ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2015
May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015
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List of NCFA’s Board of Directors ......................................................................... 36
Dear Families and Friends of NCFA,

It is with great pride and joy that I present to you NCFA’s fiscal year 2015 Annual report (May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015). The beginning of 2015 marked 35 years of service to children, birth parents, adoptive families, and all those touched by adoption. As an adoptive dad myself, I am deeply moved when I reflect on the impact that NCFA has had in the lives of so many.

A 35th Anniversary is a significant milestone for any organization, NCFA included. We’ve faced challenges, enjoyed successes, and found ourselves in between at times. It is because of the dedicated work of our Board of Directors – all of whom selflessly volunteer their time and talents to this cause – our talented staff and our dedicated member adoption agencies and attorneys that we are able to call ourselves the authoritative voice for adoption. I sincerely thank each and every one of you for all you do on behalf of our urgent mission to support the positive option of adoption through education, research, and advocacy.

Although we look back on a year full of success, there is much work to be done, and we are ready to lead the charge. NCFA is poised to make progress in all three of our areas of focus – adoption through foster care, intercountry adoption, and domestic infant adoption. I look forward to keeping you apprised of our work as we move into our next fiscal year.

With many thanks,

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

National Council For Adoption has just finished another successful year and I’m proud to share with you the progress made by our staff, volunteers, and Board members. This Annual Report shows the steps we’ve taken this fiscal year in the areas of domestic infant adoption, adoption through foster care, intercountry adoption, and adoption advocacy.

It’s clear to see that NCFA’s public impact is stronger than ever. This year, with a new website and the National Adoption League (an online community for families and friends), we’ve strengthened our commitment to individuals who rely on our resources and who passionately support our cause. NCFA is a well-respected source for researchers and journalists, and has been referenced by top media outlets in the United States and around the world, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Associated Press, Today Show, Dateline NBC, and USA Today.

NCFA’s topic-specific programs are growing steadily. Our iChooseAdoption program provides young women facing unintended pregnancies with information about adoption in a safe, risk-free way. The Intercountry Adoption Journey training program educated more than 1,000 people this year. The Families For All campaign provides information and resources to anyone who wants to get involved in the life of a child in foster care—whether that means becoming a mentor, volunteer, or even a foster or adoptive parent. These programs and the general resources available at AdoptionCouncil.org and our various social media networks make NCFA a valuable resource to anyone in the adoption community—whether they are years into their adoption journey or have recently decided to take the first step.

As the leading authoritative voice for adoption, NCFA’s advocacy efforts have expanded this year. Not only did we attend meetings on Capitol Hill to discuss legislation that is important to NCFA’s stakeholders, we also attended Hill Days with other organizations and advocates. Coalitions of voices seeking a common goal are key to defining legislation that will meet the diverse needs of children living outside of family care, as well as adoptive and birth families. I’m proud to say that our staff met with dozens of newly elected Members of Congress in early 2015 to discuss current obstacles and potential solutions in the field of adoption. We look forward to building relationships with Members of Congress, the Dept. of State, and the Dept. of Health and Human Services in the coming years as we work together to provide a loving and secure future for every child. We were honored to receive several international child welfare delegations, including presenting at a conference in Colombia where I was a featured presenter and key reforms were initiated.

NCFA’s membership of adoption attorneys and agencies now reaches to more than 800 locations across the country. We are proud to provide these adoption professionals with educational

National Council For Adoption FY15 Annual Report
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materials that will help them better serve the needs of children and families. Our monthly Adoption Advocate publication offers adoption professionals a deeper dive into “hot topics” in the field, and our annual conference is an opportunity for learning, growth, and networking. I enjoyed meeting many of you at this year’s Charting a New Path: Creativity vs. Reactivity conference. It is our pleasure to present new educational opportunities to our growing network of adoption professionals, including the five expert-led webinars we hosted this year.

Fiscal year 2015 has been a memorable one. Together, you’ve helped us make an incredible impact. But there is certainly work left to do. This year, more than 23,000 young people aged out of foster care with no home to call their own. Young women facing unintended pregnancies don’t always have access to current, impartial, and accurate information about the option of adoption. And, tragically, the number of foreign adoptions by Americans has reached its lowest mark since 1982, leaving many to wonder what will happen to the millions of children who are living in institutions or outside of family care around the world. The road ahead of us is long, but we’ve proved this year that we’ve got a passionate team that is prepared to meet the challenge head-on. I welcome you to join National Council For Adoption in 2015 and 2016 as we continue our work to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive in the loving, permanent family they deserve.

Sincerely,

Chuck Johnson
President and CEO
OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

As the leading global adoption advocacy organization, 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, birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, adoption professionals, U.S. and foreign governments, policymakers, media, and the general public.

NCFA is dedicated to the goal that every child thrives in a loving, permanent family. Our programs focus on three areas of adoption – domestic infant adoption (iChooseAdoption), adoption and permanency outcomes for youth in foster care (Families For All), and intercountry adoption (Global Adoption Project). During our 2015 fiscal year, NCFA expanded each of these programs to reach new audiences and create lasting changes for children and families. The Advancing Adoption Policy Initiative addresses a wide range of adoption-related legislative issues.

In FY15, NCFA launched a new website to better provide educational resources for prospective adoptive parents, adoptive families, birth families, policymakers, and adoption professionals. This cutting-edge website, combined with the new online store and new online community called the National Adoption League, allows NCFA to connect with the broader adoption community in new and exciting ways. In early 2015, National Council For Adoption announced a new celebrity partnership with pro golfer Bubba Waton and his wife Angie. As adoptive parents, Bubba and Angie are excited to work alongside NCFA to raise awareness of the option of adoption.

The iChooseAdoption campaign provides resources and tools to young people facing unintended pregnancy. NCFA has a helpful website with answers to commonly-asked questions, as well as a hotline 19 hours each day so that expectant parents can talk about their goals and fears in a risk-free way. This year, NCFA distributed iChooseAdoption posters to more than 10,000 high schools and created new English and Spanish PSAs to be distributed next year. NCFA also offers a pregnancy counseling training program to teach adoption-specific curriculum to professionals and volunteers at pregnancy and women’s health centers.

NCFA’s Families For All campaign provides resources and information to prospective adoptive and foster parents, as well as those who would like to mentor children and youth in foster care. In FY15, NCFA has continued to update resources for anyone who wants to take the first step toward fostering or adopting a child. Our Families For All Parent Engagement Advocate provides assistance and motivation to any prospective foster or adoptive parents who reach out to NCFA.
FY15 was a busy year for NCFA, as we hosted five webinars, published 12 issues of the Adoption Advocate, held 113 meetings on Capitol Hill, wrote 29 educational blog posts, and released six press releases. We also hosted the National Adoption Conference, *Charting a New Path: Creativity vs. Reactivity*, in Orlando, FL, which educated adoption professionals on the latest policies and best practices related to adoption and child welfare. With nine Member Attorneys and 81 Member Agencies in 862 branch offices, NCFA’s reach is wider than ever.

NCFA is excited to enter a new year, when we will celebrate our 35th anniversary with the Great Expectations Gala in November 2016. We will launch new *iChooseAdoption* Public Service Announcements nationwide in English and Spanish and we will begin a *Families For All* pilot study to learn how prospective foster parents can be better served throughout the pre-adoption education process. We will be hosting a brand new conference with Joint Council for International Children’s Services in June 2015 called *Putting Family First: Family Strengthening to Adoption*, and we will continue to advocate for adoption-related policies and legislation which make a positive impact in the lives of children and families. NCFA is committed to building on the strengths of our Board and staff, expanding our community of grassroots adoption advocates, and redefining organizational goals. We are grateful to our members and supporters who have helped make FY15 such a tremendous year of growth, and we look forward to building our relationships to better serve children and families in the coming year.
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NCFA: A RESOURCE FOR THE PUBLIC

About AdoptionCouncil.org

National Council For Adoption is a resource for all those interested in learning more about adoption. In order to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information on adoption, NCFA relaunched a newly re-designed AdoptionCouncil.org on August 26, 2014. It is designed to better convey targeted resources to discrete audiences, including families, adopted individuals, expectant parents, birth parents, and adoption professionals. Additional resources are available for media outlets or anyone looking for information on specific adoption topics. The new and improved AdoptionCouncil.org seamlessly offers targeted resources to help web visitors learn more about adoption and make a difference for children living outside of family care.

In December 2014, NCFA launched the Adoption Council Store, which offers apparel for men, women, and children, as well as other awareness and education items. Not only do products allow NCFA’s community to support adoption, but they also raise funds to support NCFA’s various programs.

Adoption Advocate

The Adoption Advocate is a monthly publication created by NCFA to educate policymakers, families, child welfare specialists, and other interested parties on relevant child welfare and adoption issues. Issues published in FY15 included:

<p>| May 2014 | Adoption Advocate No. 71 | The Importance of Maintaining Sibling Connections in Foster Care | By Dr. Robert White and Samantha Jernstrom |
| June 2014 | Adoption Advocate No. 72 | What are the Factors Leading to Broken | By Dawn J. Post |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 73</td>
<td>By Michele Jackson</td>
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<td>Agency Liability: What Adoption Service Providers and Families Need to Know</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2014</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 74</td>
<td>By Chuck Johnson</td>
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<td>Choosing an Adoption Agency</td>
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<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 75</td>
<td>By Casey Call, Ph.D., Karyn Purvis, Ph.D., Sheri R. Parris, Ph.D., and David Cross, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Creating Trauma-Informed Classrooms</td>
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<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 76</td>
<td>By Jamel Rowe, with Melissa Blauvelt and Rhonda Jarema</td>
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<td>Preparation and Support for Older Child Adoptions: NCFA Survey and Conference Feedback</td>
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<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 77</td>
<td>By Dr. Gary Matloff</td>
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<td>The Joys and Challenges of Parenting Older Adopted Children</td>
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<td>December 2014</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 78</td>
<td>By Kris Faasse, Sarah Horton Bobo, and Angela Magnuson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Post-Adoption Life: Supporting Adoptees, Birth Parents, and Families After Adoption</td>
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<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 79</td>
<td>By Megan Lindsey and Erin Bayles</td>
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<td>NCFA’s 2015 Policy Priorities and Adoption-Related Legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 70</td>
<td>By Christine Lockhart Poarch and J. McLane Layton</td>
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<td>Avoiding the Perils and Pitfalls of Intercountry Adoption from Non-Hague Countries: Considerations for Agencies and Adoptive Parents Part I: The Orphan Definition: What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You</td>
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<td>March 2015</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 81</td>
<td>By Christine Lockhart Poarch and J. McLane Layton</td>
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<td>Avoiding the Perils and Pitfalls of Intercountry Adoption from Non-Hague Countries: Considerations for Agencies and Adoptive Parents Part II: Orphan Processing: Navigating Road Blocks and Delays</td>
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<td>April 2015</td>
<td>Adoption Advocate No. 82</td>
<td>By Julian Davies, MD</td>
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<td>Sleep and Adoption</td>
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**Social Media**

NCFA maintains several organizational social media accounts. Our community engagement has grown in FY15, with posts including original content from NCFA such as publications and contests, adoption-related news stories, and policy updates. NCFA’s social media accounts serve as a regularly-updated listing of resources from NCFA and other organizations that meet the needs of adopted individuals, birth families,
adoptive families, and other adoption stakeholders. Across NCFA’s several social media platforms, the online community in FY15 reached 11,638 followers.

This fiscal year, the Adoption Council Blog has received more than 24,000 page views, more than twice the reach of the previous year. Blog posts from staff, interns, and guest bloggers highlight adoption-related “hot topics” and need-to-know resources that appeal to adopted individuals, birth parents, adoptive parents, and advocates. Posts can be viewed at AdoptionCouncil.org/Blog.

Blog entries during this fiscal year include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 8, 2014</td>
<td>2014 National Adoption Conference</td>
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<td>May 11, 2014</td>
<td>In Celebration of Mother’s Day and National Foster Care Month</td>
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<td>May 21, 2014</td>
<td>3 Reasons CHIFF Needs to Pass</td>
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<td>June 11, 2014</td>
<td>Father’s Day Gift Ideas</td>
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<td>June 13, 2014</td>
<td>Visiting Capitol Hill</td>
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<td>June 15, 2014</td>
<td>Reflections on Fatherhood</td>
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<td>June 24, 2014</td>
<td>#NAC14 Day 1</td>
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<td>June 26, 2014</td>
<td>#NAC14 Day 2</td>
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<td>July 4, 2014</td>
<td>Saluting Our Military: Adoption is an Option!</td>
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<td>July 11, 2014</td>
<td>Summer Scavenger Hunt</td>
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<td>July 17, 2014</td>
<td>Global Adoption: Domestic Adoption Abroad</td>
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<td>July 24, 2014</td>
<td>My Trip to Brazil</td>
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<td>August 25, 2014</td>
<td>Helping Your Child Start at a New School</td>
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<td>September 9, 2014</td>
<td>Overcoming Reactive Attachment Disorder</td>
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<td>September 12, 2014</td>
<td>There’s Enough Love</td>
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<td>September 22, 2014</td>
<td>The Wishing Tree Kwylt (Quilt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 23, 2014</td>
<td>Foster Child and the Developing Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25, 2014</td>
<td>Tips for Parenting Children with Hard Pasts</td>
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</table>
October 7, 2014  A Visit from Cambodia
November 3, 2014  Get Involved During National Adoption Month
December 8, 2014  New iChooseAdoption PSAs Released
January 27, 2015  The Importance of Infant Brain Development
February 25, 2015  Every Child Deserves a Home
March 12, 2015  Spring Time Crafts
March 25, 2015  Open Adoption
March 31, 2015  Anti-Anxiety Kit
April 15, 2015  Fundraising Ideas
April 29, 2015  Aid to Nepal

National Adoption Month

November 2014 was National Adoption Month, which NCFA celebrated with its annual online auction. The auction featured 17 items from donors across the country; auction items included sports tickets, original artwork, fine jewelry, and restaurant gift certificates. 25 people placed bids in the auction. We are thankful to all the in-kind sponsors who helped make the 2014 auction a huge success.

NCFA also participated in National Adoption Month by featuring new adoption news stories and facts on social media and the Adoption Council Blog. Member Agencies were invited to submit their National Adoption Month events, which NCFA compiled into a nationwide calendar of community events. Events from nine states, as well as nine national events, were listed.

National Adoption League

In October 2014, NCFA launched the National Adoption League—a special online community for adoption advocates and friends of adoption. League members across the country receive a monthly newsletter, exclusive news and updates, and a social media kit. There is a monthly challenge that encourages League members to get regularly involved in the cause of adoption. The League kicked off with a Fall Social in Alexandria, VA, and has since grown to 215 members. More information on this program is available at AdoptionCouncil.org/League.
National Adoption Spokespersons

On March 2, 2015, pro golfer Bubba Watson and his wife Angie were named NCFA’s National Adoption Spokespersons. The two-time Masters Champion and his wife are adoptive parents to two children, both of whom were adopted as infants. After going through the entire adoption process firsthand, the Watsons were inspired to use their experience and lend their voices to encourage others to learn more about adoption. Through their partnership with NCFA, Bubba and Angie Watson will raise awareness about the positive option of adoption and serve as advocates for children waiting to be adopted. The Watsons are currently filming a series of National Council For Adoption public service announcements, which will be released in spring 2015. As Honorary Co-Chairs of NCFA’s 35th Anniversary Great Expectations Gala, Angie Watson will share her family’s personal adoption journey as the keynote speaker at the event on November 5, 2015, in Washington, DC.
A RESOURCE FOR ADOPTION PROFESSIONALS

Membership

NCFA’s annual membership is comprised of adoption agencies and adoption attorneys. Adoption agencies continue to make up the majority of members. NCFA currently has nine Member Attorneys and 81 Member Agencies which have over 862 branch offices throughout the country.

Member Attorneys

**Florida**
Rebecca Van Nosdall

**Indiana**
Keith M. Wallace
Michele L. Jackson
Nicole Skellenger

**New York**
Laurie Goldheim

**South Carolina**
James Fletcher Thompson, LLC

**Texas**
Eric C. Freeby
Susan Paquet

**Washington**
Mark R. Iverson

Member Agencies

A Act of Love
A.A.C. Adoption and Family Network, Inc.
A Mothers Choice
Across The World Adoptions
Adopt Abroad Inc.
Adopt International
Adoption Associates
The Adoption Authority
Adoption by Gentle Care
Adoption by Shepher Care
Adoption Options
Adoptions From The Heart
Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach Inc.
All God’s Children International
Alliance For Children, Inc.
Amazing Grace Adoptions
America World Adoption
An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc.
The Barker Adoption Foundation
Bethany Christian Services
Buckner Children and Family Services

Carolina Adoption Services
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse
Catholic Charities Diocese of Green Bay
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Charlotte
Children’s Home Society of Minnesota/Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
Children’s Home Society of West Virginia
Children’s Hope International
Children’s House International
Community Maternity Services/Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany
The Cradle
Cradle of Hope Adoption Center
Creative Adoption, Inc.
Dillon International
Dove Adoptions International, Inc.
Embraced by Grace
European Adoption Consultants
Faith International Adoptions
Family Resource Center
Florida Baptist Children’s Homes
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 platform to correspond with other professionals in the community. This fiscal year, NCFA has seen an increase in the use of the Members-only and Intercountry listservs. As of April 2014, there were 10 listservs in effect: Members-only, Intercountry, Advocates, China, Domestic Infant, Ethiopia, Foster Care, Hague Reaccreditation, India, and Russia. NCFA has a shared caucus on Ethiopia with the members of Joint Council on International Children’s Services.

**Listservs**

During FY15, NCFA hosted five webinars for adoption professionals. These live webinars on “hot topics” in adoption featured distinguished guest speakers and time for questions from the audience. 159 adoption professionals attended these live sessions, and more have viewed the archived versions.

A list of NCFA’s FY15 webinars is below.
• Adoption and the Law: A Webinar for Adoption Professionals on Preparing, Educating, and Supporting Adoptive Families
  
  *hosted on* November 20, 2014
  
  *presented by*
  Nicole Ward  
  Fellow  
  American Academy of Adoption Attorneys  
  Eric Freeby  
  Fellow  
  American Academy of Adoption Attorneys

• ICWA 101: A Webinar for Adoption Professionals on Understanding and Implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act
  
  *hosted on* January 22, 2015
  
  *presented by*
  Addie Smith  
  Government Affairs Associate  
  National Indian Child Welfare Association

• What We Want Adoption Professionals to Know: Adoptive Parents
  
  *hosted on* February 5, 2015
  
  *presented by*
  Shelly and Jason Yost, domestic infant adoption  
  Lisa Sinclair, adoption through foster care  
  Kim DeBlecourt, intercountry adoption

• What We Want Adoption Professionals to Know: Birth Parents
  
  *hosted on* February 12, 2015
  
  *presented by*
  Jan Collins  
  Heather Finney

• What We Want Adoption Professionals to Know: Adopted People
  
  *hosted on* February 19, 2015
  
  *presented by*
  Lauren Koch, adopted as an infant  
  Cori Taylor, adopted through intercountry adoption  
  Ashleigh Davenport, adopted through foster care

National Adoption Conference

NCFA hosted its annual National Adoption Conference at the Buena Vista Palace in Orlando, FL, on June 19 – 20, 2014. *Charting a New Path: Creativity vs. Reactivity* challenged professionals in the field adoption to creatively eliminate barriers to providing exceptional services to children and clients. The plenary sessions were led by child welfare experts who equipped attendees with new tools and practices to use in their everyday work. Collaborative breakout sessions for practitioners and management provided a deeper dive into specific topics related to domestic infant adoption, adoption through foster care, and intercountry adoption. The attendees also took advantage of the unique opportunity to network with other professionals as they brainstormed solutions to common issues and collectively sought to improve the continuum of care provided to children.
Conference Sponsors

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<th>Premier Sponsor</th>
<th>Platinum Sponsor</th>
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<td>LDS Family Services</td>
<td>Hawley &amp; Associates, LLS</td>
<td>Adoption.net</td>
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<td>America’s Christian Credit Union</td>
<td>Council on Accreditation</td>
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Plenary Sessions

**Creating Your Service S.T.O.R.Y.!**

*Presented by* Fernando Beltran  
Engagement Manager  
Disney Institute  

*Introduced by* Heidi Cox  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Gladney Center for Adoption  
Secretary, NCFA Board of Directors  
Fellow, American Academy of Adoption Attorneys

**Fear is a Reaction; Courage is a Decision. Create Courage.**

*Presented by* Kelley Moore  
See Your Possibilities  

*Introduced by* Chuck Johnson  
President and CEO  
National Council For Adoption

**Effective Advocacy: Creativity and Persistence!**

*Presented by* Michelle Jackson JD  
Founder  
MLJ Adoptions  
Katherine Jay JD  
Adoptive Parent, Adoption Advocate, Blogs at ChildrenDeserveFamilies.com  

*Moderated by* Megan Lindsey  
Director of Public Policy and Education  
National Council For Adoption

**Public-Private Partnerships in Foster Care: Strengths and Weaknesses from a Public and Private Perspective**

*Presented by* Pete DiGre  
Deputy Secretary  
Florida Department of Children and Families
Management Track

Three Things to Consider When Implementing Organizational Change

Presented by Heather Beasley
Gladney Center for Adoption

Moderated by Heidi Cox
Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Gladney Center for Adoption
Secretary, NCFA Board of Directors
Fellow, American Academy of Adoption Attorneys

Understanding and Implementing Universal Accreditation

Presented by U.S. Department of State
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Phil Hawley
Hawley & Associates
Michelle Jackson
MLJ Adoptions
Jayne Schmidt
Council on Accreditation

Moderated by Chuck Johnson
President and CEO
National Council For Adoption

The U.S. Central Authority’s Role in Promoting Ethical, Transparent Adoption

Presented by U.S. Department of State

Moderated by Chuck Johnson
President and CEO
National Council For Adoption

Collaboration is the New Currency

Presented by C. Jacqueline Semar
Executive Director
International Child Foundation
Tiffany Ragels
Governing Board
International Child Foundation
Branding You: How to Propel Your Reputation
Presented by Jennifer Lanter
Director of Public Relations
Gladney Center for Adoption
Moderated by Megan Lindsey
Director of Public Policy and Education
National Council For Adoption

So Now You’re a Baby Seller! Surviving the Social Media Assault
Presented by Robin Sizemore
Executive Director
Hopscotch Adoptions
Moderated by Julie Claiborn
Program Assistant, Communications
National Council For Adoption

Practitioner Track
What Adoption Professionals Need to Know About the Law
Presented by Eric Freeby, JD
Brown Pruitt, P.C.
Nicole Moore, JD
Jeanne T. Tate P.A.
Moderated by Erin Bayles
Program Assistant, Public Policy and Education
National Council For Adoption

Talking Taboo: How to Talk to Your Clients about Money and Their Adoption
Presented by Kelly Ellison
Your Adoption Finance Coach
Becky Wilmoth
Bill’s Tax Service
Moderated by Sarah Benedetti
Public Policy and Education Intern
National Council For Adoption

Understanding Dissolution and Assessing the Risk
Presented by Sarah Bobo
Director of Post-Adoption Support and Education
Bethany Christian Services
Kris Faasse  
Vice-President of Clinical Operations  
Bethany Christian Services

*Moderated by* Megan Lindsey  
Director of Public Policy and Education  
National Council For Adoption

**Adoption Counseling: Beyond Birth Mothers**

*Presented by* St. Elizabeth Foundation

*Moderated by* Amy Wolfe  
Development Manager  
National Council For Adoption

**Focus on China: China Programs Gather with CCCWA**

*Presented by* China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption

*Moderated by* Chuck Johnson  
President and CEO  
National Council For Adoption

**Nature vs. Nurture: How Genetics and the Environment Impact Mental Disorders**

*Presented by* Dr. Emily Todd  
Founder  
Comprehensive Adoption Medicine Consultants, LLC

*Moderated by* Amy Wolfe  
Development Manager  
National Council For Adoption

**Who is in Charge Here?**

*Presented by* Dr. Gary Matloff, PhD  
Author *See You Tomorrow... Reclaiming the Beacon of Hope*

*Moderated by* Amy Wolfe  
Development Manager  
National Council For Adoption

**Intercountry Adoption: Leaders Unite**

*Facilitated by* Ryan Hanlon  
Executive Director of Programs  
America World Adoption

*Moderated by* Megan Lindsey  
Director of Public Policy and Education  
National Council For Adoption
Photos from Charting a New Path: Creativity vs. Reactivity
NCFA: A RESOURCE FOR THE MEDIA

Notable Media Citations

National Council For Adoption served as a reference for the media on many topics throughout this fiscal year, including general information about infant adoption and foster care, human interest stories during National Adoption Month, thoughts on the downward trend in intercountry adoptions, and many other subjects. In total, during this fiscal year, NCFA was interviewed for more than 50 distinct media projects, cited in more than 35 written, televised, or radio news pieces that were syndicated to hundreds of newspapers and stations across the country, and referenced/cited in at least 26 blogs and resource listings.

News Citations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA Today</td>
<td>May 11, 2014</td>
<td>“After painful process, adoption makes family whole”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Times</td>
<td>May 20, 2014</td>
<td>“International adoption bill orphaned”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated Press</td>
<td>June 4, 2014</td>
<td>“Groups seek resumption of US adoptions from Nepal”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Adoption Café</td>
<td>June 12, 2014</td>
<td>“Small world adoption”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huffington Post</td>
<td>June 17, 2014</td>
<td>“Child welfare group issues report on impact of Nepal adoption closure by U.S.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deseret News</td>
<td>June 22, 2014</td>
<td>“In our opinion: Understanding adoption key to encouraging public support for this vital institution”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Daily Beast</td>
<td>June 23, 2014</td>
<td>“Why is the Mormon Church getting out of the adoption business?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Kos</td>
<td>August 6, 2014</td>
<td>“Child welfare activists vs. the adoption establishment: The power of the new media”</td>
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<tr>
<td>NewsWorks</td>
<td>August 12, 2014</td>
<td>“There’s enough love to rescue children from foster care”</td>
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<td>The Spokesman-Review</td>
<td>September 14, 2014</td>
<td>“People adopting children when most are thinking retirement”</td>
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<td>Adoption TODAY</td>
<td>November 6, 2014</td>
<td>“The shifting landscape of adoption”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café.com</td>
<td>November 12, 2014</td>
<td>“The changing landscape of adoption”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tadias</td>
<td>December 10, 2014</td>
<td>“New documentary by Dan Rather looks at ‘the shameful side of international adoption’”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington Times</td>
<td>December 29, 2014</td>
<td>“DNA genealogy companies help adoptees find their roots”</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Christian Science Monitor</td>
<td>January 9, 2015</td>
<td>“As adoption fees mount, a loan could fill the gap”</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Review</td>
<td>February 9, 2015</td>
<td>“Father knows last”</td>
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<td>Source</td>
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<td>Texas Tech University School</td>
<td>February 15,</td>
<td>&quot;Heidi Cox ’86&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>of Law</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Washington Post</td>
<td>March 13, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;The story of an Arkansas politician who gave away his adopted child, and the tragedy that followed&quot;</td>
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<td>The Columbian</td>
<td>March 29, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;International adoptee faces deportation&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>The New York Times</td>
<td>March 31, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Foreign adoptions by Americans reach lowest mark since 1982&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Wall Street Journal</td>
<td>April 1, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Foreign adoptions drop to lowest levels in decades&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>China Daily</td>
<td>April 2, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;China still No. 1 for US adoptions&quot;</td>
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<td>WeTV</td>
<td>April 2, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Women behind bars” [past episode]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forbes</td>
<td>April 3, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Raising children late in life requires careful planning&quot;</td>
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<td>Associated Press</td>
<td>April 4, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Treaty's tighter adoption rules kick in for Haiti&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dateline NBC</td>
<td>April 4, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;5 Red flags”</td>
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<td>Dateline NBC</td>
<td>April 4, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Dateline: Hope &amp; Heartbreak”</td>
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<td>Dateline NBC</td>
<td>April 4, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Resources for those considering adoption”</td>
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<td>PRWeb</td>
<td>April 7, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Act of Love Adoption’s new disclosure of fees and expenses to adoptive parents”</td>
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<td>KPCC Take Two</td>
<td>April 8, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Foreign adoptions by Americans reach lowest level in 30 years”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associated Press</td>
<td>April 10, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Foreign adoptions by Americans reach lowest mark since 1982&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston.com</td>
<td>April 12, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Chuck Lorre’s sitcom ‘Mom’ adopts serious tone”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work Helper</td>
<td>April 28, 2015</td>
<td>&quot;Why we should care about adoption rehoming”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Press Releases**

National Council For Adoption is an authoritative resource for the press. During FY15, NCFA distributed the following press releases:

- **May 1, 2014** National Foster Care Month Draws Attention to Children Awaiting Families
- **July 18, 2014** Universal Accreditation Act Implementation Arrives Without Useful Guidance for Families and Adoption Service Providers
- **August 26, 2014** National Council For Adoption Unveils New AdoptionCouncil.org
- **November 18, 2014** New Public Service Announcements Released through iChooseAdoption
- **March 2, 2015** Bubba and Angie Watson Announced as New National Council For Adoption Spokespersons
- **April 1, 2015** Dramatic and Tragic Decline in Intercountry Adoption Numbers Continues
DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION

iChooseAdoption Public Awareness Campaign

The iChooseAdoption campaign provides accurate and current information about adoption to young parents facing an unintended pregnancy. The website (iChooseAdoption.org) features personal stories about domestic infant adoption from birth parents, adoptive parents, and adopted individuals. There are also pages of information for expectant parents who want to learn more about adoption—from answers to “Frequently Asked Questions” to lists of concerns that they should consider when speaking with an adoption professional. The website also provides a directory of NCFA Member Agencies and a dedicated hotline 19 hours a day, seven days a week, so that expectant parents can learn more about adoption or just talk about their thoughts and goals with a trained professional in a risk-free, anonymous environment.

Throughout the year, NCFA partnered with TV Access to air nationwide television and radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs). The PSAs share the stories of two young birth mothers who chose to place their babies for adoption. A third PSA shows adoption from the adoptive parents’ perspective. The goal of these PSAs is to direct expectant parents to the iChooseAdoption.org website or to the hotline to learn more.

For the duration of FY15, the iChooseAdoption television PSAs had aired 17,515 times on 78 stations in 34 markets. Out of 1,421 total PSAs tracked by Nielsen, the iChooseAdoption PSA ranked 93rd, inside the top 7%. At the end of FY15, the equivalent dollar value of these airings was $3.1 million. The radio PSA aired 2,966 times and was ranked 47th out of 93 PSAs being tracked by TV Access, ranking inside the top 50%. At the end of FY15, the equivalent dollar value of the radio airings was more than $200,000.

In September 2014, NCFA and filmmaker Jim Hanon completed two new television and radio PSAs for the iChooseAdoption campaign, to be released nationally in May 2015. These PSAs reflect the diverse stories of adoption. One PSA features Christophe and Christopher—twins who were placed for adoption and appreciate their birth mother’s tough decision. Another PSA features Melinda, a Latina birth mother who felt confident in her choice to place her son Miles for adoption, despite the concerns of her family members. Melinda says, “In the end, everybody came together. My mom, she told me that I’m the strongest person she knows.” Her PSA is available in English in Spanish.
NCFA distributed iChooseAdoption posters to more than 10,000 high schools across the U.S. at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. These posters promote the concept that adoption can be a positive option. They also provided information for young expectant parents to take the next step in learning more. The campaign received positive feedback from high school counselors and faculty, and several people who saw the posters connected with NCFA to share their own personal experiences with adoption.

The iChooseAdoption campaign has an active presence on several social media networks, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest. These social media accounts are carefully maintained to provide high-quality information for young expectant parents and to respond to their questions and concerns, as needed.

Pregnancy Counseling Training

Although the Infant Adoption Training Initiative (IATI) federal funding ceased, NCFA has continued to reconnect to its previous nationwide network of existing trainers through our Consider the Possibilities training. This program educates professionals and volunteers in pregnancy centers about including accurate, non-coercive adoption information as a best practice of options counseling for women facing an unintended pregnancy. NCFA has simplified the curriculum materials to a single, multi-purpose workbook and has an inventory of workbooks, counseling center brochures, and other training materials previously used for IATI trainings. A free online training providing a more basic overview for professionals providing options counseling remains available at ConsiderThePossibilities.org and through the NCFA website.

Next year, NCFA will transfer the Consider the Possibilities training to a new, more robust online platform to optimize its impact and share with a broader audience.
ADDITIONAL THROUGH FOSTER CARE

Families For All Public Awareness Campaign

According to the most recent data, compiled in July 2014, there are 402,378 children languishing in U.S. foster care – and 101,840 of them are waiting to be adopted. They have been removed from their homes for a variety of reasons, which often includes abuse or neglect, all of them longing for a loving, permanent family of their own. Tragically, more than 23,000 youth age out of foster care as young adults without a family to help them transition into adulthood.

National Council For Adoption believes that raising public awareness of children in foster care is a crucial step toward connecting these children with loving, permanent families. In order for our public awareness campaign to succeed, it should raise awareness of three concepts:

1. The sheer volume of children in foster care waiting for adoption in our own communities.
2. Children in foster care are no different from other children. Hard things may have brought them to foster care, but they are not to blame. Every one of these children deserves a family.
3. Everyone can do something to help a child in foster care.

In order to achieve these public awareness goals, NCFA launched the Families For All public awareness campaign in partnership with Walmart in 2008 to inspire Americans to consider how they can help children in foster care, such as becoming a foster or adoptive parent, mentoring, serving as a court appointment special advocate (CASA) or respite care provider, volunteering, or donating money.

With the goal of building strong families, the FamiliesForAll.org website and a foster care-focused Twitter account allow anyone in America to find opportunities near them to get involved in the lives of youth in foster care.

Recruitment, Retention, and Building Families

Studies show that, for every three prospective adoptive parents recruited, two withdraw from the process, citing a lack of services provided by their public agency. To address this, NCFA launched multi-year research project addressing parent recruitment and engagement. This research seeks to identify and address the core problems of retaining prospective foster and adoptive parents. We believe that clear understanding of the need and more targeted support will ultimately lead to more children thriving in loving, permanent families.

Upon conclusion of this research, NCFA will publish the pilot case study in the highly-acclaimed Adoption Advocate and provide training and consultation with external organizations throughout the country interested in utilizing the model in their community.
GLOBAL ADOPTION

About the Global Adoption Project

The Global Adoption Project represents NCFA’s strong commitment to be a voice for children in all corners of the world who live outside family care by promoting ethical and transparent domestic and intercountry adoption options, ensuring that prospective adoptive families receive critical education about adoption, and advocating for enhanced and ongoing post-adoption support services to promote successful outcomes for adopted children.

In FY15, NCFA’s Global Adoption Project included advocacy efforts related to the federal Children in Families First Act (CHIFF). More information about this legislation is available in the Advancing Adoption Policy Initiative section of this Annual Report.

International Delegates

In attendance at our National Adoption Conference was a delegation of government officials China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption. They hosted a meeting with all adoption service providers that were present at the event. NCFA also hosted a reception to honor the visiting delegation. The event included families who had adopted from China, and adoption professionals. Also in attendance at the National Adoption Conference was an official delegate from Ghana, representing their child welfare system.

On September 19, 2014, NCFA hosted a group of child welfare leaders from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova, and Ukraine. On October 1, 2014, NCFA hosted a delegation of Cambodian child welfare officials.

Presentations

In December 2014, NCFA president and CEO Chuck Johnson travelled to Medellín, Colombia, to participate in the Adoption Crisis Forum. This conference focused on challenges in Colombian adoptions and possible areas of improvement. Chuck Johnson presented on child development research and the detrimental effects of institutionalized care. The discussions at this conference were very productive and have already lead to positive changes in Colombia’s domestic adoption and intercountry adoption processes.

Intercountry Adoption Journey Hague-Compliant Training

NCFA offers the Intercountry Adoption Journey (IAJ) Hague-compliant training course to prospective adoptive parents and adoption professionals. In FY15, NCFA continued to update the content of the IAJ program to remain up-to-date and informative. The new version has been updated to include topical updates reflecting Universal Accreditation Act and Pre-Adoption Immigration Review processes as well as other necessary updates. 1,039 participants enrolled in the Intercountry Adoption Journey in FY15. After completing all modules, participants receive a 10-hour Hague-compliant training certificate. Plans are underway to launch additional regional specific training modules to supplement IAJ including trainings focused on China, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa.
ADVANCING ADOPTION POLICY INITIATIVE

Program Overview

NCFA serves as the authoritative voice for children, birth parents, and adoptive families, seeking to effectively represent adoption in the halls of power as well as the court of public opinion. Through our Advancing Adoption Policy Initiative we work to be a key resource for U.S. and foreign government leaders, the U.S. Congress and Administration officials, policymakers, practitioners, and others concerned about children and families in order to help ensure adoption-friendly legislation and policies.

Below is an overview of key adoption-related judicial and legislative issues during fiscal year 2015.

Key Judicial and Legislative Issues

Children in Families First Act (CHIFF)

The Children in Families First Act of 2013 (CHIFF) was introduced in the Senate on September 19th and in the House on October 24th. CHIFF aimed to: fill the gap in leadership by establishing a bureau in the Department of State dedicated to international child welfare; strengthen intercountry adoption by streamlining and consolidating responsibility for intercountry adoption cases under the direction of the United States Citizen and Immigration Services; focus U.S. foreign investment on serving children in and through families by establishing a Center of Excellence within USAID; and increase protection for children and families by ensuring transparent and accountable child welfare systems are in place. CHIFF includes a spectrum of family-based care solutions for children around the world, including reunification, placement with kin, global domestic adoption, and intercountry adoption. Though this bill was not passed during the 113th Congress, National Council For Adoption had a invaluable experience working alongside advocates, organizations, and policymakers to identify areas where intercountry adoption and global child welfare could be improved. Those issues are being reexamined during the 114th Congress, beginning January 3, 2015.

Child Abandonment/Rehoming

In a practice sometimes referred to as “rehoming”, children are being inappropriately abandoned by adoptive families. While the majority of adoptions are successful, even one child placed inappropriately into the care of other, potentially inappropriate adults is too many. NCFA believes that this dangerous practice of child abandonment is prompted by a variety of things. In many cases, it may be the result of adoptive parents who weren’t properly educated on the potential needs of the child or overestimated their ability to provide special parenting to traumatized children. It may also be a result of inadequate post-adoption support systems and services. NCFA supports legislation and initiatives that would provide online monitoring for these types of concerns and are zealous advocates for pre-adoption education and post-adoption support for every adoptive family.

Child Citizenship Act

The Child Citizenship Act (CCA) makes it possible for foreign-born children who join US families through adoption to receive U.S. citizenship. However, the original version of this law failed to include adopted
individuals over a certain age and placed some restrictions on when children would receive automatic citizenship and when extra steps (like requiring both adoptive parents to travel) might be required to ensure automatic citizenship. In 2014, NCFA celebrated improvements to this law – children legally adopted by U.S. citizen parents will now all receive citizenship regardless of the parent’s travel arrangements. However, there are many individuals for whom this law still needs to be corrected. NCFA believes that automatic citizenship should be retroactively extended all foreign born children legally adopted by U.S. citizen parents, just as biological children receive the same benefit of automatic citizenship. NCFA continues to advocate for this important change in 2015.

**Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood**

NCFA continues to advocate for a National Putative Father Registry. The organization has educated for and advocated on Capitol Hill to ensure that Members of Congress understand the benefits to all parties to adoption when a putative father registry is used well and how that would translate to and be enhanced by a national registry. Specifically, when appropriate registries are available and used children are less likely to suffer unstable placements, birth fathers are given a clear way to preserve their right to parent or participate in an adoption plan, birth mothers are released of the burden of notifying other parties or making decisions alone, and adoptive parents can feel more secure that when children are placed with them the placement is appropriate and is less likely to be disrupted. Although it is a lesser known issue, NCFA believes that it has a growing community of supporters as policymakers and the general public come to understand how a national registry would ensure those benefits are maintained even when an adoption happens, as they often do, across state lines. Currently pending are the H.R. 3549 and S 1203 The Protection Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act. These bills were introduced by Senators Inhofe and Landrieu and Representatives Hartzler and McLane-Kuster in 2015.

**Adoption Tax Credit**

With conversations of tax reform, NCFA remains alert to ensure that the Adoption Tax Credit remains a part of the conversation and its benefits are known and understood to ensure children and families continue to benefit. S. 950 and H.R.2434, The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2015 were introduced by Senator Casey and Representative Black. This bill would return the tax credit to its refundable status, as it was in 2010 and 2011. Refundability would help ensure that families with lower incomes or less tax liability – often those who need it the most – might still benefit from the Adoption Tax Credit.

**Tribal Parity Act**

H.R. 1542 and S. 835, both titled The Tribal Adoption Parity Act were introduced by Senators Heitkamp and Representative Kilmer. This bill would correct the fact that currently, tribes who are placing children for adoption are not listed as someone who may qualify a child as a special needs child for the purpose of the adoption tax credit. This technical change would ensure that children and families who adopt through tribal courts could more easily receive the benefits of the adoption tax credit.
### Government Meetings

#### Topic: Foster Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 16, 2014</td>
<td>Senate Caucus for Foster Youth and the Senate Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus discussion on financial literacy for foster youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8, 2014</td>
<td>Meeting with Governor McAuliffe’s office to discuss Foster Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30, 2014</td>
<td>Senate Caucus on Foster Youth Discussion on Child Welfare Financing Reform</td>
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#### Topic: Intercountry Adoption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2014</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo Conference call for Adoption Service Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22, 2014</td>
<td>Child Welfare Financing Reform Roundtable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26, 2014</td>
<td>Relative Adoptions Conference Call for Adoption Service Providers to address issues encountered by U.S. citizens seeking to pursue an overseas adoption of a relative child</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14, 2014</td>
<td>Congressional Report on the Growing Crisis of Africa’s Orphans - DRC Focus</td>
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<td>July 22, 2014</td>
<td>Briefing on Providing Parity for Adoptive Parents in Indian Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 13, 2014</td>
<td>DOS and USCIS Conference Call on Nepal adoptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 27, 2014</td>
<td>Meeting with DOS to discuss Intercountry Adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19, 2014</td>
<td>Meeting and discussion with delegation from former Soviet Union nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 29, 2014</td>
<td>NGO Engagement with the US Government’s Action Plan on Children in Adversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2014</td>
<td>Meeting and discussion with delegation from Cambodia</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6, 2014</td>
<td>Meeting with new OCI-Adoptions Chief, Trish Maskew</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21, 2014</td>
<td>Conference Call Hosted by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15, 2014</td>
<td>USCIS National Benefits Center Stakeholder’s Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14, 2015</td>
<td>Meeting with Trish Maskew</td>
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</table>
Capitol Hill Meetings

Below is a listing of visits NCFA’s staff, interns, and advocates held with offices of U.S. Senators and Representatives during FY15. The color-coded key denotes what issues were discussed.

- **CHIFF** Children in Families First Act of 2014 regarding improving the US advocacy and management of intercountry adoption
- **ICA** Intercountry adoption efforts regarding improving the US advocacy and management of intercountry adoption
- **RFR** Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood (National Putative Father Registry)
- **PPA** Pre- and Post-Adoption Education and Support
- **ATC** Adoption Tax Credit
- **W** Welcome: New Members of Congress are briefed on NCFA’s mission and the needs of children outside families and all impacted by adoption. Related legislation is featured.
- **FC** Foster care issues (including the Family-Based Foster Care Services Act)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Issue(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)</td>
<td>Jan 8, 2015</td>
<td>ICA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)</td>
<td>Feb 18, 2015</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)</td>
<td>Jun 24, 2014</td>
<td>ICA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)</td>
<td>Jun 24, 2014</td>
<td>ICA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rep. Steve Knight (R-CA)</td>
<td>Jul 28, 2014</td>
<td>FC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)</td>
<td>Feb 18, 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jun 25, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
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<td>State</td>
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<td>Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)</td>
<td>Mar 11, 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)</td>
<td>Apr 1, 2015</td>
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<td>Jun 24, 2014</td>
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<td>Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI)</td>
<td>Jun 25, 2014</td>
<td>ICA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rep. Dave Trott (R-MI)</td>
<td>Feb 4, 2015</td>
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<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)</td>
<td>Mar 30, 2015</td>
<td>PPA</td>
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<td>Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN)</td>
<td>Feb 11, 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jul 30, 2014</td>
<td>RFR</td>
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<td>Aug 22, 2014</td>
<td>RFR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)</td>
<td>Mar 16, 2015</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)</td>
<td>Jun 24, 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)</td>
<td>Jun 24, 2014</td>
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<td>Sen. Mike Johanns (R-NE)</td>
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<td>Jul 8, 2014</td>
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<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Rep. Crescent Hardy (R-NV)</td>
<td>Feb 9, 2015</td>
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<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Rep. Frank Guinta (R-NH)</td>
<td>Feb 11, 2015</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)</td>
<td>Jul 28, 2014</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)</td>
<td>Jul 28, 2014</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)</td>
<td>Apr 1, 2015</td>
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<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-OK)</td>
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<td>Sen. Patrick Toomey (R-PA)</td>
<td>Jun 24, 2014</td>
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Meetings with Collaborating Organizations

Adoption Tax Credit Working Group

- 14 Adoption Tax Credit conference calls during FY15
- Adoption Tax Credit Advocacy Day on April 1, 2015

American Academy of Adoption Attorneys

- 2 Universal Accreditation Act conference calls during FY15
- July 9, 2014 – Working lunch to discuss summer legislation
Both Ends Burning

- Four Both Ends Burning conference calls during FY15 to discuss STUCK, Nepal, and the DRC

Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute/Angels in Adoption

- June 11, 2014 – Discussed CHIFF
- July 29, 2014 – Attended CCAI’s Foster Youth Internship Congressional Briefing & Reception
- September 17, 2014 – Angels in Adoption Gala
- October 2, 2014 – Discussed the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- October 6, 2014 – Discussed rehoming
- January 8, 2014 – Planned for the 114th Congress and New Member Engagement

CHIFF Working Group

- 19 CHIFF conference calls during FY15
- June 6, 2014 – Discussed CHIFF with the Attachment and Trauma Network

Hague Stakeholders Calls (with National Benefits Center)

- 4 Hague Stakeholders conference calls during FY15

One Simple Wish

- 3 conference calls during FY15 to discuss foster care interests

Various other meetings and discussions

- May 5, 2014 – Adoption Briefing - Coordination Conference Call
- May 5, 2014 – Meeting with Kara Eusebio from Spence-Chapin on collaboration and finding families for older children, children with special needs, and sibling groups
- May 16, 2014 – DRC Advocacy Strategic Planning Meeting with MLJ Adoptions
- May 28, 2014 – Call with Matt Thompson from the Adoption Researcher to discuss adoption statistics relating to evangicals
- May 28, 2014 – Webinar Avoiding the Perils and Pitfalls of International Adoption: Advice for Agencies and Adoptive Families
- June 5, 2014 – Foster the City Membership Engagement Call
- June 9, 2014 – Meeting with Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm to discuss the development of a research project on the international relations of adoption
- July 24, 2014 – Call with Bill Rosen to discuss Universal Accreditation Act
- July 24, 2014 – Reception for Ambassadors and Embassy Staff focused on inter-country adoption given by Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption, Including Neighboring Countries
- August 8, 2014 – Meeting with Addie Smith to discuss the National Indian Child Welfare Association
- September 17, 2014 – Meeting with Aria Trattoria with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
- September 18, 2014 – Meeting with Jon Gibson to discuss adoption in Romania
• October 1, 2014 – Call with Nicole about the changing landscape of adoption and the importance of organizations that help serve children and families
• October 10, 2014 – Conference call with IA Human Rights Network
• December 15, 2014 – CAPP Membership Call
• December 15, 2014 – Ethiopia Caucus Call including NCFA and Joint Council Members
• December 17, 2014 – Meeting w/ Jan Wondra of FRUA regarding Eastern Europe, post-adoption support and post-adopt reporting
• January 14, 2014 – Meeting with Trish Maskew and Jill Larsen at DOS-OCI re: PAIR, UAA, Independent/Relative Adoptions, Cuba, Nepal, Vietnam, & Ethiopia
• February 10, 2015 – Brief Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP on legislative goals to encourage volunteer support
• March 17, 2015 – IA Stakeholder’s Meeting with Department of State
• April 2, 2015 – Hague/Intercountry Recommendations Committee Call
• April 6, 2015 – NBC Stakeholders Call
• April 6, 2015 – WMT/CASA/NCFA Call

Conferences and Presentations

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>May 1-2, 2014</td>
<td>Chuck Johnson presented “Creating and Maintaining Ethical Adoption Programs” at the Christian Alliance for Orphans conference</td>
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<td>May 20, 2014</td>
<td>Megan Lestino presented on the webinar “Children Need Families, We Need Your Voice!”</td>
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<td>September 12–13, 2014</td>
<td>NCFA attended the conference “Empowered to Connect” in Washington, DC</td>
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<td>September 15, 2014</td>
<td>NCFA exhibited at the Angels in Adoption Advocacy Fair, hosted by Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute</td>
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<td>October 25, 2014</td>
<td>NCFA assisted in the Crisis Pregnancy Center Training on Adoption Options with Laurel Pregnancy Center</td>
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<td>February 4, 2014</td>
<td>NCFA staff attended the DC premiere of the documentary The Dropbox</td>
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<td>March 18, 2015</td>
<td>NCFA co-hosted a farewell reception for Fmr. Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15, 2015</td>
<td>NCFA attended the Tax Day Briefing on the Adoption Tax Credit for Congressional Staff</td>
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NCFA on Capitol Hill in FY15
NCFA'S STAFF

Current Staff

Charles “Chuck” Johnson
President and CEO

Lauren Koch
Vice President
Director of Development and Communications

Erin Bayles
Program Assistant, Public Policy and Education

Nicole Callahan
Publications Director

Ed Casillas
 Constituent Services Fellow

Ed Casillas
 Constituent Services Fellow

Julie Claiborn
Communications Manager

Janelle Ison
Finance and Administration Director

Megan Lestino
Director of Public Policy and Education

Amy Wolfe
Development Manager

NCFA would like to thank the following staff members who served during FY15:

Vicki Allgaier
Constituent Services Fellow

Wayne Allgaier
Constituent Services Fellow

Olivia Burnett
Administrative Assistant

La Toya Gyamfi
Administrative Assistant

Corrie Sutherland
Administrative Assistant

NCFA would like to thank the following interns who served during FY15:

Sarah Benedetti
Jessica Crosby
Joshua Glover
Sarah Henry
Madison Howard
Renae Johnson
Garrett Kizer
Caitlin Ruff
Madison Swenson
NCFA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Current Board of Directors

Kevin Wrege, Chairman
Stacey J. Reynolds, Co-Vice Chair
Wayne W. Sharp, Co-Vice Chair
Heidi Bruegel Cox, Secretary
William J. Blacquiere
Jane Castanias
Kyle Clark
Nathan Gwilliam
Fred Helm
Sheree Jones
Phillip Littleton, Treasurer
Brian A. Luwis
David McConkie
William P. Rosen
Beth Nonte Russell
Lisa Sinclair
Rebecca Spicer
Louis P. Stern
Steven A. Sunday
Mike Thorne
Andrea Vavonese

NCFA would like to thank the following Board members who served during FY15:
Rosemary C. McDonough
Tom Sheedy
Pamela Stevenson