# National Council for Adoption
## FY13 Annual Report
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Dear Families and Friends of NCFA,

It is my distinct privilege, as Chair of the National Council For Adoption Board of Directors, to introduce our fiscal year 2013 Annual Report. This report highlights NCFA’s progress on key adoption advocacy and educational initiatives over the last year. It is a snapshot of an organization in motion.

As you review this report, I would like to point out a few highlights. First, you may have noticed that we have switched from reporting on the calendar year to our organization’s fiscal year, which runs from May 1- April 30 each year. Please bear with us as we transition to this new reporting season and some content is intentionally repeated.

We have also put forth a new strategic plan that will guide our efforts over the next 12 months and beyond. The plan outlines specific goals that are sufficiently ambitious to position our organization to tackle many of the serious and varied challenges facing adoption advocates here in the U.S. and across the globe.

I am thankful to be surrounded by an excellent team of Board members and a wonderful staff in whom I have every confidence. I am proud that NCFA’s Board and staff have managed to increase our efforts on behalf of the many thousands of children worldwide in need of permanent, loving families. You will find details on our progress on every page of this report.

The problems facing America’s foster care system, the world’s growing orphan crisis, the need to support birthparents and adoptive families both before and after adoption, and the importance of providing accurate, positive information about adoption to women facing unintended pregnancy make NCFA’s principled adoption advocacy and leadership more necessary than ever before.

Going forward I’m excited to continue working alongside you, my friends and fellow adoption advocates, on behalf of those we serve. Thank you for the many gifts that you have so freely shared with me and with NCFA.

With appreciation for your support of our mission,

Kevin Wrege
Chairman, Board of Directors
Dear Fellow Adoption Advocates,

Fiscal year 2013 has been a remarkable year for our organization as we made great strides advocating on behalf of adopted children, adoptive families, and birthparents. Through the exceptional efforts of our staff and Board, NCFA provided a strong and passionate voice for our constituents on Capitol Hill, in the media, and among adoption stakeholders.

Throughout the fiscal year, we met with congressional offices to advocate for legislation that would have considerable impact on adoptive families. Because of the dedication of our staff and interns, the Adoption Tax Credit became permanent and the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 passed and was signed into law. Our efforts were not solely relegated to legislative action. NCFA was actively involved in the United States Supreme Court case Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl, and submitted briefs requesting judicial guidance regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act, hoping that a decision would be issued based on the best interests of Baby Veronica. You can read more about this case in the Government Relations and Legislative Action section of this report.

Our presence in the media continued to expand this year. Well-known and far-reaching media outlets, including every major television network (ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox News, MSNBC, and CNN), NPR, the Associated Press, Time Magazine, USA Today, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, BBC, and Russian news agency RiaNovosti consulted NCFA regarding important adoption issues. Interviews covered a broad range of topics including the Adoption Tax Credit, open adoption agreements, and the Russian adoption ban. Public outreach, exemplified by our iChooseAdoption campaign, informed women facing unintended pregnancy about the option of adoption through a redesigned website and social media such as Pinterest, Twitter, and Instagram.

Over the course of the fiscal year, we strengthened our relationships with adoption stakeholders by receiving foreign delegations, hosting our annual National Adoption Conference, and publishing timely, pertinent articles. NCFA worked diligently with visiting officials from Ukraine and China to promote the culture of adoption and foster communication between our nations. With interactive child-focused sessions, the 2012 National Adoption Conference encouraged collaboration among adoption service providers to improve services to birthparents and adoptive families. Participants can supplement their knowledge with our widely disseminated and highly-cited monthly publication, Adoption Advocate, which is repeatedly utilized by adoption professionals and families alike.

Despite the successes experienced by NCFA and the adoption community as a whole, we have encountered some challenges. When threatened with the Russian adoption ban, we worked with families and other adoption stakeholders to spur our government into action. Our
hearts break for those children left languishing in institutionalized care facing developmental delays, addiction, and suicide. But we are not defeated; we will continue to zealously advocate on behalf of not only Russian orphans affected by the ban but orphans world-wide in the hopes that every child can find a permanent, loving home they deserve.

Sincerely,

Chuck Johnson
President and CEO
A YEAR IN REVIEW

As the leading global adoption advocacy organization, the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) seeks to promote a culture of adoption through education, research, legislative action, and collaboration. Since its establishment in 1980, NCFA has become the authoritative voice for adoption through its service to children, birthparents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, adoption professionals, U.S. and foreign governments, policymakers, media, and the general public.

Over the past 33 years, NCFA has worked tirelessly to ensure that every child has a loving, permanent family by focusing on three distinct areas – domestic infant adoption, adoption and permanency outcomes for youth in foster care, and intercountry adoption. The 2013 fiscal year held great advances for the programs in these specific areas, including the iChooseAdoption and Families For All campaigns.

The iChooseAdoption campaign has been a source of great effort this year as staff, volunteers, and individuals dedicated to promoting the positive option of adoption gathered to film a set of brand new public service announcements for distribution on TV, radio, and social media sites. In addition, the iChooseAdoption website was revamped to be more relevant for young women facing unintended pregnancy and to provide pertinent resources available at their fingertips.

NCFA’s Families For All campaign also received new branding and an updated website that is more user-friendly. The new website easily connects prospective adoptive and foster parents, as well as those who would like to mentor children and youth in foster care, with the resources and information they need to take the next step. With island pop artist Justin Anthony joining NCFA as a spokesperson this year, NCFA believes these positive changes will bring more awareness to the needs of children waiting to be adopted out of foster care and, therefore, increase the number of adoptions from foster care.

On top of these program strides, NCFA also had the privilege of seeing the Adoption Tax Credit (ATC) extended and made permanent in January 2013. As an organization that seeks to connect children with families, NCFA could not be more thrilled about this outcome, knowing it will continue to make the adoption process more affordable.

NCFA also had the opportunity to host several events during this 2013 fiscal year. As always, the National Adoption Conference in June was a huge success and cultivated a spirit of rejuvenation, inspiring participants to get back to the heart of the matter. In October, NCFA organized the fourth annual visit of a delegation from the China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption, leading twenty delegates on a three-week trek across the States to learn
about updates in adoption and foster care practices. Then, in December, NCFA teamed up with Gladney Center for Adoption to organize a cultural trip to China for children adopted from China and their parents. Eighty-seven in total participated in this incredible event.

The 2014 fiscal year holds great things for NCFA, including further expansion of the iChooseAdoption and Families For All campaigns, the 2013 National Adoption Conference in Orlando, and the announcement of a new foster and adoptive parent recruitment event. Additionally, NCFA is set to make some structural changes within the organization that will both improve and illuminate staff skillsets, organizational goals, and future endeavors to better serve children, birthparents, and adoptive families. Excitement surrounds this new year of service and extreme gratitude goes out to all of the dedicated supporters who make NCFA’s work possible.
AGENCY AND CONSTITUENT SERVICES

In the 2013 fiscal year, the constituent services team has remained focused on managing and expanding membership and handling constituent email inquiries.

NCFA Membership

NCFA’s annual membership is comprised of three categories: adoption agencies, adoption attorneys, and adoption advocates. While the latter two categories have grown slightly in the past fiscal year, agencies continue to make up the majority of members. NCFA currently has 78 member agencies, with 477 branch offices throughout the country.

Listservs

NCFA’s listservs are used as a means to communicate more effectively with members, providing them with updated information on adoption-related news and a forum to correspond with other professionals in the community. In the previous fiscal year, NCFA has seen an increase in the use of the Members-only and Intercountry listservs. As of April 2013, there were 10 listservs in effect: Members-only, Intercountry, Advocates, China, Domestic Infant, Ethiopia, Foster Care, Hague Reaccreditation, India, and Russia.
COMMUNICATIONS

The 2013 fiscal year held some wonderful gains for the Communications Department. After the addition of Adria Anderson in early 2012, the year’s work focused on completing the redesign of NCFA’s two most prominent public awareness campaigns — iChooseAdoption and Families For All. Both campaigns were entirely revamped, including their websites, social media strategy, branding, and new public service announcements for the iChooseAdoption campaign in order to remain relevant and improve the public’s opinion about adoption. The fiscal year also offered growth for NCFA’s media and public relations with the inclusion of new social media sites and the dissemination of countless publications.

Websites

NCFA’s main website, www.adoptioncouncil.org, continues to be a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about adoption. On average, it receives about 6,500 visits per month with approximately 72% of those visits being new, first-time viewers. NCFA plans to redesign the website to keep it current and relevant in the 2014 fiscal year. In addition to the main website, NCFA manages three additional sites that correspond to the core areas of focus: iChooseAdoption.org (domestic infant adoption), FamiliesForAll.org (adoption out of foster care), and HagueAdoption.org (intercountry adoption).

In May 2013, NCFA launched the new iChooseAdoption.org website in honor of National Birthmother’s Day. Serving young women facing unintended pregnancy, the new website offers functionality that allows birthmothers to explore the positive option of adoption, including the personal testimonies of others, a crisis pregnancy hotline, and a search engine to find adoption agencies or affiliates in their area. Visitors also have the ability to share their own story and connect with others using the website’s integrated social media options such as Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest.
Also in May 2013, NCFA released the new FamiliesForAll.org website to correspond with National Foster Care Month. The redesign allows for a more user-friendly interface to best assist visitors in their quest to learn more about fostering, mentoring, or adopting children from foster care. It features an interactive map to help identify local statistics and nearest resources, and connects users with the Families For All Twitter page.

Last but not least, NCFA’s HagueAdoption.org website provides prospective adoptive parents with the necessary education required for intercountry adoption. In February 2012, the 8-hour course was expanded to provide all 10 hours now required by the Hague.

Blog

Since its debut in March 2012, NCFA’s blog has received almost 18,000 page views and includes 42 posts on various adoption topics from an array of authors and advocates. To view the blog, please visit www.adoptioncouncilblog.org.

Blog entries for the fiscal year include:

- May 11, 2012 – “Why we chose to adopt a child in foster care”
- May 24, 2012 – “Foster Parents Can Make All the Difference”
- June 11, 2012 – “Chuck visits Ethiopia”
- June 13, 2012 – “Super Tuesday!”
- June 14, 2012 – “Inside the National Adoption Conference – Day 1”
- June 15, 2012 – “Inside the National Adoption Conference – Day 2”
- June 18, 2012 – “Inside the National Adoption Conference – Day 3”
- June 18, 2012 – “Prospective Adoptive Parents Day – Saturday June 16”
- June 27, 2012 – “An Invitation to the Capitol”
- July 3, 2012 – “My Own Adoption Story”
- July 13, 2012 – “Family Movie Night”
- July 17, 2012 – “Open Adoption: A Birthmother’s Story”
- July 20, 2012 – “Why I’m Thankful to Be Adopted”
- July 30, 2012 – “Announcing China Winter Tour”
- August 2, 2012 – “The Intern Experience”
- September 4, 2012 – “Behind the Scenes of iChooseAdoption”
- September 11, 2012 – “Save the Date!”
- September 18, 2012 – “Reuniting with My Birth Family: A Story of International Search and Reunion”
- October 4, 2012 – “Becoming a Mother on the Other Side of the World”
- October 16, 2012 – “CCCWA Delegation Visits Washington”
- November 2, 2012 – “National Adoption Month: Spotlight Programs that Strengthen the Adoption Community”
- November 6, 2012 – “America’s Christian Credit Union”
- November 14, 2012 – “Delivering Hope!”
- November 26, 2012 – “The Odd Life of Timothy Green Giveaway!”
- November 27, 2012 – “#Giving Tuesday is here!”
- December 5, 2012 – “Advocating for the Adoption Tax Credit”
- December 28, 2012 – “Be a Champion for Children”
- February 6, 2013 – “If I Only Knew”
- March 12, 2013 – “Extraordinary Day”
- April 9, 2013 – “NCFA Falls Head Over Heels for And Then I Found You”

Social Media

NCFA’s social media presence has grown tremendously in FY13. In addition to Facebook (facebook.com/adoptioncouncil) and Twitter (@adoptioncouncil), NCFA can now be found on Pinterest (pinterest.com/adoptioncouncil) and Instagram (instagram.com/adoptioncouncil). NCFA currently has 3,632 followers on Facebook, 2,137 followers on Twitter, 97 followers on Pinterest, and 20 followers on Instagram.

This fiscal year has also brought the addition of social media outlets for iChooseAdoption and Families For All. iChooseAdoption is on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram and Families For All is on Twitter. These venues are used several times a week to inform, update, inspire, and promote positive perspectives of adoption.

Public Awareness Campaigns

NCFA currently has two public awareness campaigns: Families For All and iChooseAdoption. Families For All was originally launched in partnership with Walmart to inspire Americans to get involved in the lives of children in foster care. The campaign spreads the message that all can take
action by advocating, mentoring, volunteering, donating, fostering, or adopting. Since its debut in 2008, Families For All has been a valuable tool in bringing awareness to the needs of foster youth in America.

Throughout the 2013 fiscal year, the communications department spent considerable time redesigning the Families For All campaign to keep it relevant and user-friendly. The campaign received all new branding, including a new logo, website and a separate Twitter account. Previously supported by Rodney Akins, the new Families For All spokesperson is rising island-pop star, Justin Anthony. The campaign re-launched on May 1, 2013, to correspond with National Foster Care Month. A more detailed description of the campaign’s re-design will be given in the 2014 fiscal year report.

After an exciting 2012, including the filming of iChooseAdoption’s new public service announcements (PSAs) and the completion of the new website, NCFA launched the all-new campaign on May 11, 2013, in honor of National Birthmother’s Day. Like Families For All, the first iChooseAdoption campaign launched in 2008 and received rave reviews from corporations such as the Niels race Corporation and Advertising Age Magazine.

With the overall goal of enabling women facing unintended pregnancy to consider adoption more freely, it was time to refresh the campaign. Serving the needs of birthmothers, iChooseAdoption provides young women with the resources necessary to make a fully informed decision, including the positive option of adoption.

Accompanying the campaign are professionally-created PSAs set to air in July and posters that will be distributed to high schools nationwide in the 2013-2014 year. In addition, iChooseAdoption seeks to reach its target population with a vast social media component, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, and Instagram. A full report on the campaign’s re-launch will be available in the 2014 fiscal year Annual Report.

**Regional and National Press Release Distribution**

NCFA’s press releases update members of the media and any other interested parties on current adoption issues. The following is a list of press releases distributed during the 2013 fiscal year.
• May 1, 2012 – National Council For Adoption and Walmart Raise Awareness for Children in Foster Care
• May 17, 2012 – Justice for Artem
• July 19, 2012 – National Council For Adoption Announces The Hope Challenge
• October 17, 2012 – National Council For Adoption Partners with Three Organizations to Help Address New Mandatory Russian Educational Requirements for Prospective Adoptive Parents
• October 24, 2012 – National Council For Adoption Welcomes Holt International’s Phillip Littleton to Board of Directors
• October 31, 2012 – Noah Z. M. Goetz Foundation: “NZMG Foundation Recognized By National Council For Adoption”
• November 1, 2012 – Sales of the Novel Delivering Hope During National Adoption Month Support National Council For Adoption
• December 17, 2012 – National Council For Adoption to Attend Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity Briefing to Highlight Evidence, Development, and Diplomatic Efforts
• December 18, 2012 – NCFA Responds to Possible Russian Ban of Intercountry Adoptions to the U.S.
• December 19, 2012 – Bill Proposing Russian Ban of Intercountry Adoptions to the U.S. Passes Second of Three Readings by Russian State Duma
• December 20, 2012 – NCFA Responds to Threatened Ban of Russian Adoptions to the U.S.
• December 21, 2012 – Voice of the Child
• December 26, 2012 – Russian Federation Council Sends Ban on Adoption to President Vladimir Putin
• December 28, 2012 – Russia Bans Intercountry Adoption with the United States
• January 2, 2013 – Congress Extends Adoption Tax Credit
• January 4, 2013 – President Obama Passes Legislation to Permanently Extend Adoption Tax Credit
• January 7, 2013 – Supreme Court Will Hear Case Regarding the Intersection of Adoption and the Indian Child Welfare Act
• January 25, 2013 – Intercountry Adoption Numbers Continue to Decline

NCFA in the Media – Notable Citations

The following is a list of notable citations from the 2013 fiscal year:

• LifeNews.com (May 1, 2012) – “Country Star Rodney Atkins’ Mom Chose Adoption Over Abortion”
• TheCelebrityCafe.com (May 11, 2012) – “Some offended by ‘The Avengers’ adoption joke”
• Focus On The Family (May 14, 2012) – “Avengers Not Joking About Tix”
• RH Reality Check (May 15, 2012) – “Despite Progress, Forced-Adoption Practices Persist Throughout the United States”
• Los Angeles Times (May 18, 2012) – “Woman who sent adopted boy back to Russia must pay $1,000 a month”
• CITIZEN Link (May 21, 2012) – “Weeklong Vigil Seeks Prayers for Children in Foster Care”
• Adoptive Families Magazine (May 24, 2012) – “Citizenship for All Adoptees”
• Families For Orphans (May 24, 2012) – “Top orphan & adoption info websites: National Council for Adoption”
• Babble (May 29, 2012) – “Woman Adopted as a Baby May Be Deported to Her Native India”
• Christian Newswire (June 11, 2012) – “All God's Children International Receives Hague Accreditation”
• CITIZEN Link (June 14, 2012) – “Wal-Mart Helps Raise Foster Care Awareness”
• MyDesert.com (June 17, 2012) – “Program aims to help African-American dads better raise their sons”
• Lincoln Courier (June 19, 2012) – “Good news about foster care: Fewer kids need it”
• Boston Globe (June 20, 2012) – “When adoptions fails”
• 7 WDAM (July 11, 2012) – “US-Russian adoption pact met with caution, hope”
• Great Falls Tribune (July 11, 2012) – “Northwestern Montana ranch focus for Russian adoption outrage”
• KSL.com (July 11, 2012) – “US-Russian adoption pact met with caution, hope”
• Morningsun.net (July 11, 2012) “Rodney Atkins sings country to connect to his audience, charities”
• Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (July 12, 2012) – “New U.S. - Russia accord aims to deal with troubled child issue”
• Latitude News (July 18, 2012) – “Like Russian critics, Montana regulators want to shut down Ranch for Kids”
• Salt Lake Tribune (July 29, 2012) – “Open adoption is norm; should arrangements be enforced?”
• FoxNews.com (September 16, 2012) – “Most vulnerable casualty of DC tax battle may be orphans, foster kids”
• Salt Lake Tribune (October 21, 2012) – “Fewer foreign children available for Utah families to adopt”
• WNYC News (October 21, 2012) – “US-Russian Agreement on Adoptions Takes Effect in November”
• RIA Novosti (October 22, 2012) – “Ban on US-Russian Adoptions Would Have ‘Dire Consequences,’ Say Experts”  
• Turkish Weekly (October 23, 2012) – “Ban on US-Russian Adoptions Would Have ‘Dire Consequences,’ Say Experts”  
• Latitude News (October 24, 2012) – “Russia debating ban on U.S. adoptions”  
• Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (November 4, 2012) – “Christians across Pittsburgh help to evolve approach to adoption”  
• Reporter News (November 5, 2012) – “Fewer foreign children available for adoption”  
• PR Newswire (November 7, 2012) – “BraveLove Launches Movement To Increase Domestic Adoption”  
• KIVI-TV (November 16, 2012) – “Local author raises money for adoption awareness with book sales”  
• Fox News (November 21, 2012) – “Dive off fiscal cliff could be ‘disastrous’ for orphans, foster children, say advocates”  
• National Public Radio (November 23, 2012) – “Russia, U.S. Seek to Resolve Friction on Adoptions”  
• USA TODAY (November 30, 2012) – “Choosing children has good, bad news”  
• Associated Press (December 13, 2012) – “For good and ill, adoption transformed by Internet”  
• USA TODAY (December 13, 2012) – “Internet is changing adoption – for better and worse”  
• RIA Novosti (December 14, 2012) – “Russian Orphans Present Unique Challenges: One Family’s Story”  
• Latitude News (December 17, 2012) – “Russia will vote on banning U.S. adoption”  
• Southern California Public Radio (December 18, 2012) – “Russian officials to vote on whether to ban US adoptions”  
• RIA Novosti (December 20, 2012) – “Adoption Anguish: US Parents Nervously Await Russia Ban Decision”  
• Red Alert Politics (December 20, 2012) – “Russia one step closer to banning Americans from adopting Russian babies”  
• WUSA (December 21, 2012) – “Russian Parliament Passes Ban On American Adoptions”  
• Latitude News (December 21, 2012) – “Russian parliament bans U.S. adoption”  
• NBC News (December 24, 2012) – “Boy’s Christmas wish: Adoption of little brother caught in US-Russia spat”  
• Reuters (December 26, 2012) – “Children, many ill, would be victims of Russia ban on U.S. adoption”  
• Wall Street Journal (December 27, 2012) – “Anti-U.S. Adoption Bill Goes to Putin”
• All Things Considered (December 27, 2012) – “Orphans in Middle of Russian Political Dispute with U.S
• PBS NewsHour – VIDEO (December 27, 2012) – “In Response to Sanctions, Russia Aims to Bar U.S. Adoptions of Russian Children”
• WCBI News – VIDEO (December 28, 2012) “Video: Tupelo Adoption Agency Reacts to Possible Halt of Russian Adoptions”
• National Public Radio (December 28, 2012) – “U.S. Families Stunned By Russia’s Ban on Adoptions”
• Time Magazine (December 28, 2012) – “Russia’s Adoption Politics: Defeated Families Caught in Diplomatic Tailspin”
• Seattle Times (December 28, 2012) – “Snoqualmie family worries about impact of Russian ban on U.S. adoptions”
• Fox 5 Washington– VIDEO (December 28, 2012) “Russian President Vladimir Putin Signs Anti-US Adoptions Bill”
• CBS San Francisco Bay Area –VIDEO (December 28, 2012) “Russia Sets to Ban Adoptions by Americans”
• NBC 4 Washington – VIDEO (December 28, 2012) “Russian Adoption Ban Signed”
• NBC Nightly News – VIDEO (December 28, 2012) – “Russia cancels adoptions to American families”
• NBC Today Show – VIDEO (December 28, 2012) – “Bill aims to keep Americans from adopting from Russia”
• Fox News Live and Fox News.com – VIDEO (December 28, 2012) “Putin signs bill banning Americans from adopting Russian children”
• The Arizona Republic (January 2, 2013) – “Playing Politics with orphans”
• Washington Post (January 2, 2013) – “Russian adoption ban will hit disabled children, evangelical Christian families”
• CITIZENLink (January 3, 2013) – “Congress Approves Adoption Tax Credit”
• The Columbus Dispatch (January 4, 2013) – “‘Cliff’ deal made Adoption Tax Credit permanent”
• Time Magazine (January 2013) – “The Baby Deficit”
• USA TODAY (January 10, 2013) – “Adoption options plummet as Russia closes its doors”
• Winston-Salem Journal (January 11, 2013) – “Family holding out hope for adoption”
• Life News (January 15, 2013) – “Abortion’s Terrible Consequence: The Shrinking Adoption Pool”
• Slate Magazine (January 15, 2013) – “Suffer Russia’s Little Children?”
• Associated Press (January 16, 2013) – “Russian adoption ban wrenching for families in US”
• Latitude News (January 16, 2013) “Fiscal cliff deal could endanger foster care adoptions”
• Reuters (January 16, 2013) – “Longer wait times, higher cost for U.S. adoptions”
• OpEdNews (January 21, 2013) – “Islamic law, Adoptions and Kafalah”
• Czech TV (January 22, 2013) – “Putinuvdarek”
• The Hankyoreh (January 23, 2013) – “Adoption must be legal, and serve the interest of children”
• The New York Times (January 24, 2013) – “What’s Best for the Child”
• Associated Press (January 24, 2013) – “Foreign adoption by Americans decline again”
• USA Today (January 28, 2013) – “Russian adoption ban frustrates American couples”
• PRWeb (January 28, 2013) – “An Act of Love Adoption Notifies Families About Congressional Vote to Extend Adoption Tax Credit”
• World Magazine (February 1, 2013) – “Adoption agencies abandon families”
• Deseret News (February 5, 2013) – “Proposal to create enforceable open adoption agreements stirs legislative debate”
• Associated Press (February 11, 2013) – “2 US Adoption Agencies Closing, Citing Woes Abroad”
• Life Site News (February 15, 2013) – “9 people you should know about who were adopted”
• RiaNovosti (February 19, 2013) – “Adopted Russian Boy’s ‘Suspicious’ Death Raises Many Questions”
• Associated Press (February 19, 2013) – “Texas official: Dead Russian boy had bruises on body, unresponsive when brought to hospital”
• Euronews – VIDEO (February 22, 2013) – “Russian parliament demands orphan returns from US”
• RiaNovosti (February 23, 2013) – “More ‘Troubled’ Adoptions in US Come from Russia, Says Experts”
• The Daily Iowan (February 24, 2013) – “My baby, not my child”
• Voice of America (February 26, 2013) – “Adoptive Parents of Foreign Children Often Face Challenges”
• Star-Telegram (February 28, 2013) – “Gladney Center for Adoption says state investigation is appropriate”
• Associated Press (March 1, 2013) – “Autopsy: Russian Adoptee’s Texan Death an Accident”
• RiaNovosti (March 5, 2013) – “Russian Boy’s Death Still a Mystery, Despite Medical Findings”
• CNN Money (March 15, 2013) – “Russia’s adoption ban costs families their tax credit”
• Washington Post (March 17, 2013) – “Family law attorneys lobby for improvements to adoption process”
• Life News (March 19, 2013) – “Focus on the Family Ultrasound Program Saves 146,000 Babies From Abortion”
• ABC News (March 19, 2013) – “Russian Agency Criticizes US Ruling in Boy’s Death”
• The Foundry (March 20, 2013) – “House Makes Case for Improving Foster Care and Adoption”
• *Winston-Salem Journal* (March 30, 2013) – “Couple keeps the faith for Russian adoptions”
• *USA Today* (April 2, 2013) – “When stars adopt, the world notices”
• 24-7 Press Release (April 5, 2013) – “Lutheran Social Services Achieves Hague Accreditation”
• Democrat and Chronicle (April 15, 2013) – “Celebrities can’t get around rules to become parents”
• Associated Press (April 16, 2013) – “Supreme Court wrestles with Indian adoption dispute”
• RIA Novosti (April 18, 2013) – “Russian, US Officials Met on Adoptions”
• BizWire Express (April 18, 2013) – “Utah Fundraiser to Benefit National Council For Adoption”
• Associated Press (April 18, 2013) – “A Connecticut couple has been charged with smuggling a baby into the US from Guatemala in 2009”
• The Huffington Post (April 23, 2013) – “New Documentary Takes Us Inside Russian Adoption: The Dark Matter of Love”

**Adoption Advocate**

NCFA’s *Adoption Advocate* has become a highly respected and widely disseminated publication. Its regular distribution list includes all NCFA members, adoption professionals and advocates, and adoptive families across the country. It continues to gain recognition as a valuable resource for adoption advocates, policymakers, and professionals. Below are issues of the *Adoption Advocate* published in FY13:

• May 2012, Issue No. 47: “Advocating for America’s Youth in Foster Care: Perspectives and Recommendations from Former Foster Youth” by Jetaine Hart, Marisela Ortiz, Jeremy Long, Jelani Freeman, Mason McFalls, and John Paul Horn
• June 2012, Issue No. 48: “Supporting Maltreated Children: Countering the Effects of Neglect and Abuse” by Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D.
• July 2012, Issue No. 49: “Adoption Resources for Americans Living Abroad” by Melissa Blauvelt
• August 2012, Issue No. 50: “Earlier is Better for Family Care: What Research Tells Us About Young Children and Institutionalization” by Gary Nelson Gamer
• September 2012, Issue No. 51: “The Unique Educational Challenges Facing Youth in Foster Care” by Jetaine Hart
• October 2012, Issue No. 52: “Educating Hospitals About Adoption: How Hospital Staff Can Support Parents Considering an Adoption Plan” by Devon Karst with Megan Lindsey
• November 2012, Issue No. 53: “National Adoption Month 2012: Life-Changing Programs for Children and Families” by Jaclyn Newton
• December 2012, Issue No. 54: “Preparing Older Children for Adoption” by Rhonda Jarema
• January 2013, Issue No. 55: “2013 Policy Priorities and Adoption-Related Legislation” by Jamel Rowe
• February 2013, Issue No. 56: “Supporting the Promise of Permanency: Post-Adoption Services for Children and Families” by Michael Yates, MDiv, and Kristi Kulesz, LMSW
• March 2013, Issue No. 57: “Reconsidering Intercountry Adoption: Who Wants to Adopt and Who Could Be Adopted” by Dr. Christopher Balding, Ph.D.
• April 2013, Issue No. 58: “Birthparent Issues of Grief and Loss” by Kris Faasse, MSW

The Adoption Advocate has been republished and distributed via NCFA’s Member Agencies, partner organizations, adoption blogs, and agency newsletters and Facebook pages, among other sources.
EDUCATION

Infant Adoption Training Initiative (IATI)

NCFA has been designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Children’s Bureau as the grantee in Health Region III for the Infant Adoption Training Initiative (IATI). IATI provides adoption awareness training for designated staff at public and non-profit entities that provide health and/or counseling services to pregnant women. During the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program (IAATP) fiscal year, beginning September 30, 2011, and ending September 29, 2012, NCFA trained 581 people in our assigned states and online.

NCFA’s most recent IAATP grant extended for 17 months with a budget of $534,175. It began September 30, 2011, and was scheduled to end February 28, 2013. We continue to train in Health Region III (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, and WV) and expanded to Mississippi and Alabama. NCFA has been granted a no-cost extension and intends to use remaining funds to do final program wrap-up and reporting.

Grant guidelines encourage sustainability efforts and we have focused significant efforts on ways to create long-term continuation of this project. Several adoption service providers have expressed interest in using NCFA’s training. In September, NCFA held a “Train the Trainer” event to prepare new trainers to use our Consider the Possibilities training materials after the federally funded IAATP training is no longer available. We have also discussed with Bethany Christian Services a potential partnership to provide a “Train the Trainer” for many of their staff either at one of their future conferences or in connection with another event. NCFA is committed to maintaining Continuing Education accreditation and providing free or very affordable resource materials (including workbooks and clinic brochures) for this training as long as possible.

A two- to three-hour online birthparent counseling training for pregnancy counselors remains available for free on both the NCFA website and the IAATP website. 364 people were trained in this curriculum since May of 2012.

We have also received a grant from Focus on the Family to reach the crisis pregnancy centers in their network and provide ten regional Consider the Possibilities trainings around the country. Planning has begun to hold these trainings during summer 2013.

Intercountry Adoption Journey (IAJ) Online Training Program

The Intercountry Adoption Journey continues to be a successful tool to meet Hague Adoption education requirements for prospective adoptive parents and to further educate
adoption professionals. The IAJ program trained 1,666 individuals, including 53 adoption professionals, 766 couples, and 81 single parents during FY13.

NCFA continues to review, update, and improve the content and function of the IAJ trainings to make it a current, useful resource.

**Russian Prospective Adoptive Parent Training**

In September, Chuck Johnson and Megan Lindsey attended a training session at the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Child Development which prepared them to provide parent education programs which meet the new, amplified Russian adoption education requirements. Although, at this time, adoptions from Russia are not taking place, this training provided valuable insight and experience on trauma, development, and training that NCFA staff has been able to apply in our trainings and outreach.

**Webinars**

In 2010, NCFA began to offer online webinars which provide best-practice training for industry professionals. In June of 2012, NCFA hosted *Why Adoption is Working: New Research vs. Old Myths for Internationally Adopted Children* with Dr. Kathleen Whitten. NCFA webinars offer live participation, and many are recorded and archived for those who were unable to participate in the live presentation. The following recorded webinars are currently available for review at www.ncfaeducation.org:

- *Why Adoption is Working: New Research vs. Old Myths for Internationally Adopted Children* presented by Dr. Kathleen Whitten (1 hour)
- *The Mystery of Risk: Medical Risk Assessment and Intervention Techniques for Internationally Adopted Children* presented by Dr. Ira Chasnoff (2.5 hours)
- *Risk and Promise: The Brain, Biology, and the Adopted Child* presented by Dr. Ira Chasnoff (2.5 hours)
- *Navigating Adoption Ethics* presented by Heidi Bruegel Cox and William P. Rose III (3 hours)
- *Assessing and Preparing Foster Adoptive Parents for the Journey Ahead* presented by Jayne Schooler (5 hours)
EVENTS

National Adoption Conference

Held at the Gaylord in National Harbor, MD, the 2012 National Adoption Conference was a huge success as adoption service providers, adoptive parents, government officials, and other members of the adoption community gathered together to re-focus and return to the heart of the matter – children who need families.

The conference was split into two sections, a three-day program for adoption service providers and a one-day event for prospective adoptive parents. Filled with interactive sessions that were child-focused and client-centered, adoption service providers learned strategies that have been proven to work and that encourage collaboration with one another to improve services to clients. The sessions during the professional conference fell into one of the following topic areas: Pre-Adoption (Day 1), Post-Adoption (Day 2), and General (Day 3).

Sessions from Day 1 included the following:

- “Part I: Preparing Children in Orphanages and in U.S. Foster Care for Adoption” and “Part II: Preparing Children at Home for the Arrival of Adopted Siblings,” presented by:
  - Whitney White
    - International Education Counselor
    - Lifeline Children’s Services
  - Leigh Anne Graf, M. Ed.,
    - Vice President of International Programs
    - Great Wall China Adoption/Children of All Nations
- “Role of U.S. Adoption Service Provider to Ensure Proper Documentation and Avoid Processing Delays,” moderated by:
  - Marshall Williams
    - Executive Vice President
    - European Adoption Consultants, Inc.
  - Brandi Blackburn
    - Assistant Center Director for Adoptions
    - National Benefits Center/ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
  - Bruce Paulin
    - USCIS Supervisor
    - National Benefits Center/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
  - Carrie Anna Rankin, J.D.
    - Adjudication Officer (Policy)
• U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services
• Keynote Address: “Unadoptable is Unacceptable,” delivered by:
  o Rita Soronen
    President and CEO
    Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
• “Improving the Outcomes for Children in Foster Care: Becoming Part of the Solution,” moderated by:
  o Herbie Newell
    President/Executive Director
    Lifeline Children’s Services
  Panelists:
  o Maureen Archibald, MSW, LSW
    Executive Director
    Harvest of Hope Family Services Network
  o Laura Beauvais-Godwin, MPH
    Director of South Carolina Office
    Nightlight Christian Adoptions
  o Deb Blickenstaff, LMSW
    Constituent Services Director for U.S. Senator Jim DeMint
    Office of U.S. Senator Jim DeMint
  o Former Foster Care Youth
• “Part I: Reaching Expectant Mothers with the Positive Option of Adoption” and “Part II: 24/7 Birthparent Support,” moderated by:
  o Amy Curtis, LCSW
    Program Manager
    LDS Family Services
  Panelists:
  o Megan Lindsey, J.D.
    Director of Infant Adoption Training Initiative
    Assistant Director of Policy
    National Council For Adoption
  o Kristin Aucoin, MSW
    St. Elizabeth Foundation
  o Teri Casso
    Director
    St. Elizabeth Foundation
  o Robin Marrero, MSW, LCSW
    Placement Director
    St. Elizabeth Foundation
• Breakout session: “Ethics and the Heart: Balancing Emotions, Best Practice, and the Law,” presented by:
  o Heidi Bruegel Cox, J.D.
    Executive Vice President and General Counsel
    Gladney Center for Adoption
  o Dana Templeton, LCSW
    International Services Program Manager
    LDS Family Services
• Breakout session: “Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) Home Study Model,” presented by:
  o Kathleen Cleary
    Executive Director
    Consortium for Children
  o Kris Faasse, LMSW, ACSW
    Director of Adoption Services
    Bethany Christian Services

Sessions from Day 2 included the following:

• “Post-Placement Services: A Model for Adoption Support and Preservation,” presented by:
  o Pam Wolf, MSSW
    Founder and CEO
    Harmony Adoptions
  o Jan Clifton, MSSW
    Mid Regional Coordinator
    TN Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP)
    Catholic Charities of Tennessee
• “Birthparent Issues of Grief and Loss,” presented by:
  o Kris Faasse, LMSW, ACSW
    Director of Adoption Services
    Bethany Christian Services
• Keynote Address: “Intercountry Adoption Survey Results,” delivered by:
  o Kathleen Strottman
    Executive Director
    Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
• “Preserve and Protect: Maintaining Challenging Adoptions,” presented by:
  o Rhonda Jarema, MA
    Director of Family Support Services
    Nightlight Christian Adoptions
• “When Disruption Becomes Inevitable: What’s Your Plan?” presented by:
  o Jon Bergeron, Ph.D.
    Director of Hope for Orphans FamilyCare
    Hope for Orphans
  o Heidi Bruegel Cox, J.D.
    Executive Vice President and General Counsel
    Gladney Center for Adoption
    National Council For Adoption Board of Directors

• “Using the Internet and Social Media to Find, Educate, and Support Families for Harder to
  Place Children,” presented by:
  o Dawn Davenport
    Executive Director
    Creating a Family

Sessions from Day 3 included the following:

• “Board Governance and Management: Maximizing the Board’s Participation in Your Agency,,” presented by:
  o Frank Garrott, MBA
    President and CEO
    Gladney Center for Adoption
  o Kevin Wrege, JD
    Chairman
    NCFA Board of Directors

• “Part I: Intercountry Adoption: Planning for the Future by Evaluating the Past” and “Part II:
  Maintaining Strong Ethical Relationships Overseas,” presented by:
  o Scott Brown
    Executive Vice President of International Programs
    Gladney Center for Adoption
  o Ryan Hanlon, MA, MS, MSW
    Executive Director of Programs
    America World Adoption

• “Methods of Pre- and Post-Adoption Support and Training for Special Needs or Older
  Children Adoptions,” presented by:
  o Melissa Blauvelt
    Director of Programs
    America World Adoption

• Keynote Address, “Intercountry Adoption Update 2012,” delivered by:
• Ambassador Susan Jacobs
  Special Advisor to the Secretary for Children’s Issues
  U.S. Department of State

• “Issues of Culture and Ethnicity in International Search,” presented by:
  o Susan Soonkeum Cox
    Vice President of Policy & External Affairs
    Holt International

• “Preparing for Hague Reaccreditation,” presented by:
  o Jayne Schmidt, LMSW
    Senior Management of Hague Accreditation
    Council on Accreditation

The conference closed with a one-day event for prospective adoptive parents that provided the opportunity to learn the knowledge and resources necessary to move forward for anyone interested in learning more about the positive option of adoption, those considering pursuing adoption, or those in the beginning stages of the adoption. Sessions were highly interactive, engaging, and personal as participants heard adoption stories and were able to ask any questions they may have concerning the process.
Sessions from Prospective Adoptive Parents Day included the following:

- “Agency Selection and Understanding the Screening Process,” presented by:
  - Ryan Hanlon, MA, MS, MSW
    Executive Director of Programs
    America World Adoption
  - Herbie Newell
    President/Executive Director
    Lifeline Children’s Services
  - Daniel Taylor
    LBSW, Georgia State Director
    Lifeline Children’s Services

- “Will She Really Love Us? Will We Really Love Her?” presented by:
  - Jeannine Zoppi, Ph.D.
    Private Practice

- “Introduction to Tools and Finance Your Adoption,” presented by:
  - Kelly Ellison, MBA
    Your Adoption Finance Coach

- Q&A Lunch with Adoption Experts

- “Adopting Out of Foster Care: Understanding Trauma and How it Affects Adoption,” presented by:
  - Samira Alikadiyeva, LICSW
    Permanency Specialist
    D.C. Child and Family Services Agency
  - Ellen Harms-Morocho, LGSQW
    Permanency Specialist
    D.C. Child and Family Services Agency

- “Part I: Domestic Adoption: The Spectrum of Open Adoption—What is a Good Fit for my Family?” and “Part II: Intercountry Adoption: Building Attachment,” presented by:
  - Tamara Christ, MSW, LSW
    District Supervisor of Allentown Office
    Adoptions From the Heart
  - Kris Faasse, LMSW, ACSW
    Director of Adoption Services
    Bethany Christian Services
Prospective Adoptive Fathers Only: Adoption from a Man’s Point of View,” presented by:

- Sam Wojnilower, MSW, LCSW
  Coordinator of International Programs, Cooperative Program Manager, and Adoption Social Worker
  Adoptions From The Heart

China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption Delegation Visit

In October of 2012, NCFA hosted a 20-member delegation from China for three weeks. During this fourth annual trip, CCCWA (China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption) delegates had the opportunity to visit several cities across the U.S. to learn about new adoption and foster care practices. The event served as a means to increase understanding about adoption in the U.S., correct any misunderstanding or false representations about adoptions in the U.S., and further encourage the China-U.S. adoption relationship.

NCFA also worked with Gladney Center for Adoption to organize a cultural trip to China for children adopted by American families. Officially named “Celebrating Culture and Experiencing China Winter Tour,” this trip gave China-born American citizens the opportunity to experience the vibrant and colorful culture of China and to reconnect with their heritage. Participants and their families toured Beijing, Xi’an, Chengdu, and ShangLi over the Christmas holiday for a week and half. After much positive feedback from participants, NCFA plans to hold a similar event in late 2013.
Act of Love Adoption Agency Reception

NCFA partnered with member agency Act of Love to hold a joint fundraiser in Salt Lake City, Utah in March. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the highly anticipated *iChooseAdoption* PSAs. Guests enjoyed a catered reception and were able to mix-and-mingle with staff from NCFA and Act of Love.

And Then I Found You Book Launch Party

National Council For Adoption was honored to be contacted by Patti Callahan Henry, author of *And Then I Found You*, inviting us to be at the book’s official launch party in April. In addition, a portion of the proceeds of all books sold at the party were donated to NCFA. The event, held at a private residence in Greenwich, CT, featured a special Q&A with Patti, as well as several inspiring adoption stories from young women who inspired the novel.

*And Then I Found You* is a novel about a young woman who made an adoption plan for her baby, and then embarks on a journey to explore her past, the limits of courage, and the price of her selfless act.
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Advancing Adoption Policy Initiative

Since our founding in 1980, National Council For Adoption has served as a voice for children and all impacted by adoption, in part, through government education, relationships, and advocacy. We hope, first and foremost, to be a resource to policymakers and professional practitioners on how to best create and use policies to serve children and families. As we build relationships we continue to better collaborate with key policymakers, law enforcers, and child welfare practitioners to form better systems and practices that ensure children are afforded their right to a permanent, nurturing family.

Capitol Hill and Government Meetings

- May 15, 2012 – House Ways and Means Committee Congressional Briefing: Talking Foster Care with Jimmy Wayne
- May 29, 2012 – Hearing with Senate Finance Committee Re: Adoption Tax Credit (ATC)
- June 5, 2012 – Department of State Adoption Stakeholders Meeting
- June 12, 2012 – “Save the Adoption Tax Credit” Advocacy Day
  - Meetings with the offices of Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Hansen Clarke (D-MI), Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Trey Gowdy (R-SC), Dave Reichert (R-WA), Eleanor Holmes-Norton (D-DC), David Price (D-NC), and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT).
  - Meetings with the offices of Senators Patti Murray (D-WA), Mark Warner (D-VA), and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD).
  - Meeting with Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT).
- June 20, 2012 – Meeting with Senator Landrieu Re: Introducing Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act (PFR)
- June 29, 2012 – Meeting with Senator Richard Shelby Re: ATC
- July 11, 2012 – Indian Child Welfare Act Summit at CVC by Coalition for Indian Children
- July 12, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative Aaron Schrock Re: PFR/ATC
- July 12, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative Pete Stark Re: ATC
- July 12, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative John Larson: ATC
- July 12, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Senator Tom Coburn Re: ATC July 17, 2012 – Senate ICWA Roundtable
- July 19, 2012 – Meetings with the office of Representative Dave Camp Re: ATC
- July 19, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative Tom Price Re: ATC
- July 19, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative Lynn Jenkins Re: ATC
- July 19, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative Peter Roskam Re: ATC
- July 23, 2012 – Senate Caucus on Foster Youth Roundtable on Adoption Disruption
- July 24, 2012 – Department of State Conference Call on International Adoptions Re: Kyrgyzstan
- July 31, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Senator Mary Landrieu (with AAAA)
- August 6, 2012- Hague Adoption Stakeholders’ Conference Call with NBC
- August 24, 2012- Conference Call: Intercountry adoption: Re: Kyrgyzstan
- August 29-30, 2012 – SAMHSA session: Domestic and International Adoption: Strategies to Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes for Youth and their Families
- September 17, 2012 – Teleconference with TerekHelou from Department of Justice: Re: Foreign Corrupt Practices Act advisory opinion
- September 19, 2012 – Meeting with Representative Jim McDermott & staff Re: ATC
- September 19, 2012 – Meeting with office of Senator Richard Shelby Re: ATC
- September 19, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Earl Blumehauer Re: ATC
- September 19, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Carl Levin Re: ATC
- September 20, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Jim Gerlach Re: ATC
- September 20, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Xavier Becerra Re: ATC
- October 12, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Senator Mary Landrieu (CCCWA delegation)
- October 12, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Senator Orrin Hatch (CCCWA delegation)
- October 18, 2012 – USCIS call on Russian bilateral agreement
- October 1, 2012- Hague Adoption Stakeholders’ Conference call with NBC
- October 3, 2012 – Conference call Re: Ethiopia
- October 31, 2012 – DOS Conference call on child trafficking
- November 7, 2012 – USCIS Call on Russian Adoption
- November 8, 2012 – National Adoption Day at Department of Education
- November 8, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative John Conyers Re: ATC
- November 8, 2012 – Meeting with office of Senator Rubio Re: ATC
- November 19, 2012 - Meeting with office of Representative Tom Young Re: ATC
- November 28, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Wittman Re: ATC
- November 28, 2012 – Meeting with office of Senator Roberts Re: ATC
- November 29, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Buchanan (with AAAA)
- December 3, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Kind Re: ATC
- December 3, 2012 – USCIS National Benefit’s Center Hague Stakeholder’s conference call
- December 5, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Smith Re: ATC
- December 5, 2012 – Meeting with office of Representative Lewis Re: ATC
- December 5, 2012 – Meetings with office of Representative Black Re: ATC
- December 6, 2012 – DOS Kyrgyzstan conference call
- December 11, 2012 – Meeting with office of Senator Landrieu (with Both Ends Burning)
• December 12, 2012 – Meeting with office of Senator Burr Re: ATC
• December 14, 2012 – Meeting with office of Senator Landrieu Re: Intercountry Adoption legislation (IA)
• December 17, 2012 – Meeting with office of Senator Landrieu Re: IA
• December 19, 2012 – National Action Plan Launch at National Press Club & White House
• December 21, 2012 – DOS Russia conference call
• January 17, 2013 – DOS India conference call
• January 17, 2013 – DOS Russia conference call
• January 18, 2013 – Meeting with office of Representative Trent Franks Re: IA
• January 22, 2013 - DOS Russia conference call
• January 23, 2013 – Meeting with office of Representative Andy Barr – NCFA Welcome to Congress
• January 23, 2013 – Meeting with office of Representative Brownley – NCFA Welcome to Congress
• January 23, 2013 – Meeting with office of Representative Castro - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• January 24, 2013 – Meeting with offices of Representative Tammy Duckworth and Senator Joe Donnelly – NCFA Welcome to Congress
• January 25, 2013 – DOS Kyrgyzstan conference call
• January 28, 2013 – Meeting with offices of Representative Tony Cardenas and Representative Collins - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• January 31, 2013 – Meeting with offices of Representatives KerryBentivolio, Danny Davis, Jeff Flake, and MazieHirono - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• February 6, 2013 – DOS Russia conference call
• February 11, 2013 - Meeting with offices of Representatives Mark Takano and David Valadao - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• February 11, 2013 - Meeting with office of Representative Hartzler – Re: National Putative Father Registry
• February 12, 2013 - Meeting with office of Senator Heinrich - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• February 12, 2013 - Meeting with office of Representative Israel – Re: Russian Adoption Closure
• February 14, 2013 - Meeting with offices of RepresentativesJuan Vargas and Ann Kirkpatrick - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• February 15, 2013 - Meeting with offices of RepresentativesLois Frankel, Jackie Walorski, and Luke Messer - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• February 20, 2013 – DOS Russia conference call
• March 11, 2013 - Meeting with the offices of Representatives Eric Swalwell, Doug LaMalfa, Alan Grayson, Dina Titus, George Holding, and Bill Foster - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• March 12, 2013 – DOS Russia Conference call
• March 12, 2013 - Meeting with Representative Ann McLane Kuster and staff, and with the offices of Representative Dan Kildee, Raul Ruiz, and Brad Schneider - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• March 13, 2013 - Meeting with office of Representative O’Rourke - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• March 14, 2013 - Meeting with office of Representatives Carol Shea-Porter and Alan Lowenthal, and the office of Senator Chris Murphy - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• March 15, 2013 - Meeting with offices of Representatives Matt Salmon and Tom Rice - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• March 20, 2012 – SAMHSA conference call
• March 20, 2013 - Meeting with office of Representative Pocan - NCFA Welcome to Congress
• April 1, 2013 – DOS Quarterly Adoption Stakeholders’ Meeting
• April 3, 2013 – DOS Russia conference call
• April 4, 2013 – Meeting with office of Senator Landrieu Re: Intercountry Adoption legislation
• April 12, 2013 – Meeting with Senator Landrieu & staff Re: Intercountry Adoption legislation

Meetings with Stakeholder Organizations

• May 3, 2012 – Meeting with Focus on the Family Re: Consider the Possibilities Training
• May 4, 2012 – Meeting with the Radiance Foundation Re: Consider the Possibilities Training
• May 11, 2012 - Adoption Tax Credit Social Media conference call
• May 18, 2012 – CCAI hosted call on USAID’s National Action Plan (NAP)
• May 21, 2012 – Conference call with Office of Children’s Issues Re: Kyrgyzstan
• May 22, 2012 – Meeting with Children’s Home Society Re: collaboration
• May 24, 2012 – Shift Positive/G-7 Meeting in DC
• May 29, 2012 – Conference call with USAID on NAP
• June 4, 2012 – Stakeholders call with US Department of State
• June 6, 2012 – ATC Working Group Call
• June 11, 2012 – USAID NAP Agency-wide call
• June 11, 2012 – Members-only Conference Call Re: Department of State Stakeholders Meeting
• June 11, 2012 – Conference call with USAID Re: NAP
• June 11, 2012 – Conference call with Adoption Tax Credit Working Group
• June 13, 2012 – USAID Meeting Re: NAP
• June 18, 2012 – Families for Orphans Coalition call Re: NAP
• June 22, 2012 - Adoption Tax Credit Social Media conference call
• June 26, 2012 – ATC Working Group call for executive committee
• June 28, 2012 – IAATP Grantee Call
• June 27, 2012 – First Focus Children’s Budget Summit
• July 19, 2012 - Adoption Tax Credit Social Media conference call
• July 23, 2012 – Families for Orphans’ conference call on NAP
• July 31, 2012 – Briefing/Meeting with American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA)
• July 31, 2012 – CCAI Foster Youth Intern Program at CVC
• July 31, 2012 – Screening of Stuck at CVC
• August 2, 2012 - Adoption Tax Credit Social Media conference call
• August 4, 2012 – Council on Accreditation Board Meeting
• August 6, 2012 – Attended COA SAC Meeting in NYC (NCFA is a sponsoring organization of COA)
• August 6, 2012 – Conference call with EACH & LGA re: adoptee citizenship issues
• August 23, 2012 – IAATP Grantee Call
• September 10-12, 2012 – Meeting/training with University of Pittsburgh to obtain Russian education certification
• September 21, 2012 – Adoption Tax Credit Working Group conference call
• September 4, 2012 – Adoption Tax Credit conference call
• September 4, 2012 – Families for Orphans’ conference call
• September 6, 2012 – Civil Society Adversity Strategy Session
• September 12, 2012 – Attended Congressional Coalition on Adoption “Angels” banquet
• September 13, 2012 – America’s Homeless Children Panel
• September 18, 2012 – Families for Orphans call
• September 27, 2012 – IATI Grantee Conference Call
• October 2, 2012 – Both Ends Burning conference call
• October 9, 2012 – Civil Society Adversity Strategy Session
• October 17, 2012 – Casey Foundation Hearing on Kinship Care
• October 25, 2012 – IAATP Grantee Call
• November 10, 2012 – COA Board of Trustees Meeting
• November 13, 2012 – Voice For Adoption Reception
• November 15, 2012 - Adoption Tax Credit Webinar
• November 15, 2012 – Families for Orphan’s Coalition conference call
• November 16, 2012 – ATC Working Group conference call
• November 22, 2012 – Families for Orphan’s Coalition conference call
• November 27, 2012 – AAAA Partnership Discussion with NCFA Board Members/AAAA Members
• November 29, 2012 – Families for Orphan’s Coalition conference call
• November 29, 2012 – AAAA Meeting to discuss future partnership efforts
• December 6, 2012 - Families for Orphan’s Coalition conference call
• December 6, 2012 – Both Ends Burning conference call
• December 10, 2012 – NAP conference call
• December 10, 2012 – CAPP weekly conference call
• December 10, 2012 – ATC Working Group conference call
• December 11, 2012 – Both Ends Burning lunch & meeting with Sen. Landrieu’s office
• December 12, 2012 – Rob Dobberstein meeting in NCFA offices with ATC petition partner
• December 14, 2012 – Meet with ASP representative’s Tom Velie & Dick VanDeelen
• December 17, 2012 – NAP conference call
• December 19, 2012 – COA Sponsor Advisory Council conference call
• December 20, 2012 – Magnitzy Act conference call
• December 21, 2012 – ATC Working Group conference call
• January 14, 2013 – NAP conference call
• January 15, 2013 – Adoptee Citizenship call (EACH & Land of Gazillion Adoptees)
• January 15, 2013 – Both Ends Burning conference call
• January 16, 2013 – Heritage Foundation Forum
• January 18, 2013 – ATC Working Group conference call
• January 22, 2013 – Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoptions (FRUA) conference call
• January 22, 2013 – Families for Orphans Coalition conference call
• January 24, 2013 – IAATP Grantee Call
• January 30-31, 2013 – AAAA Leadership Meeting Re: Partnership opportunities
• January 30, 2013 – Both Ends Burning meeting
• February 6, 2013 – National Organization for Marriage re: ASP religious rights
• February 11, 2013 – NAP conference call
• February 20, 2013 – AAAA conference call Re: IA, especially immigration concerns; with JCICS
• February 21, 2013 – DC foster care collaboration meeting with Pastor Aaron Graham
• February 21, 2013 – Meeting with 4 the Love of Alex
• February 25, 2013 – NAP conference call
• February 28, 2013 – IAATP Grantee conference call
• March 4, 2013 – FRUA conference call
• March 7, 2013 – CCAI hosts Russia conference call for families & advocates with Members of Congress
• March 8, 2013 – FRUA call with Vice Chair Jan Wunderlee
• March 11, 2013 – NAP conference call
• March 15, 2013 - ATC Working Group conference call
• March 15, 2013 – COA Board Meeting
• March 18, 2013 – Shift Positive Project Update conference call
• March 21, 2013 – Investing in the Future: Kids and the Federal Budget Briefing by First Focus
• March 28, 2013 – IAATP Grantee conference call

**International Delegations**

• October 10-29, 2012 – Hosted 20-member delegation from the China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption
• April 3, 2013 – Hosted 10-person delegation from Ukraine, including Ombudsman on Children’s Rights, Ukrainian Embassy staff, and Ukrainian press in NCFA offices

**International Travel**

• May 2012 – NCFA helped sponsor McLane Layton’s (EACH) trip to consult on Ugandan Children’s Law
• December, 2012 – Lead approximately 100 participants on a cultural trip to China in cooperation with Gladney Center for Adoption and China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption

**Conference/Presentations**

• May 3-4, 2012 – Chuck Johnson presented at the Christian Alliance for Orphans Conference in California with CCAI’s Kathleen Strottman and JCICIS’ Tom DiFilipo
• May 23, 2012 – NCFA Webinar with Dr. Kathleen Whitten on attachment/bonding with traumatized children
• June 13-15, 2012 – NCFA Annual Adoption Conference for Professionals
• June 16, 2012 – NCFA Prospective Adoptive Parent’s Day
• July 19, 2012 – Children Uniting Nations Conference
• August 5-7, 2012 – Attended Council on Accreditation Conference
• October 18, 2012 – Chuck presented at the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys’ Conference in Salt Lake City on “Trends in In-coming Cases”
• March 1, 2013 – *Stuck* Documentary Premiere; Chuck Johnson served on Expert Panel

**Legislative Projects/Issues**

• May 20, 2012 – Senator Mary Landrieu introduces S. 3321, *Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2012*
• June 22, 2012 – Senators John Kerry, Mary Landrieu, James Inhofe, and Dick Lugar introduce *Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012*
• October 31, 2012 – NCFA submits Amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court petitioning that case Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl be heard, clarifying application of the Indian Child Welfare Act
• January 2013 – NCFA releases Adoption Advocate No. 55; “2013 Policy Priorities and Adoption-Related Legislation”
• January 2, 2013 – Adoption Tax Credit included in the bill to avert fiscal cliff. The ATC remains inclusive, flat for special needs, and is now permanent.
• January 4, 2013 – U.S. Supreme Court announces it will hear Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl
• January 14, 2013 – Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 signed into law
• February 26, 2013 – NCFA submits Amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court re: Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl emphasizing the need of prioritizing child’s needs & rights in their decision.
• April 16, 2013 – U.S. Supreme Court hears oral arguments in Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl

During this fiscal year, National Council For Adoption submitted two Amicus briefs to the United States Supreme Court regarding the impact of the Indian Child Welfare Act on infant adoption placements. The court chose to hear this case and clarified the law to one that we believe, will ultimately bring positive change to adoption processes. Although the details of this particular case were heartbreaking for all involved, we believe the legal outcome for future cases will help appropriately prioritize children’s best interests and honor birthparent choice without devaluing the impact of culture and heritage.

Pending

• Presently working on legislation to correct lack of citizenship concerns for internationally adopted
• Presently advocating for refundability to be returned to the Adoption Tax Credit
• Presently working with Members of Congress to reintroduce legislation regarding a National Putative Father Registry
• Presently working with Members of Congress on legislation that will bring necessary reform to intercountry adoption
• Presently involved in discussions regarding the future of the Indian Child Welfare Act and what type of reform NCFA would support
• Presently consulting and collaborating on the National Action Plan and emphasizing the continued importance of reallocating funds to permanency options and encouraging policies that allow intercountry adoption to serve children outside family care
NCFA is committed to a process of regular self-examination that sets clear and measurable goals that gauge our effectiveness, helps the organization remain strong and viable, and ensures that our activities align with our mission statement.

The current fiscal year is no exception. NCFA’s entire staff worked with the Board of Directors to develop a 2013-2014 Strategic Plan. The plan included a “360 Review” component in which all staff were invited to provide comprehensive and constructive feedback to NCFA’s president regarding how NCFA could be made stronger. Both the 360 Review and strategic planning process resulted in several findings and recommendations that are now being implemented.

First, we concluded that NCFA’s mission statement should be adjusted to include the crucial component of collaboration as a means of accomplishing our goals. The revised mission statement now reads:

Passionately committed to the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a nurturing, permanent family, NCFA’s mission is to meet the diverse needs of children, birthparents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and all those touched by adoption through global advocacy, education, research, legislative action, and collaboration.

Second, NCFA has not previously had a Values Statement. As part of the strategic planning process, with help from the Board of Directors, the staff drafted a list of ten values that address NCFA’s core convictions about adoption, those touched by adoption, and the adoption process. These now serve as our guiding principles. NCFA believes that:

1. Every child everywhere has the basic human right to a safe, permanent, nurturing family – by birth or adoption.
2. The individual child’s best interest should be at the center of every decision, law, program, and social service related to adoption and foster care.
3. Adoption can be a viable and positive option for children who need families, expectant parents searching for stable, caring homes for their children, and individuals who want to provide nurturing, permanent families for children.
4. There is no “right to adopt” – only the right of a child to be loved, nurtured, and cared for within a competent and qualified family.
5. A child welfare continuum should prioritize [in order]: family preservation, adoption by relatives, domestic adoption, and intercountry adoption – all before a child is relegated to institutional or long-term foster care.
6. Ethnic and cultural identity, while extremely important considerations, should not prevent a child from finding a permanent, nurturing family through adoption.

7. Cultural and racial identity and birth history are important to adopted individuals, and every effort should be made to respect and preserve this information so the adopted individual may retain his or her history and heritage.

8. Adoption should remain a non-partisan, non-political child welfare issue.

9. Strategic partnerships and collaborations with other groups, individuals, and stakeholders are essential to the fulfillment of NCFA’s mission.

10. All funds received from donors and supporters should be managed, used, and reported in accordance with the highest standards of good stewardship.

Lastly, the 360 Review and strategic planning process provided us with a set of goals for the coming year that will be used by the Board of Directors and staff to evaluate our effectiveness in furthering NCFA’s mission.
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