



# post adoption PARENT GUIDE

November 2021 | Issue 8

## Hello Families,

Happy November! This month we'll be honoring National Adoption Month in our newsletter. Below, you'll find resources and events taking place across our state.

We are excited to continue building rapport and relationships with post-permanency families.



**We have a new email  
address!**

Recently, our email address changed, so if you did not hear back from us, we apologize.



## Who Is Rise

RISE, Inc is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1987. RISE provides a range of services to adults, children, and families in Utah, Oregon, Arizona, Texas, and Idaho.

RISE provides services such as foster care, after-school and summer programs, early intervention, mental health therapy, behavioral supports, respite, and disability services. RISE, Inc. recently acquired the Idaho chapter formally known as Community Partnerships of Idaho.

Please reach out via email at [id-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org](mailto:id-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org) or 208-252-6117.

We look forward to answering questions and working with your family!

[Visit our website](#)

# UPDATE



## Subsidy Follow Up

Just a reminder that if you have **NOT** returned your Annual Idaho Adoption and Guardianship Assistance form(s), please submit those at your earliest convenience to [id-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org](mailto:id-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org)

Please do not worry if you have not turned in your documents as of this date. We are continuing to work with families who are sending their subsidy forms in. At this time, your subsidy will not be impacted, but please turn in your forms as soon as possible.

# NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH



***"The world may not change if you adopt a child, but for that child, their world will change." – Unknown***

November is a special month for adoptive families--it is National Adoption Month! Additionally, National Adoption Day is November 20th. It is a month to remember and honor families who have made the commitment to children through adoption.

We want to reach out and acknowledge each of your families for opening your hearts and homes to children who are in need of forever homes. Being an adoptive parent is not an easy journey but one that takes much love and dedication. You are honored. You are important. You've made a difference in a child's (or children's) life and we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts here at RISE.

National Adoption Month dates back to 1976, when Massachusetts Governor Mike Dukakis announced the very first adoption week. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption week, and, in 1995, President Bill Clinton expanded it from a week to the entire month of November.

Annually, many states honor National Adoption Day by celebrating families on one day to commemorate recent adoptions in their respective communities. Due to COVID-19, many of these events have moved to a virtual platform this year.

There are many ways to celebrate and honor adoption throughout the month of November. Below are just a few ideas!

1. Learn more about National Adoption Month. Visit **History of National Adoption - Timeline** to learn more about this special month.
2. Share what you learn with your family and friends. You can learn more about Adoption by visiting **NACAC**.
3. Read a book (or two) about adoption with your family. Additionally, you can watch a movie about adoption with your family. Here are some suggested titles:

#### **Books for Children about Adoption:**

\*This is not an exhaustive list\*

- Tell Me Again About the Night I was Born - Jamie Lee Curtis
- The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story - Anne Braff Brodzinsky
- I Don't Have your Eyes - Carrie A. Kitzel
- A Mama for Owen - Marion Dane Bauer
- Elliot - Julie Pearson
- We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families - Todd Parr
- My Family is Forever - Nancy Carlson
- Pablo's Tree- - Pat Mora
- Home at Last - Vera B. Williams
- The Red Thread: An Adoption Fairy Tale - Grace Lin
- Lucy's Family Tree - Karen Halvorsen Schreck
- I Wished for You - Marianne R. Richmond
- Wild About You - Judy Sierra
- Heart Picked: Elizabeth's Adoption Tale - Sara Crutcher

#### **Books for Parents about Adoption:**

\*This is not an exhaustive list\*

- The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family - Karyn Purvis
- The Connected Parent: Real-Life Strategies for Building Trust and Attachment - Karyn Purvis
- The Post-Adoption Blues: Overcoming the Unforeseen Challenges of Adoption - Karen Foli & John Thompson
- Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew - Sherrie Eldridge
- Wounded Children, Healing Homes: How Traumatized Children Impact Adoptive and Foster Families - Jayne Schooler, Betsy Keefer Smalley, and Timothy Callahan

#### **Movies - Adoption Themed**

Additionally, there are many movies that represent and tell the tale of adoption. \*The team at Texas Adoption Center (TAC) has a full list of movies and descriptions as to why these movies were linked to adoption. Visit **TAC** for more information. The below list is not exhaustive, and there are many other movies that tell the story of adoption and impact on families!

- Earth to Echo
- Elf
- Instant Family
- Tarzan
- Lilo and Stitch
- The Blind Side
- Annie (2014)
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

4. Share your family adoption story on your social media. The benefit of hearing an adoptive family story can be huge for others who might be considering adoption. It can be scary, but you are not alone in this journey. If you are not fully comfortable sharing your story, change your profile picture or cover photo to Adoption Awareness Photos. Visit **National Adoption Month** for downloadable images!

5. Do a fun craft with your family that has an adoption theme. Incorporate your favorite adoption quote, photos, and other images that represent your family's journey through adoption.

6. Give back to the community. Connect with agencies in your community that work with adoption (such as foster care, private agencies, or another family who is in the process of adoption).

7. Start a new tradition that incorporates adoption that shares your family's story. This tradition can be one that your family can do together yearly in November to honor National Adoption Month.

***"I was chosen, I was wanted, I was cherished, I grew in their hearts, I was the missing piece, I was loved, I was adopted." – Unknown***

***"[Adoption] carries the added dimension of connection not only to your own tribe but beyond, widening the scope of what constitutes love, ties, and family. It is the larger embrace." – Isabella Rossellini***



NOVEMBER IS  
**NATIONAL  
ADOPTION  
MONTH**

[childwelfare.gov/adoptionmonth](http://childwelfare.gov/adoptionmonth)

Annually, the Child Welfare & Children's Bureau creates a theme around adoption and foster care. This year, the theme is *Every Conversation Matters*.

Over 122,000 children and youth across the country are in foster care, waiting for a forever family. For teenagers at risk of aging out of foster care, it is just as important to secure a permanent sense of belonging.

This year, during **National Adoption Month**, the U.S. Children's Bureau urges us to prioritize having conversations with youth waiting for adoption. Every conversation matters because every child has a story, and it is our responsibility to help them on their journey by listening to their perspectives—

whether you are a caregiver, mentor, educator, counselor, librarian, or any community member. We can empower youth to find their voice and help them on their path to permanency.

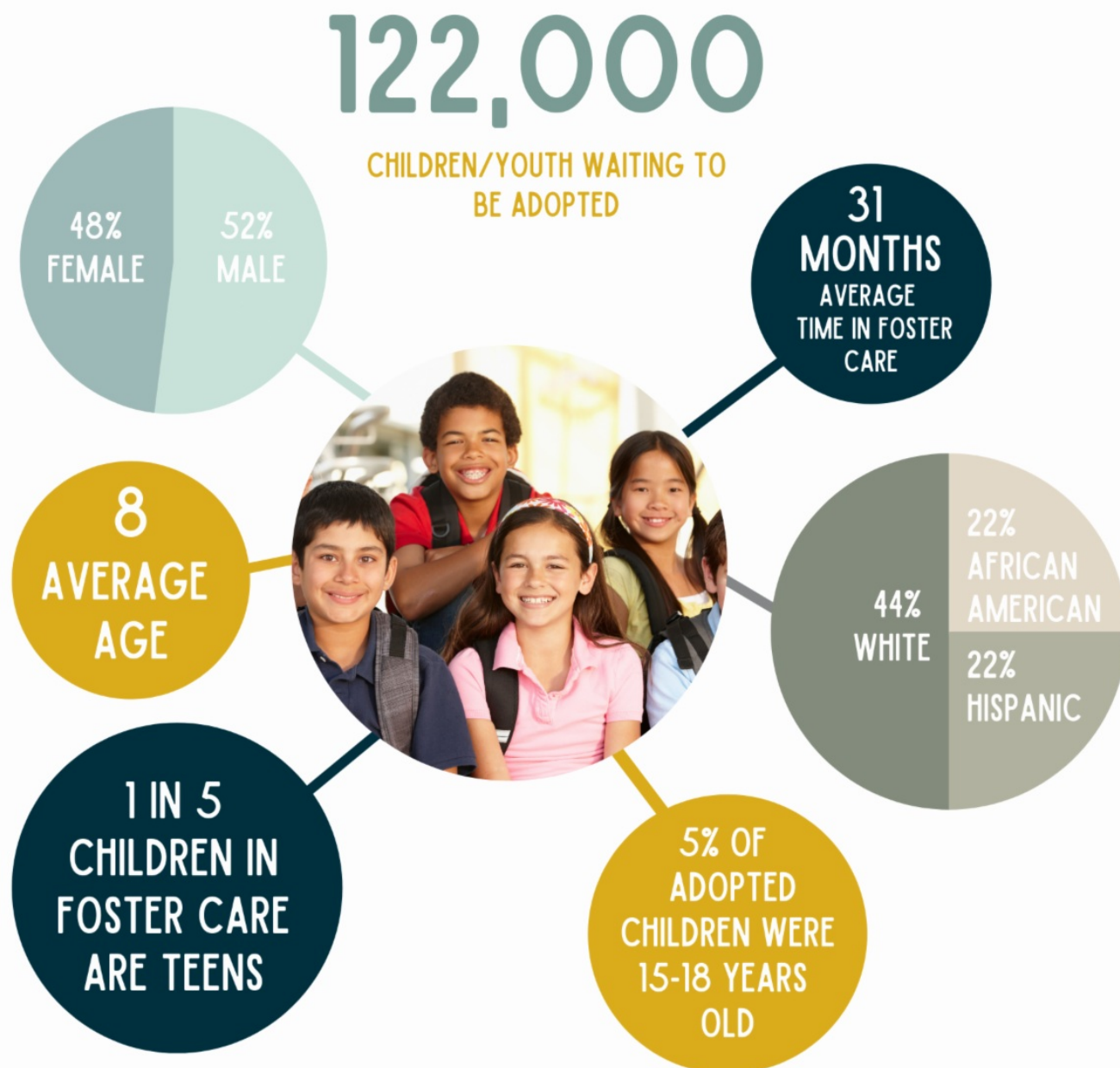
Visit the **website** to learn more about National Adoption Month and find tools and resources to educate yourself and your community about how we can achieve better outcomes for children and youth in need.

National Adoption Month is an annual campaign sponsored by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with **Child Welfare Information Gateway** and **AdoptUSKids**.

Stay connected throughout the month to raise awareness by following #NationalAdoptionMonth on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

## Key Statistics About Adoption

\*adapted from Child Welfare\*



The following are key data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System about adoption from foster care in the United States in 2019:

- There were over 122,000 children and youth waiting to be adopted who were at risk of aging out of foster care without permanent family connections. The following are additional details about those children:
  - More than half (52 percent) were male, and 48 percent were female.
  - Regarding race and ethnicity, 22 percent were African American, 22 percent were Hispanic, and 44 percent were White.

- The average age was 8 years old, with 11 percent being between 15 and 18 years old.
- The average time in foster care was 31 months.
- Approximately one in five children in the U.S. foster care system waiting to be adopted were teens.
- Only 5 percent of all children adopted in 2019 were 15–18 years old.

Additionally, teens in foster care have an increased risk of homelessness and human trafficking compared with younger children.



## Fun Event for Adoptive Families in Idaho!

The Idaho Adoption Coalition including the Idaho Department of Health Welfare and private adoption-related agencies are partnering with Boise State University to host a fun filled event for families! BSU has made tickets available to adoptive families for the November 20 football game against the New Mexico Lobos! RSVP with your full name, address, phone, total number of tickets, and number of children to Amy Hoes at **ahoes@ewu.edu**

If you have questions, please contact us at **id-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org** :)  
Have fun at the game!

**Go Broncos!**

# NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY CELEBRATION NOVEMBER 20

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES FROM IAC AGENCIES  
INVITED - FREE GAME DAY TICKETS

When: November 20, 2021

Time: TBD

Where: BSU Football Stadium

Who: Adoptive Families (IAC families)

What: Adoptive Families from IAC  
agencies join the National Adoption Day  
celebration at BSU's football game!

**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS BY NOV. 6**

Game Day Tickets are available to Idaho foster and adoptive  
families working with Idaho Adoption Coalition agencies  
Please contact your agency for details.



## CONFERENCES

### United for Adoption Conference

United for Adoption is hosting a Virtual Conference on November 4th and 5th! We will have some amazing speakers, and both sessions of the conference are free! The first session will be led by Janet Nordine, MS, LMFT, RPT-S, and she will be discussing grief and loss. The





**free**  
UNITED FOR ADOPTION  
CONFERENCE 11.5.2021

second session will be led by Cameron Smalls, MS, LPCC, who will discuss supporting adult adoptees in their birth search. You won't want to miss these!

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the session on November 4th. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the session on November 5th.

## Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Conference

On **December 8, from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm central time**, NACAC will present a virtual conference on FASD. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are some of the most common—yet under diagnosed—challenges facing children and families in adoption and foster care. NACAC's conference will highlight solutions for parents and professionals related to these disorders that are 10 times more common in foster care than they are in the general population. Even if you don't know you are working with or parenting a child with an FASD, you may well be.

### The conference features the following sessions:

- *Welcome and Introduction* with Phyllis Stevens, foster and adoptive parent — In this session, Phyllis will share her experience of realizing belatedly that her daughter had FASD and how understanding FASD changed their relationship.
- *Making the Connection Between the Brain and Behavior in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders* with Dan Dubovsky, MSW, therapist, experienced FASD trainer, and parent — Because the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure on the developing brain often lead to challenging behaviors, it is essential that solutions begin with understanding the brain basis of FASD. Dan connects the dots between brain functioning and behaviors and stresses the importance of implementing a positive, focused system of care.
- *Living and Thriving with FASD* with Hope & Tyler Martindale-Davis and Mark Martindale; facilitated by Phyllis Stevens — In this session, a young adult who has an FASD, her husband, and her father will share their story of living with FASD and loving someone with an FASD. The panelists will share strategies and approaches that have helped them learn to thrive as individuals and in their relationships.
- *Strategies and Solutions for Children with an FASD* with Barb Clark and Ed Morales, MPP, MSW, LICSW, parents/professionals — Understanding what FASD is and how it affects a child are the first steps to becoming FASD competent, but we can't stop there. This session will give supporters—both professionals and families—an understanding of why typical approaches often don't work with FASD. Learn to think outside the box, using approaches that promote relationships and emotional well-being.

Registration is \$50 per person (or couple viewing sessions together) for NACAC members, or \$60 for non-members. Attendees can participate live or listen to a recorded version of workshops. To register and learn more about the conference, visit [NACAC FASD Conference](#).

**\*Additionally, if you are interested in the training and worried about funding, please reach out to us at [ad-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org](mailto:ad-adoptsupport@riseservicesinc.org), and we can discuss applying for a grant to cover the expense of this and other trainings applicable to adoptive families.**

**RISE Services Inc. | [idadoptresources.org](http://idadoptresources.org)**