



The Adoptive Families Program for Domestic & International Adoptions

Fact Sheet - February 2014

Our Mission:

The Adoptive Families Program for Domestic and International Adoptions (AFP) is a post-adoption resource and referral program dedicated to helping Colorado families who have adopted internationally or domestically outside the child welfare system. Our goal is to support adoptive families in times of unusual stress and in preventative ways so that families have the resources they need to provide loving, stable homes for their children.

About AFP:

The Adoptive Families Program for Domestic and International Adoptions was created in 2008. With the support of a private donor, The Adoption Exchange has continued providing educational opportunities and other support services for parents who have adopted internationally. Our goal is to not only help preserve the adoptions but also to help these families flourish.

Through December 1, 2013, the Adoptive Families Program served over **376** families by providing a variety of resources and information. Some families used only one service while others used two or more. The AFP Coordinator had direct contact with over 75 families to provide funding, assistance and education during 2013.

Summary of Services Provided in 2013:

Grants and Scholarships:

- **Family Mini-Grants:** Family mini-grants offer AFP families up to \$250 per adoptive child, per year to help with expenses related to an adoption related need or diagnosis. During 2013, AFP awarded family mini-grants to 19 families, including 28 adopted children. Examples of expenses funded in 2013 include: respite care, equine therapy, family therapy, medical treatments, orthotics, speech therapy, heritage camp, an educational advocate and more.
- **Parent Education Scholarships:** AFP also offers Parent Education Scholarships of up to \$250 per family to help with expenses to attend trainings, workshops or conferences related to a specific diagnosis or adoption issue. In 2013 AFP awarded educational scholarships to 4 families for parents to attend conferences and other events to assist them in parenting their children. The events were: The Embracing Orphan's Conference, Heritage Camps, and Parenting the Hurt Child (an eight week course).

Agency Outreach and Advocacy:

Through outreach and advocacy the AFP Program Coordinator makes a continuing effort to share information about AFP's programs and services and to gain a better understanding of the needs of families and the resources available to them within the community. In 2013 The AFP Coordinator attended and presented at 14 outreach events to promote AFP. Through these events the Program

Coordinator was able to connect with adoptive families, adoption professionals, educators, support groups, social workers and mental health professionals.

Classes and Trainings:

AFP works to provide a variety of relevant, helpful and free training opportunities to adoptive families. In 2013 AFP presented two live training classes and offered online training opportunities at no charge to families or professionals. Classes offered in 2013 included:

- **“My Needs Are Unique” presented by Sanam Pejuhesh** - This class covered emotional regulation and the ways adopted children can express their state of regulation, how to respond to a child’s behavior to help them calm down and regulate, how trauma can impact brain development and how to help children heal. It also covered strategies for parenting adopted children and staying regulated as care givers. Twenty-eight (28) people attended this class.
- **“When is my skin going to turn your color?” presented by Dr. Chaitra Wierta-Leiker** - This class covered how to encourage healthy discussions about race and culture in your family, how to help your child cope with cultural differences and expectations, how to respond to your child’s and others’ questions about transracial adoption, and how to positively develop your child’s sense of identity and self-esteem. Thirty (30) people attended this class.
- **Adoption Learning Partners Classes** - AFP also offered 30 free online training codes, which can be used for any online training class offered by Adoption Learning Partners (www.adoptionlearningpartners.org).

Media and Publications:

AFP strives to maintain a consistent connection to adoptive families and professionals by posting information on The Adoption Exchange’s Facebook page as well as emailing our monthly e-note publication. In 2013 AFP used the following methods of connecting with both families and professionals:

- **Social Media** - AFP posts relevant resources, events and opportunities for families who have adopted privately and internationally on The Adoption Exchange’s Facebook page.
- **Monthly E-Notes** Each month AFP sends out an “E-Note,” which contains information on resources, educational opportunities and events as well as funding information. The E-Note is sent out monthly to over 400 families and professionals. E-note topics for this year have included:
 - Family mini-grant funds and parent education scholarship funds
 - Community Resources and Events
 - AFP and The Adoption Exchange trainings
 - A monthly resources spotlight

**For more information about the Adoptive Families Program, contact:
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