

FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES of LARIMER COUNTY

Monthly Newsletter

October 2018

Welcome to FAFLC

Foster and Adoptive Families of Larimer County is a family support organization that strengthens foster and adoptive families through:

- Publications
- Training and education
- Providing opportunities for networking among families
- Financial assistance for the special needs of children

We know you have busy schedules, but we hope you take the time to read these important tips, events, and articles.

Additionally, here are some local training classes that we are very excited about. Check them out!



Each year in Colorado, more than 500 children "age out" of the foster care system. These children enter adulthood without any sort of permanent connection—no childhood home to go to for Thanksgiving dinner, no one to go to for advice before a job interview, no one to call when they're having a bad day ... no support system at all.

The CHOICE program intervenes before these children "age out" of the system, by creating broader connections between youth and adults outside of the traditional adoption route. The program is built on the premise that once you make a connection with a foster child, you will be compelled to help in a more permanent way and help him or her transition into adulthood.

Come learn more about the ways you can get involved in the life of a youth in foster care. Through the CHOICE program, you can become a mentor and host for a foster youth, and create a permanent relationship with that youth that will dramatically improve their outcome.

If you attend the webinar version of this class, please note that we utilize telephone for audio and a powerpoint will be available through Ready Talk.

CHOICE Orientation Webinar

October 25, 6pm

Register at <https://www.adoptex.org/the-adoption-journey/post-adoption->



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The 6 Principles of IDEA self-guided training includes a series of short videos and related information that provide clarity on six aspects of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including: eligibility, evaluations, the IEP, least restrictive environment, parent and student participation, and procedural safeguards. It's entirely self-paced and you can view the topics of interest to you.

Check it out now at www.arcjc.org/idea and share your feedback with ARC at info@arcjc.org

Don't Wait for the "Perfect" time to Adopt

from AmericanAdoptions.com

My husband has a strict type-A personality. His days must be mapped out and to-do lists crossed off appropriately. He manages every bit of his time and resources based on what makes sense, his abilities to achieve his tasks, and how prepared he is for the future. On the other hand, I possess a much more easy-going disposition and do not require my schedule to be rigidly planned out.

When we were dating, my husband and I had several discussions about the desires we each had for our future family. Where we would live, what jobs we hoped for, and how many children we wished to have were always part of the dialogue. Early on, I made it clear to my husband that I had always felt called to adoption. He, too, expressed his attraction to the idea of bringing a child into his home through adoption. Like anyone with a type-A personality would do, he began to map out a plan for our future family and the steps we would take to make our plan a reality. Because my plans usually begin with "whatever happens, happens," I felt inclined to hear his proposition.

The proposed plan would commence with our marriage. Once we had been married for four or five years, we would have our first biological child. Next, we would wait another four or five years to have our second biological child. Once both of these children were in school, and we had been able to save up enough money, we would adopt a baby from overseas and bring them to our family. His plan sounded easy enough, and I had no objection. So, our plan was to eventually adopt in our "perfect" time, and my husband would see to it that this plan was carried out.

I know so many of you are laughing at our plan and our naivety that we thought we could control our lives without so much as a hiccup. It started out, though, following the path we had planned. We welcomed our first daughter after being married a month from our four-year anniversary.

We were ecstatic and ready to begin this next step in our plan. After many complications after our daughter's birth and a hemorrhage that almost claimed my life, we decided to hold off on a detailed plan and just be grateful for what we had right now. I underwent four surgeries in the three years after the birth of our daughter, which were not a part of our original plan, and still our doctors revealed to us the devastating blow that we would not be able to have any more biological children and a hysterectomy would be my next surgery. This was definitely not part of our expectations for our family. However, we saw this as an opportunity to jump spaces and move onto our final piece of the puzzle: Adoption.

Just because we knew this was something we wanted to do in our future, choosing adoption is still something

to make sure you are truly prepared for. We entertained the thoughts of being financially or emotionally ready, but we ultimately recognized the decision to adopt not as one we had made on our own. Even back in the years prior to our marriage, God had been drawing our hearts toward the pursuit of a child that would not be ours by birth but rather through an adoption. We can look back on our lives now and see the instances where God was knitting together the details of our lives to surrender to another baby through adoption when and how He was making the plans.

Our story does not end there. After our doctors delivered the news of an impending hysterectomy, we prayed over and started the process of adoption. Home study in hand, hundreds of papers completed and turned in, fundraisers planned, and an announcement to our friends and family on Mother's Day made the dreams of adoption reality. We were certain of the plan going forward. Until the day after our announcement was made.

With a nauseous haze and the blur of those two pink lines, the day after we announced that our adoption process was well underway, we also discovered that we were in fact two months pregnant and two weeks from a hysterectomy. Talk about waiting for the "perfect" time to adopt. Moving forward with fears of miscarriage and problems that could arise, we never felt more out of control or further from our plan than we did in the days to follow. With the support of our family and friends who heard us announce our adoption and, so closely after, our pregnancy with its added risks, our call to adoption never wavered. Our bluff had been called on the "plans" we thought were flawless for our family. We realized that love is love, and we would freely give that to our biological children, just like we would to a child who needed our family.

We continued with our adoption. We birthed another baby girl. We have already experienced a match — and then failed match — with an adoption. For us, we know now that no "perfect" time for our plans. Even for my type-A husband, he sees that matters of the heart overshadow his to-do list and worries about perfect timing. We trust that when we see our adoption to fruition, we will also be able to look back and see how the undoing of our own plans brought the joy we know will come.

Adoption, like parenting, cannot be a check off your list once you've read enough books or saved enough money. If you meet the requirements in your state to adopt, let nothing else hold you back from thinking there will be a more "perfect" time to pursue a love that will not worry over the perfect conditions.

See more about the author of this article at: <https://www.americanadoptions.com/blog/dont-wait-for-the->

Kids in the Kitchen



10/10/18 or 10/14/18
5-7 pm

Located at Farm Fusion
2627 Cattlemans Rd
Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Cost: \$49 per child;
parents are free; buy 3
tickets at \$25 each

Contact: 970-219-7711 or
farmfusion@yahoo.com

Cooking class for kids ages 8 and up. Parents are welcome to stay and join in the fun at no additional cost, or, feel free to have 2 hours to yourself. This is an active and hands on class. Students will learn how to make home made pretzels from scratch - using only the freshest ingredients! Students will make stuffed pizza pretzels; dessert pretzels; and cinnamon rolls. There will be some fun competitions during the class, and students will get to bring home their favorite creations to share with the family.

Local Support Groups

Boulder | Boulder Valley Christian Church

Group Name: Adoption, Foster & Orphan Care
Contact: Cathy at cathy@bvchristian.org

Broomfield | Discovery Christian Church

Group Name: Adoption and Foster Care Support Ministry
Meeting: Last Sunday, 2:30- 4:30 pm
Contact: Bonnie Robertson at bonnie.robertson02@yahoo.com
Please RSVP to Bonnie and let her know your childcare needs

Denver | Various Support Groups

Contact: Deb Marshall at 303.204.7515 or dmar-sal@earthlink.net

Englewood | AllHealth Network - Inverness Office

Group Name: Adoptee Relationship Techniques for Teens (ARTT)
Meeting: Every Monday, 5-6pm
Helping teens who were adopted effectively communicate their needs and have better relationships. Open to teens ages 13 - 18.
Contact: Call (303) 730-8858 about this group

Fort Collins | Faith Evangelical Free Church

Group Name: Foster Care/Adoption Support Group
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6pm in the café
Contact: Jodi Larson at 970.226.0100 or msquared2@comcast.net

Fort Collins | Timberline Church

Group Name: Foster Care/Adoption Support Group - Welcome Child
Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, 6-7:30pm
Contact: Wayne and Michele Sanner at 970.481.5749 or mlsanner@gmail.com

Fort Collins | Poudre School District Parents of Special Needs Kids

<https://www.meetup.com/Poudre-School-District-Parents-of-Special-Needs-Kids/>

Greeley | Christ Community Church

Group Name: Forever Families
Meetings: Check calendar at <http://cccgreeley.org>

Longmont | Life Bridge Christian Church, Room 122/124

Group Name: Foster Care/Adoption Support Group
Meetings: Check calendar at <http://lbcc.org/events>

Online | Free therapist-led support group and webinar

Meeting: See website for dates and times at attachmentcenteroftherockies.com
Contact: Deb at 970-328-5630 or deb@attachmentcenteroftherockies.com

Online | Adoptive Families Circle Online Community

http://www.adoptivefamiliescircle.com/groups/group/Colorado_Adoptive_Families1/

Bingo Volunteer Lineup

FAFLC has been doing bingo as a fundraiser for over 23 years!

Bingo is always in need of more volunteers—general volunteers as well as callers—and training is available. Youth have to be 14 years old to volunteer.

Go to the FAFLC website and sign up through our sign-up genius. Make sure to find a replacement if you can't make your scheduled time!

Bingo is FAFLC's major fundraiser. This is a great, easy way to get volunteer hours.

Meet other Youth

- Learn about Customer Service and Handling Money
- Use Bingo as a community service for school if needed
- For the adults it's an opportunity to meet other foster or adoptive parents



Every Sunday night

5:30—9:30pm



Local Events



16th Annual Harvest Farm Fall Festival & Corn Maze

Date: Sept 29th—Oct. 28th
Time: Fri-Sat: 10am-8pm and Sun: 12-6pm
Location: 240 E County Rd 66, Wellington
Cost: Adults (13 and up) \$15
Child (4 - 12) \$13
3 and under Free
Seniors 60 and older \$10

Families of all ages are invited to enjoy fall fun this October at Denver Rescue Mission's 16th Annual Harvest Farm Fall Festival & Corn Maze. Activities include a 10-acre corn maze, corn cannons, yard games, food trucks, natural play areas, petting zoo, pig races, hay wagon rides and much more.

More information:

www.HarvestFarm.net for more information and to purchase tickets.

Halloween Enchanted Garden *Especially for children ages 2-8*

Date: October 27th
Time: 10am-2pm
Location: The Gardens on Spring Creek 2145 Centre Ave., Fort Collins
Cost: \$5 per child (Ages 2 and under admitted free)

Presented by Kaiser Permanente, the Gardens on Spring Creek is delightfully transformed into a Halloween Enchanted Garden for just a single day of the year! This day at The Gardens is everything sweet just without the candy. Take part in a day of magical amusement and old-fashioned fun celebrating the Halloween season. Be sure to wear your costume and be ready for some magical (never frightening!) fun. This event is one of the only candy-free Halloween celebrations in Fort Collins.

More information: <https://www.fcgov.com/gardens/halloween->

Loveland Museum Halloween Family Fun Festival 2018

Date: Oct. 27th
Time: 10 am—2 pm
Location: 503 N. Lincoln Ave., Loveland (Peters Park and 5th Street adjacent to the Museum)
Cost: Free

Join the Loveland Museum for the 17th anniversary of the Halloween Family Fun Festival! This family-friendly event draws 100's of families downtown for trick-or-treating, activity booths for children, food and entertainment. Dress in your best Halloween Costume and register to win great prizes. Downtown merchants will be giving each ghost, goblin, princess, and butterfly a treat, while supplies last!

More information: <https://www.lovelandmuseumgallery.org/programs-events/events/halloween-family-fun-festival/>

Reminders for Volunteers at the *Little House*

- Don't forget to get the code for the doors prior to going to the Little House
- Sign in on the sheet inside the Little House or in the back warehouse regardless of the reason for being there
- Do not put items of any kind in the "Model T" shed
- Pay close attention to the bins and how they are labeled when sorting items. Watch sizes and TAKE YOUR TIME!!!
- When trying on clothes or looking at items be sure to return them the way they were found or better. This means folding the items and replacing them on the shelf they were found on—NOT THE FLOOR! Leave the buildings picked up. Many volunteers spend hours sorting, hanging up, and cleaning the buildings.
- Use the appropriate hanger for the item—don't use adult hangers for little clothes.
- If you have to drop off items please put them toward the back of the warehouse where there is empty space and not right inside the doorway. DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OUTSIDE—IT DOES RAIN AND SNOW IN COLORADO!
- Be sure to turn the lights off and chain up the gate when leaving—utilities are paid by FAFLC

Little House assistants—please call (970) 481-7993 if you see anything questionable at the Little House.

Book Corner



I Wished for You by Marianne Richmond

A beautiful story for adoptive families. It follows a conversation between a little bear named Barley and his Mama as they curl up in their favorite cuddle spot and talk about how they became a family. Barley asks Mama the kinds of questions many adopted children have, and Mama lovingly answers them all.

Hilarious Adoption Home Study Blunders

From <https://infertility-ectopics-adoption-thehonesttruth.com/hilarious-adoption-home-study-blunders/>

Those of you in the early stages of mountains of paperwork for adoption are likely dreading your homestudy. However, I truly believe if you get through the initial paperwork you are definitely committed to adoption and will do just fine on your homestudy. I was nervous before our homestudy too.

Our homestudy case worker did it in two separate sessions. The first session was done in her office with just my husband and I. It was just a ton of required questions. I was BEYOND nervous. I knew we had nothing to hide, but I also knew my husband was a “foot in mouth” kinda guy when nervous. I was so afraid of what he would say. However, I was so nervous I flubbed up too.

TOP TWO highlights of the night:

Caseworker: Would you say your family is ethnically diverse? My husband quickly answers, “we have tacos every Tuesday!” I am sitting there thinking “Oh my goodness. Did he seriously just say that out loud?” He realized what he said and tried to fix it with “we travel often”. WHAT? He quickly realized he was far off track and just stopped talking.

Caseworker: If your child wanted to explore other religions, would you be okay with that? I quickly reply, “Well, as long as they don’t ask to sacrifice cats in my basement”. My husband’s mouth dropped. WHAT? Where did that come from?

The second half of the homestudy was done in our home. She said our boys and dog should be there too. Here is the crazy thing though. I scheduled it for one week after my total hysterectomy. Looking back now I realize I was clearly dilutional. I could not help clean so my husband cleaned, and you know how men clean. I ended up asking my mom to come help clean. You could have eaten off the floor. My house was spotless, but my hus-

band was exhausted and somewhat irritable.

My boys were 3 and 5 at the time. They were so excited that we were adopting that they appeared as though they had been sipping coffee all morning. They were wound up like tops. They were seriously jumping like monkeys from our loveseat to couch and back and forth. They wanted to go outside to play, and she said that was fine. I realized after they went out that we did not put jackets on them, and it was pretty chilly outside. Oh my!

Our dog greeted the caseworker at the door by jumping up and licking her face. She is a big teddy bear but hyper. Once she could see the dog was friendly and great with the kids, we asked if we could put her upstairs so she would settle down. Bad idea! She barked incessantly the entire time because she knew a visitor was there.

Moral of the story: You are obviously amazing people for wanting to adopt let alone if you got



THE HONEST TRUTH looks at infertility, ectopics, and adoption. The mission of the website is to bring awareness and education to the following topics: Endometriosis, Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome, Infertility, Ectopic Pregnancy, and Adoption. It also looks for ways to encourage and empower woman as they seek to build their family.



Fun Runs 4 the Whole Family



October 6, 2018

FALL FESTIVAL
10 AM-2 PM
OLD TOWN TIMNATH

5K *scarecrow* FUN RUN

REGISTRATION 8 AM • RACE START 9 AM
register at Timnath.org/5K

FALL INSPIRED FOOD STATIONS
WITH BEER PAIRINGS

LOCAL
CRAFT
FAIR

live music

FREE KIDS'
ACTIVITIES

event benefits FOOD BANK FOR LARIMER COUNTY

and much more!



Presented by the Town of Timnath and the following sponsors:



Run for the Orphans

November 3, 2018

9:00 am—Kids 1 mile race

9:30 am—5K Run / Walk

8th Annual Phantom 4 Miler

Saturday, October 28 2017 | 9:00 AM

The Biergarten at Anheuser Busch - Fort Collins

Presenting
Sponsor



<http://animalhousehelp.org/phantom4miler/>

