off and then go back to work. As the day came closer to going back to teach, I just couldn't. While teaching was an important job, I felt that there was something else out there for me. I remember saying to my husband after the Get Acquainted Weekend that I could not imagine a group of people loving their job more than the FIA group. What a rewarding responsibility of making people's dreams come true! I really thought that I would love to work for Friends In Adoption one day.

Then, in April, I made that drastic career change as I started working in the Clifton Park office. I am now working out of my home as a case worker and I think I agree with my husband who says that I have found my calling! I love every bit of what I do. Ben goes to a babysitter twice a week and each time I drop him off I tell him, "Mommy needs to make other families happy like you have made ours." Being a case worker has allowed me to share my experiences with adoptive parents and birth mothers and guide them through the journey of adoption.

We just celebrated our son's 1st birthday with about 60 family and friends and Ben's birth mom. It was a meaningful and emotional experience to have her at our home and to be a part of Ben's first birthday. It just would not have felt complete without her there. She got to see his room, his home and everything that he is doing. He is walking, laughing and making crazy faces. He is a complete entertainer and he is our little miracle! This year has gone by so quickly, I can't believe that our son is one!

Patty Smith is an FIA case worker based primarily in New York.



Office Hours
9 am - 4 pm
Monday - Friday

During our office hours we will answer any questions and help solve adoption concerns. Please keep our office hours in mind and conduct your regular adoption business during this time.

Please note

On Fridays we try to catch up on paperwork. We can serve you best when calls to us on Fridays are limited to emergencies only. During office hours, we are also here to answer your incoming pregnant woman calls. After our working office hours, our trained answering service will be answering calls, with staff members serving as backup.

Email addresses

The staff may be reached via e-mail by typing in the first name of the individual and @friendsinadoption.org.

Financial questions

Contact Tara during office hours.

Get Acquainted Weekend

Contact Kim during office hours.

Status of clerical or checklist requirements

In order to activate your file: Call the Vermont office during office hours.

Adoption questions

For advice on your profile, adoption ads, and/or networking ideas: Call the Vermont office during office hours.

TRANSRACIALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Adapted by Liza Steinberg Triggs from "A Bill of Rights for Mixed Folks" by Marilyn Drame.

- Every child is entitled to love and full membership in his or her family.
- Every child is entitled to have his or her heritage and culture embraced and valued.
- Every child is entitled to parents who value individuality and enjoy complexity.
- Every child is entitled to parents who understand that this is a race conscious society.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know their child will experience life in ways differently from theirs.
- Every child is entitled to parents who are not seeking to "save" a child or to make the world a better place by adopting.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know belonging to a family is not based on physical matching.
- Every child is entitled to parents who have significant relationships with people of other races.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know transracial adoption changes the family structure forever.
- Every child is entitled to be accepted by his or her extended family members.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know that if they are white they experience the benefits of racism because the country's system is organized that way.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know they cannot be the sole transmitter of the child's culture when it is not their own.
- Every child is entitled to grow up with items in their home environment created for and by people of their own race or ethnicity.
- Every child is entitled to have opportunities in his or her environment to participate in positive experiences with his or her birth culture.
- Every child is entitled to opportunities to build racial pride within his or her own home, school and neighborhood.

ADOPTION LEGAL SERVICES

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Adoptions

Private, Agency,

Second-Parent, Step-Parent

Domestic

International

Family Planning Agreements

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE WAITING FOR A PLACEMENT

The Top Ten List of Things to Do While Waiting for a Placement

1. Start childproofing the house.
2. Concentrate on your relationship: schedule a "date night", or a romantic weekend away. Have fun as a couple in adult activities (without kids).
3. Interview pediatricians. (Most will make appointments for prospective parents – many at no charge.)
4. Enroll in a parenting class or read parenting books.
5. Start looking for age-appropriate furniture and necessities. Look on the internet for bargains and discount chairs, cribs, etc.
6. Enjoy activities that you may ultimately do less of when there is a child around (e.g., exercise, browsing in bookstores, sleeping!, hobbies, spending time with pets, friends and family)
7. Make a list of what you need to purchase, then, when you're ready, shop
8. Prepare the child's room (if you can anticipate the child's age)
9. Prepare finances
10. Make sure you know the policy at your place of work for leave of absence and benefits (e.g. health insurance for you child) you are entitled to

Begin with a Get Acquainted Workshop

Is FIA right for you?

Dear Mary, Dawn, Lisa, Tara and Kim,

I still cannot stop thinking about the weekend. My favorite part was hearing Holly's story. The courage of that birth mom to tell what she went through and to share with all of us her personal information was so compelling.

I was glad to hear that not every adoption you do is an open one like Holly's. We are fine with exchanging letters and pictures through the agency. The openness piece is too much for us at this time (although we pray for a birth mom like Holly).

Thank you again for everything – I have never seen such a dedicated group of individuals who actually love their jobs. We have found the right agency and have hope again that we will have a child soon.

Love,
Sue and Barry

Before you make a decision about whether FIA is right for you, we feel it's important for you to understand who we are, how we work, what we expect from clients and how we view the adoption process. There's so much to tell, and we think there's no better atmosphere in which to accomplish this than here in Vermont.

So we ask you to start your journey at an FIA Get Acquainted Workshop. The weekend will give you a chance to meet our staff, ask questions and relax in a casual, rural setting while exploring the

adoption options offered by FIA.

Attendance at a Get Acquainted Workshop is mandatory for all clients. **It is a wonderful educational opportunity which does not obligate you to work with Friends in Adoption.**

The cost of the weekend is \$275 per couple or single. This fee covers all meetings and lunch on Saturday. Weekends fill up quickly and are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Complete this Registration Form and return it to FIA. Pick your date carefully: FIA has a no refund policy. Your payment can only be applied to the workshop you register for.

Questions? Email Kim at kim@friendsinadoption.org.

Dawn, Barb, Kim, Lisa, Mary and Tara,

Thanks for a truly inspiring weekend! We had already met with Mary in her office to hear about domestic adoption and FIA. We felt like there wasn't too much more to learn – we were so wrong! To hear the presentation of life-long issues of adoption and adopting transracially really helped us realize that we do want to adopt a child of color. We feel so badly that it has taken us this long to get our act together.

We were always worried about the money but it was nice to hear Tara say that money should not stop anyone from adopting and that FIA would work with us. It was funny how many of us, once we started exploring adoption, knew so many people that recommended your agency. I guess all roads do lead to FIA! We will call when we are ready to schedule a consult.

Maureen and John

Get Acquainted Workshop Registration Form

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone 1 _____

Work Phone 2 _____

Email _____

May we call you at work (we identify ourselves as FIA)? Yes No

How long have you been in the adoption search process? _____

Special circumstances you would like us to know about. _____

How did you learn about FIA? _____

Would you consider adopting a child of race other than your own? Yes No

If there is a cancellation for the weekend of your choice, would you be available on 24 hours notice? Yes No

Are there any children currently residing in your home? Yes No

Due to the nature of the weekend, we cannot accommodate children.

Please indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for workshop to attend. The following dates are set for FIA's 2007/2008 Get Acquainted Workshops.

_____ Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2007 (Thurs./Fri.)

_____ March 6-7, 2008 (Thurs./Fri.)

_____ May 15-16, 2008 (Thurs./Fri.)

_____ August 22-23, 2008 (Fri./Sat.)

METHOD OF PAYMENT

\$275 fee per couple/single includes meetings and lunch on Saturday.

Personal check payable to *Friends in Adoption*

VISA Mastercard

CC# _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Please return this form as soon as possible to reserve your space. Reservations may be made via email or fax with a credit card. A letter confirming space in the first available weekend will be sent to you upon receipt of this completed form. Fax to Kim at 1-802-235-2311.

DATES AND RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Mail this form to: Friends in Adoption
44 South Street, PO Box 1228
Middletown Springs, VT 05757-1228
Phone 1-802-235-2373, Fax 1-802-235-2311
www.friendsinadoption.org