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Together as Adoptive Parents Inc. is a non-profit adoption support group composed of adoptive families, fost-adopt, adoptees, adoption professionals and other interested in adoption.

TAPROOT is a quarterly publication of Together as Adoptive Parents Inc.
 478 Moyers Road
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We urge you to send us any information that you feel may be of interest to our readers.

OUR MISSION

To provide a support network among parents in the greater Philadelphia area, to disseminate available services and information to members and to implement programs and activities which promote the well being of adoptive families.

Have any comments, suggestions or gripes?
 E-mail us at [t a p l i n k @ C O M C A S T . N E T](mailto:tapl ink@COMCAST.NET)
 or call us at (215) 256-0669

MEMBERSHIPS
 North American Council on Adoptable Children
 Statewide Adoption Network
 United Way
 Delaware Valley Adoption Council

Ex-President's Corner Phyllis Stevens

Now that I am Executive Director of TAP and Andrea Bryan is Board President I guess I should change the name of this article. Maybe I should call it "The Corner"...J. If you have suggestions for a name let me know. The last time I asked *you guys* to help with a name it was when we changed our name from Tabor Adoptive Parents to Together as Adoptive Parents. We all wanted to keep TAP so we only needed to pick something that started with the letter "T". Some of your suggestion were, "Terrible Adoptive Parents", "Terrific Adoptive Parents", "Troubled Adoptive Parents", even "Trump's Adoptive Parents". I can't wait to see what you come up with.

The last few months have been very busy for TAP.

- In April we hosted a one-day subsidy training in Philadelphia.
- As you all know May was "National Foster Care Month". Three out of the four weekends in May TAP was participating in some event to bring attention to the children and youth in our foster care system.

May 5th – 7th we were allowed to be part of the Montco Bible Fellowship Church missionary weekend. We give out lots and lots of information on adoption, foster care, and support services.

May 13th we held an event to bring attention to the 1300 children and youth that are in the foster care system in Pennsylvania that do not have an identified resources (a family to adopt them). TAP hosted a "Blue Balloon Day." The Pennsylvania's State Foster Parent Association donated 1300 blue balloons to us with the message "Consider Being a Foster Parent, 1-800-951-5151, www.psfpa.com" on them. DHS in Philadelphia gave us "PhillyKids Connection; Snapshots of Philadelphia's Children Awaiting Adoption" books to give out. With permission from our local Wal-Mart, TAP set up an adoption and foster care exhibit table. We started at 7:30am and ended just before the rain came at 3:00. We were able to give out over a thousand balloons (minus the few that blew away or popped) and all of the books. We had so much fun!!

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“The wonderful thing is seeing what an amazing sense of achievement and purpose the volunteers get in return. They know that thanks to them future generations of any one family are given the chance of a brighter future. To give and not to count the cost is what being a volunteer is all about.

But, as every volunteer has discovered, the payment in human joy and contentment is something you can't put a price on.”
Trisha, TV Personality

On May 20th TAP held it's annual fundraiser, a yard sale where we continued to give out balloons and information on adoption and foster care. May has been a very busy month for TAP. I would like to thank all of you who volunteered your time to help the helpless. You arrived at 7:30am to pick and set up tables for balloon day. You were there from beginning to the end. The following week you sorted and tagged clothes for the yard sale. You donated all the food and drinks that were sold and you were there from the beginning to the end. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

- June 3rd we traveled to Pittsburgh to host another one-day subsidy training (Thank you Sherry for all your help).
- June 17th TAP and PASS present a Therapeutic Conference in Philadelphia for teens
- At our regular meeting on June 24th our speaker will Robert Hafetz. Robert is a therapist, author, and adoptee that searched for and found his birth family.
- July 8th is our Board of Directors meeting. *TAP is in great need of board members, if you are interested please give us a call.*
- July 22nd is our annual picnic (see inside for details)
- In August we rest!
- September we start all over again

You may have notice that our web site has a new look. We are at the end of a one-year grant that allowed us to update all the information on *Taplink*. We are now in the process of looking for a grant that will allow us to add new resources to the site.

The last three pages of this newsletter were written by some of TAP's younger members. Enjoy!

“Have you heard that TAP is taking all its members to Hershey Park?”

“No, when.”

“Saturday August 5th.”

“What is the cost and how will my family get to Hershey Park?”

“It's free, and TAP will be hiring a bus so that no one will need to drive.”

“How do I sign my family up to go?”

“Call TAP (215.256.0669) no later than July 17th and let them know how many adult and children's tickets you will need.”



Ways to Encourage Honesty

When you suspect your child is lying, trying to force a confession will often make the situation worse. Statements like, "Don't lie to me," send a message of disapproval and could close the lines of communication between you and your child, says Carolyn Saami, PH.D. Here are better ways to encourage honesty.



Child's lie: "I did my homework on the bus."

Wrong Response: "I don't believe you. You couldn't have done it that quickly."

Right Response: "Let's go over it together."

Lie; "I didn't break the window with my ball. It must have been the wind."

Wrong: "That's crazy. I know you're lying, so just admit what you did."

Right: "I think you're afraid I'll be angry, but I understand that accidents happen. It's important for you to be honest with me so we can find a way to fix it."



Lie: "I didn't get my report card. They must be giving them out late this year."

Wrong: "I spoke with Sam's mother and she said he got his."

Right: "Let call the school and make sure it didn't get lost or get sent home with someone else."

Lie: "My friend said I could have her favorite Barbie for keeps."

Wrong: "There's no way she would give that to you. I want you to give the toy back tomorrow."

Right: "That was so nice of her, but I think she was being too generous. Let's call her mom and discuss it."



Opt To Adopt



Diamond is a 13-year-old young lady who is interested in being adopted. She is very smart and can be guarded with her feelings, but when ready, can be open to receiving affection such as hugs, and kisses. Diamond enjoys playing with and loves all kinds of animals. She also like taking walks and listening to music. Diamond enjoys photography as a hobby, and appreciates the challenge of learning to play instruments. She would like a family that allows her to play an instrument.

All families will be considered for Diamond. She is legally free for adoption.



Patricia is a beautiful 14-year-old young lady. She enjoys singing and has ambitions of being accepted to a high school specializes in music and art. Patricia also enjoys doing arts and crafts projects. She can be argumentative however, when she is focused on a goal, she is compliant.

All families will be considered for Patricia. She is legally free for adoption.

If you would like more information about Patricia please call Kathryn Garland
215/683.5560 PAE 5681

Prescription for the Heart -- Dr. Post's Affection Prescription

Dr. Bryan Post, of the Post Institute for Family-Centered Therapy, prescribes The Affection Prescription 10-20-10 as a simple tool parents can use to begin putting an end to problem behaviors.

First, he says, give your child ten minutes of quality time and attention first thing in the morning, before their alarm clock goes off. Sit on your child's bed, let him or her know you are there and want to spend a few minutes of quiet time before the day begins. Do this for ten minutes and then let him or her know you are leaving and it will be time for him or her to get up soon.

Second, give your child twenty minutes of undivided time and attention as soon as he or she gets home from school or you get home from work. The transition from school to home, and from afternoon into evening, can be really challenging for families, Post says.

Finally, give your child another ten minutes of quality time in the evening. Just spend time being quiet with one another, reading a story, or talking about the coming day.

Post contends that if you practice 10-20-10 consistently for two weeks, you will notice a significant improvement in your child's negative behaviors. Remember, Post says, this is not a fix but a move in the right direction.

For more information on Dr. Bryan Post and his Post Institute for Family-Centered Therapy, visit <http://www.postinstitute.com>, call 405-737-3100 or e-mail postinstitute@msn.com.

Adoption Misinformation costs Agency \$409,000

A Boston-area family won a judgement against a local Adoption Agency after claiming that they were given false information to persuade them to adopt twin boys from West Palm Beach over 10 years ago.

While working with Adoptions with Love the founder of the agency gave a false description of the biological mother and the circumstances of the birth. The mother was described as heavy set and from a "Fortune 500" family and that the pregnancy and delivery were uneventful. In fact the mother weighed 260 pounds, she was on Medicaid and suffered from hepatitis and other ailments during the pregnancy. She was in intensive care for two weeks after the birth. Some of the tests on the new-borns were abnormal but these results were dismissed as insignificant.

The twins are now 14years old. One of them has Cerebral Palsy and the other suffers from Tourette's Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive disorder along with other problems

In spite of all their problems the adoptive parents. They say that if they had known about these problems they would never have adopted the twins. However once they were placed they became part of the family and they have never considered giving them up.

Pennsylvania Court settlement clears way for foster care payments to relatives

Until this case was settled in March of 2005, kinship caregivers in Pennsylvania did not receive payments to cover room and board costs, even though non-related caregivers were provided assistance. The ACLU and the Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia filed the suit in 2000 citing federal and state law, which forbids discrimination against relative care givers. While not admitting any misconduct, the state Department of Public Welfare did agree to the settlement and to make back payments to the plaintiffs

As a result of this settlement, child welfare officials across the state are looking for grandparents, aunts, uncles and others caring for kin placed there by caseworkers. For some, this means they will be able to get foster care payments to help support the abused or neglected youngsters.

Some Summer Fun!

From Marquette

I just wanted to pass on a free activity for the kids to do during the summer, and actually year round. Some of the TAP families may be interested. Home Depot and Lowes have building clinics on Saturdays where the kids make all kinds of wooden projects. In the past we have made birdhouses, keepsake boxes, cars, fire trucks, planters etc. Each child gets a free workshop apron and goggles. After they build their project each month, they get a pin to attach to their apron. Home Depot clinics are the first Saturday of every month from 9:00am-12noon. Lowes clinics are the second Saturday of every month from 10:00am-11:00am. We usually go to the Lowes in Montgomeryville, but If you go to the Lowes in Warrington they will give you a certificate for a free kids meal to be used at the Hometown or Old Country Buffet. (2 free meals per paying adult)

We also take advantage of free or reduced meals at some of the area restaurants. Every Tues. kids 12 and under eat for \$1.99 at Applebees from the kids menu. At Bennigans, every Tues. kids 12 and under eat free, (1 free kid with each paying adult)

Foster Care Resources

"It's My Life" is a youth-centered framework of principles to guide young people aging out of foster care and is presented by the Cash Family Programs.

www.casey.org/transition

Scholarships for Foster Youth

The Casey Family Scholars Program provides scholarships and support for young people who have spent a year or more in foster care. The scholarships support the youth as they pursue vocational training or a college education.

www.orphan.org/ofacasescholarship

Adoption: To the adopted child:

When you hear the word adoption, what words come to mind? What do you feel?

Hi my name is Rey T. Sias. I was adopted at age 11. The words that come to mind, when I hear the word adoption are, happiness, security, love, sense of belonging, strength, hope, care, time, passion, diversity, joy, kindness, pride. The last word that comes to mind is the most important word to a child Family.

Family means many things. The family I am going to talk about is a group of people that make a bond and a life of hope. The family consists of a mother, father, possibly a brother(s) and a sister(s). Together they make a bond of one.

Family is an important thing to have. A family brings hope for the future and gives pride to the child. The child can feel great about being adopted and loved, and cared for, and to have his needs met.



Diversity is an important factor in adoption for the child or children most likely will be coming from another type of family.

Just remember being adopted is not a bad thing. It is a new beginning to become a great person. Don't feel bad because you are adopted. People seem to exaggerate the conditions and results of why they were adopted. It is a not a horrible thing believe me.

ON BIRTHDAYS

*By
Geoffrey Ryan Draayer*

Today is my birthday and I am six years old. I really want to be twelve so that I can take Sable on walks by myself, go on bike rides by myself and go to the swimming pool without having to wait for Mommy. But at least I am half way there.

Now that I am six I can play lots of games on the computer, go bike riding with my brothers and sisters and I can walk Sable when everyone else comes along. I just always have to wait for them.

I really like having birthdays because I am getting older and because everyone treats me really nice and gives me everything that I want when it's my birthday. I get to use Elsie's computer to play all the computer games that I want. I get to have everything that I like to eat. I get to eat lots of cake and ice cream. People give me presents. Memmy and Popup come and eat with us and play with us. Memmy tickles me and they always bring me presents and Memmy gives me a mint too.

The things that I really like the very best about having a birthday is that everyone sings Happy Birthday to me and Mommy sings the "Many, Many, Many Moers" because then I will get to have so many more birthdays.

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