



National Council For *Adoption*

2012

ANNUAL REPORT

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION
2012 ANNUAL REPORT
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Dear Families and Friends of NCFA,

It is my distinct privilege to serve as Chair of the National Council For Adoption Board of Directors. I am honored to have served on the Board since 2009 under the steady leadership of then-Chair Stan Swim, and I am grateful for his insightful guidance and mentoring during that period.

I am especially 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, despite the economic downturn that has challenged so many of our nation's nonprofit organizations in recent years, NCFA's Board and staff have managed to not simply maintain, but increase our efforts on behalf of the many thousands of children worldwide in need of permanent, loving families.

The problems facing America's foster care system, the decline in the number of intercountry adoptions, 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 am 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 of the Board*

Dear Friend of NCFA,

2012 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 voice for our constituents on Capitol Hill, in the media, and among adoption stakeholders.

Over the course of the year, we have seen progress in every branch of our organization. Well-known and far-reaching media outlets such as Fox News, CNN, NPR, USA Today, and the Associated Press consult NCFA regarding important adoption issues. Interviews covered a broad range of topics including the adoption tax credit, the United States-Russia bilateral adoption agreement, and transracial adoption. NCFA took Capitol Hill by storm as it completed more Hill visits than in any year in recent memory. Steadfast advocacy for adoptive families and birthparents led to the introduction of the Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act and the passage of the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 in the Senate. As a publication of value, the Adoption Advocate continues to grow in its dissemination and esteem among adoption policymakers and stakeholders. Likewise, NCFA's membership network continues to expand and today, it not only includes adoption service providers, but also adoption attorneys and lay advocates.

This year marked the addition of the Russian Prospective Adoptive Parent Training initiative, through which parents can satisfy the pre-adoption education requirements dictated by the United States-Russia bilateral adoption agreement. Additionally, we are preparing for the January launch of our highly anticipated and wonderfully developed iChooseAdoption campaign, which informs birthmothers about the option of adoption without fear, bias, or misunderstanding. As 2012 comes to a close, NCFA will participate in the China Winter Tour in which former orphans return to their homeland for immersion into the Chinese history and culture. Unlike past years, adoptive parents and siblings can accompany the children and, together, they can visit various landmarks such as the Great Wall and panda reserves. Families also have the opportunity to visit the orphanage where the child resided prior to adoption, thereby allowing their adoption journey to come full circle.

With these many successes, we've also experienced our share of challenges in 2012, but with the assistance of generous donors and a diligent staff and board, NCFA continues to zealously advocate for the right of children to have a family through adoption.



Sincerely,

*Chuck Johnson
President and CEO*

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Founded in 1980, the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) is an adoption advocacy organization that promotes a positive culture of adoption through education, research, and legislative action. NCFA has maintained its legacy as the authoritative voice for adoption for over 32 years by serving children, birthparents, adoptive families, adult adoptees, adoption agencies, U.S. and foreign governments, policymakers, media, and the general public. Our work reflects our passionate belief that *every* child deserves a loving, permanent family.

NCFA remains one of the leading child welfare organizations in the United States. NCFA is proud to have played an integral role in the passage of several child and family welfare federal laws and reforms such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Intercountry Adoption Act, the Adoption Tax Credit, and many more.

NCFA takes a comprehensive approach to promoting a positive culture of adoption with programs and services for each of our areas of focus – domestic infant adoption, adoption out of foster care, and intercountry adoption. Our programs continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of children, birthparents, and adoptive families, and we are committed to constantly strengthening and evolving our programs and services as demand requires.

In the area of domestic adoption we completed the revision of our *Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program* curriculum, which now includes changes in state and federal laws, statistical and best practices updates, and recommendations of NCFA and Children’s Bureau evaluation processes. Together with a team of our staff, volunteers, and a dedicated group of individuals passionate about adoption, we filmed brand new *iChooseAdoption* public service announcements for distribution on TV, radio, and social media sites. In early 2013, the *iChooseAdoption.org* website will also have a fresh look and will be a more relevant resource for young women facing unintended pregnancy, with vital adoption information, birthmother, adoptive parent, and adoptee testimonials, streaming YouTube *iChooseAdoption* videos, integrated Instagram and social media functionality, a 24-hour crisis pregnancy hotline, online chat, and a search function allowing visitors to locate the nearest NCFA adoption agency or affiliate, where a prospective birthmother can obtain the necessary counseling and information about choosing adoption.

NCFA’s *Families For All* campaign also received a fresh look in 2012, with new branding and an all-new website which is more user–friendly. After meeting with child welfare officials from all across the United States, we will use the *Families For All* campaign as a stepping stone for increasing awareness about the needs of children waiting to be adopted out of foster care, and ultimately, increasing the number of adoptions of out foster care.

NCFA president and CEO Chuck Johnson traveled to several countries during 2012 with the goal of working with foreign officials to identify ways in which intercountry adoption processes can improve and address child welfare issues. Additionally, we are in the process of expanding our services to provide parent education meeting the new amplified Russian Adoption education requirements.

2012 has been a busy year for NCFA, but one with strong direction and passion from the entire staff. In February, Lauren Koch was reappointed Director of Development and Communications. In March, Adria Anderson transitioned into the department as the new Development and Communications Associate. Shortly after, Christine Gerhart, originally an intern with NCFA, joined the staff as the new Administrative Assistant. NCFA also had the pleasure of adding Phillip Littleton, President and CEO of Holt International, to the board of directors. With staff and board member additions and program revisions, NCFA is truly positioned to provide a higher level of service than ever before, and our commitment to changing lives through adoption has never been stronger.

NCFA has many plans for the coming year, including launching the *iChooseAdoption* campaign, creating *Families For All* PSAs, and partnering with The Boston Group to provide training for the Russian Adoption education requirements. We are also looking forward to hosting our National Adoption Conference in Orlando, FL, where leading adoption advocates and professionals will focus on this year's theme, "Leading Change from Within." We are excited for a new year of service to children, birthparents, and adoptive families, and remain truly and deeply grateful for our dedicated donors who make our work possible.

AGENCY AND CONSTITUENT SERVICES

The Agency and Constituent Services department is run by Wayne and Vicki Allgaier, two fellows provided to NCFA by LDS Family Services. In 2012, Wayne and Vicki have been responsible for expanding services to NCFA's members and other constituents, as well as broadening the scope of NCFA's membership.

NCFA Membership

Our annual membership renewal process begins in December, and takes about three months to complete. We currently have 3 membership categories:

1. Adoption Agencies. This has traditionally been the core of our membership. 2012 has seen the addition of 9 member agencies, bringing our total membership in this category to 68, representing 387 branch offices throughout the country.
2. Adoption Attorneys. This category was opened earlier this year with individual invitations to the 300 members of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA). Only a few responded, but we are continuing to work with AAAA leadership to help educate their members on the benefits of NCFA membership, and reaching out to individual attorneys as we have contact with them on other matters.
3. Adoption Advocates. Opened in the fall of 2011, we see continual interest in this category for families and individuals, now with 155 members, many of whom are college students interested in going into adoption and related fields.

Listserves

Our listservs are used to enhance communications among NCFA members, both in keeping members up-to-date on what's happening in the field of adoption, and providing a forum for members to seek information from other agencies with specific situations they are encountering. There has been increased utilization of our listservs this year, especially the Members-only listserv and the Intercountry listserv. Three new listservs were added this year: Hague Reaccreditation, India, and China Winter Tour. Our other listservs include: China, Russia, Ethiopia, Foster Care, and Domestic Infants.

Special Events

The annual National Adoption Conference was held in Washington, D.C., June 13-16. Details about the conference can be found elsewhere in this Annual Report.

NCFCA hosted a 20-member delegation from China in October for three weeks, this being the fourth annual visit for this CCCWA (China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption) delegation. They visit several cities in the U.S. and learn about adoption and foster care practices. These visits have served to increase their understanding of adoption here, helping to clear up misunderstandings and thus fostering the China-U.S. adoption climate. Vicki and Wayne were able to assist with the group during the time they were in Washington, D.C., and in Salt Lake City, with member agencies assisting in the other cities.



*CCCWA Delegation at Mt. Vernon, home of President George Washington
October 2012*

NCFCA is also working with Gladney Center for Adoption in organizing a cultural trip to China in December for children who have been adopted from that country, and their parents.

Other Services

We continue to respond to email and phone inquiries on a daily basis. This resource is for member agencies as they encounter challenges with adoptions, as well as for individuals who call with questions about adoption in general or about a specific problem they are having with adoption. Our interactions with government agencies have been able to resolve some systemic problems, such as the issue with contracted home studies. We continue to participate in quarterly stake-holders’ conferences with DOS/USCIS/Office of Children’s Affairs and other phone conferences, updating our members with information learned from these meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

NCFA's communications department enjoyed a year of many accomplishments throughout 2012. The department kicked off 2012 with the addition of Adria Anderson as development and communications associate, which has allowed for greater focus on raising public awareness for the positive option of adoption. During 2012, NCFA's media and public relations continued to grow, webinars and publications were disseminated more widely than ever before, social media presence was bolstered, and two of NCFA's most prominent public awareness campaigns – *iChooseAdoption* and *Families For All* – were revamped to remain a relevant and driving force in improving the public's perception about adoption.

Websites

NCFA's main website, www.adoptioncouncil.org, remains a valuable resource for anyone interested in adoption. It averages almost 6,000 visits per month. In addition to our main website, NCFA maintains three additional websites that correspond to our core areas of focus: domestic infant adoption, adoption out of foster care, and intercountry adoption.

In early 2013, NCFA will launch the fully redesigned iChooseAdoption.org website, where women facing unintended pregnancy can freely explore the positive option of adoption. The brand new website will feature vital adoption information, birthmother, adoptive parent, and adoptee testimonials, streaming YouTube *iChooseAdoption* videos, integrated Instagram and social media functionality, a 24-hour crisis pregnancy hotline, online chat, and a search function allowing visitors to locate the nearest NCFA adoption agency or affiliate, where a prospective birthmother can obtain the necessary counseling and information about choosing adoption. Visitors will be able to view videos of birthmothers sharing their adoption story as well as stories from adoptive families and adoptees. Visitors will also have the option to share their own story by submitting a written post or submitting a video to the website.

NCFA's *Families For All* website is also undergoing a much needed facelift. FamiliesForAll.org provides those interested in learning more about mentoring, fostering, or adopting a child out of foster care. The new website will feature a new logo, look and feel, and improved interaction with visitors.

Lastly, NCFA's HagueAdoption.org website allows prospective adoptive parents to obtain required intercountry adoption education. Previously an eight hour course, prospective parents can now receive all ten hours of their required training on the website. This updated version launched February 2012.

Blog

On March 28, 2012, NCFA launched its blog. The blog debuted with president and CEO Chuck Johnson introducing NCFA to the blogging community. Since March, NCFA has posted 29 entries and has received 7,087 page views. The blog consist of relevant adoption topics written by a diverse group of authors and advocates. Our blog can be found at www.adoptioncouncilblog.org. The blog entries include:

- March 28, 2012 – “Welcome!”
- April 13, 2012 – “Information Sharing: A Personal Story”
- April 26, 2012 – “Extend the Adoption Tax Credit”
- 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”

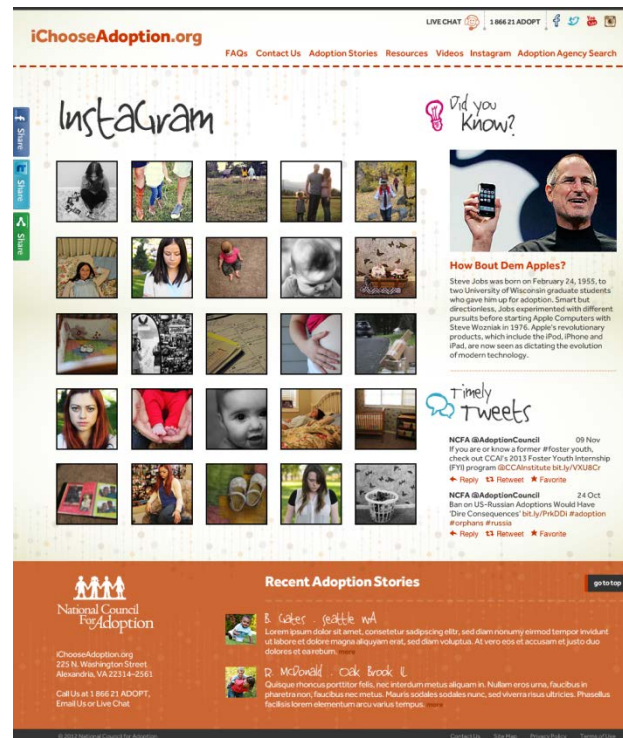
Social Media

NCFA's social media presence has grown rapidly in 2012. We can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/adoptioncouncil and on Twitter at [@adoptioncouncil](https://twitter.com/adoptioncouncil). NCFA posts on a wide variety of adoption-related topics, and has received very positive feedback on its social media content. NCFA currently has 2,977 followers on Facebook and 1,416 followers on Twitter.

Public Awareness Campaigns

NCFA has two national public awareness campaigns: *Families For All* and *iChooseAdoption*. *Families For All*, a public awareness campaign designed to inspire Americans to consider becoming involved in the life of a foster child, was first launched in 2008 and continues to be a valuable tool for promoting adoption out of foster care. This May, which was National Foster Care Month, Walmart TV ran a brand-new *Families For All* PSA featuring country music artist Rodney Atkins at 588 of its locations. In early 2013, NCFA will launch the fully redesigned *Families For All* website and hopes to create brand new TV and radio PSAs for the campaign.

In 2012, we began work on the all-new *iChooseAdoption* public service announcement campaign, to help even more women consider the option of adoption without fear, bias, or misunderstanding. Communications team members Lauren Koch and Adria Anderson traveled to Tupelo, MS, where they worked with a production team to film two birthmothers and two adoptive families for the campaign. The new *iChooseAdoption* campaign includes a full redesign of www.iChooseAdoption.org, new social media outreach on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram, brand-new television and radio PSAs, and a print campaign that will include the distribution of posters to high schools across the United States. NCFA plans to



iChooseAdoption.org design by D&P Worldwide,
photography by Jenny Hansen for Jenfolio

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 2012:

- January 7 – NCFA Condemns Racist, Inflammatory Political Ad as “Anti-Adoption and Un-American”
- February 13 – NCFA Calls for Extension of Adoption Tax Credit to Support Adoptive Families and Promote Permanency for Children; Grassroots Advocacy Kit in Adoption Tax Credit Now Available from NCFA
- February 13 – Rumors of an Official Suspension of Russian Adoptions Not True; Regional Suspensions Possible
- February 29 – National Council For Adoption to Ring The NASDAQ Stock Market Opening Bell
- May 1 – National Council For Adoption and Walmart Raise Awareness for Children in Foster Care
- May 17 – Justice for Artem
- July 19 – National Council For Adoption Announces The Hope Challenge
- October 17 – National Council For Adoption Partners with 3 Organizations to Help Address New Mandatory Russian Educational Requirements for Prospective Adoptive Parents
- October 24 – National Council For Adoption Welcomes Holt International’s Phillip Littleton to Board of Directors
- November 1 – Sales of the Novel Delivering Hope During National Adoption Month Support National Council For Adoption
- December 17 – National Council For Adoption to Attend Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity Briefing to Highlight Evidence, Development, and Diplomatic Efforts
- December 18 – NCFA Responds to Possible Russian Ban of Intercountry Adoptions to the U.S.
- December 19 – Bill Proposing Russian Ban of Intercountry Adoptions to the U.S. Passes Second of Three Readings by Russian State Duma
- December 20 – NCFA Responds to Threatened Ban of Russian Adoptions to the U.S.

NCFA in the Media – Notable Citations

The following is a list of notable media citations during 2012:

- **Citizen Link** (1/9) – “Paul Supporters Attack Huntsman Over Adoption”
- **Adoptive Families Magazine** (February 2012) – “Citizenship for All Adoptees”
- **Parker Chronicle** (2/10) – “Hospital educates public, staff about adoption”
- **Jacksonville.com** (2/11) – “Fleming Island woman won't let a little girl's death be in vain for other adoptive families”

- **Yahoo! Finance** (2/29) – “The National Council For Adoption to Ring The NASDAQ Stock Market Opening Bell”
- **The Republic** (3/4) – “American mom who sent Russian boy back loses child support lawsuit in Tennessee”
- **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** (3/15) – “International adoptions by Americans get really tough”
- **Associated Press** (3/21) – “New report details increase in ‘open’ adoptions”
- **Accounting Today** (4/1) – “Families Race to Adopt before Adoption Tax Credit Ends”
- **The Christian Science Mentor** (4/1) – “The faith factor: Religious liberty is GOP mom's big issue”
- **Contra Costa Times** (4/12) – “Rejected by US mom, boy adapts to life in Russia”
- **FoxNews.com** (4/12) – “Adopted 9-year-old adapts to life in Russia after being rejected by US mom”
- **Market Watch** (4/23) – “Gladney Center for Adoption Celebrates 125th Anniversary with Gala, Six Flags Family Event”
- **Market Watch** (4/26) – “Gladney Center for Adoption Marks 125th Anniversary”
- **Courthouse News Service** (4/27) – “Woman Wants Adoption Case Ended for Good”
- **PermianBasin360.com** (4/27) – “Midland Families Completed With Help from Gladney Center for Adoption”
- **LifeNews.com** (5/1) – “Country Star Rodney Atkins’ Mom Chose Adoption Over Abortion”
- **TheCelebrityCafe.com** (5/11) – “Some offended by ‘The Avengers’ adoption joke”
- **Focus On The Family** (5/14) – “Avengers Not Joking About Tix”
- **RH Reality Check** (5/15) – “Despite Progress, Forced-Adoption Practices Persist Throughout the United States”
- **Los Angeles Times** (5/18) – “Woman who sent adopted boy back to Russia must pay \$1,000 a month”
- **CITIZEN Link** (5/21) – “Weeklong Vigil Seeks Prayers for Children in Foster Care”
- **Adoptive Families Magazine** (5/24) – “Citizenship for All Adoptees”
- **Families For Orphans** (5/24) – “Top orphan & adoption info websites: National Council for Adoption”
- **Babble** (5/29) – “Woman Adopted as a Baby May Be Deported to Her Native India”
- **Christian Newswire** (6/11) – “All God's Children International Receives Hague Accreditation”
- **CITIZEN Link** (6/14) – “Wal-Mart Helps Raise Foster Care Awareness”
- **MyDesert.com** (6/17) – “Program aims to help African-American dads better raise their sons”
- **Lincoln Courier** (6/19) – “Good news about foster care: Fewer kids need it”
- **Boston Globe** (6/20) – “When adoptions fails”
- **7 WDAM** (7/11) – “US-Russian adoption pact met with caution, hope”
- **Great Falls Tribune** (7/11) – “Northwestern Montana ranch focus for Russian adoption outrage”

- **KSL.com** (7/11) – “US-Russian adoption pact met with caution, hope”
- **Morningsun.net** (7/11) “Rodney Atkins sings country to connect to his audience, charities”
- **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** (7/12) – “New U.S. - Russia accord aims to deal with troubled child issue”
- **Latitude News** (7/18) – “Like Russian critics, Montana regulators want to shut down Ranch for Kids”
- **Salt Lake Tribune** (7/29) – “Open adoption is norm; should arrangements be enforced?”
- **FoxNews.com** (9/16) – “Most vulnerable casualty of DC tax battle may be orphans, foster kids”
- **Salt Lake City Tribune** (10/21) – “Fewer foreign children available for Utah families to adopt”
- **WNYC News** (10/21) – “US-Russian Agreement on Adoptions Takes Effect in November”
- **RIA Novosti** (10/22) – “Ban on US-Russian Adoptions Would Have ‘Dire Consequences,’ Say Experts”
- **Turkish Weekly** (10/23) – “Ban on US-Russian Adoptions Would Have ‘Dire Consequences,’ Say Experts”
- **Latitude News** (10/24) – “Russia debating ban on U.S. adoptions”
- **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** (11/4) – “Christians across Pittsburgh help to evolve approach to adoption”
- **Reporter News** (11/5) – “Fewer foreign children available for adoption”
- **PR Newswire** (11/7) – “BraveLove Launches Movement To Increase Domestic Adoption”
- **KIVI-TV** (11/16) – “Local author raises money for adoption awareness with book sales”
- **Fox News** (11/21) – “Dive off fiscal cliff could be ‘disastrous’ for orphans, foster children, say advocates”
- **National Public Radio** (11/23) – “Russia, U.S. Seek to Resolve Friction on Adoptions”
- **USA TODAY** (11/30) – “Choosing children has good, bad news”
- **Associated Press** (12/13) – “For good and ill, adoption transformed by Internet” –
- **USA TODAY** (12/13) – “Internet is changing adoption – for better and worse”
- **RIA Novosti** (12/14) – “Russian Orphans Present Unique Challenges: One Family’s Story”
- **Latitude News** (12/17) – “Russia will vote on banning U.S. adoption”
- **Southern California Public Radio** (12/18) – “Russian officials to vote on whether to ban US adoptions”
- **RIA Novosti** (12/20) – “Adoption Anguish: US Parents Nervously Await Russia Ban Decision”
- **Latitude News** (12/21) – “Russian parliament bans U.S. adoption”

Adoption Advocate

NCFAs *Adoption Advocate* has become a highly respected and widely disseminated publication, and its regular distribution list includes all NCFAs members, adoption professionals and advocates, and adoptive families across the country. It continues to gain recognition as a

valuable resource for adoption advocates, policymakers, researchers, and professionals. Below are issues of the *Adoption Advocate* published in 2012:

- January 2012, Issue No. 43: “2012 Policy Priorities and Adoption-Related Legislation,” by Megan Lindsey
- February 2012, Issue No. 44: “Global Trends in Intercountry Adoption: 2001-2012,” by Peter Selman with commentary by William Rosen
- March 2012, Issue No. 45: “Birthparent Counseling in Policy and Practice,” by Chuck Johnson and Kris Faasse
- April 2012, Issue No. 46: “A Deeper Conversation on Information Sharing in Adoption: Compromise Offers Promise and Keeps Promises,” by Megan Lindsey
- May 2012, Issue No. 47: “Advocating for America’s Youth in Foster Care: Perspectives and Recommendations from Former Foster Youth”
- 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

Several 2012 issues of the *Advocate* have been republished and distributed via NCFAs Member Agencies, partner organizations, adoption blogs, and agency newsletters and Facebook pages, among other sources. *Adoption Advocate* Nos. 44, 47, 48, 50, 53 have been included in the Child Welfare Information Gateway Library and circulated via its e-newsletter.

NASDAQ Opening

On Thursday, March 1, NCFAs rang the opening bell for the NASDAQ Stock Market in Times Square. Chuck Johnson, President and CEO, Lauren Koch, Director of Development and Communications, and Donna D. Conway, board member represented NCFAs at the opening ceremony.

EDUCATION

Infant Adoption Training Initiative (IATI)

On September 30, 2011, NCFA was once again awarded the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program (IAATP) grant to provide professional trainings in Alabama, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. NCFA's current president and CEO Chuck Johnson has served as the executive director through previous grants since 2006. Megan Lindsey, who joined the staff in February of 2010 now serves as project director. Rebekah Kitterman currently serves as the program's training coordinator. Various other NCFA staff are loaned to the project on an as-needed basis. Additionally, 20 contracted Master Trainers conduct trainings throughout the region. Dr. Joan Rycraft serves as the project's lead evaluator, along with her evaluation team of experts.

NCFA's current grant was for 17 months and is scheduled to end in February 2013. We have been advised that this will be the last round of federal funding for this program. We expect responsible financial management to leave some remaining funds which will contribute to further trainings and program sustainability planning for a few extended months. During the previous grant fiscal year NCFA trained 592 participants in live one and half-day live trainings and online trainings featuring our time tested *Consider the Possibilities* curriculum. Since its inception in 2001, NCFA's IATI trainings have trained approximately 21,000 participants.

Because IATI has a separate grant year from the NCFA fiscal year, IATI files its own annual report. Most recently, a 14 page annual report was filed after the completion of the most recent year's work on the grant: September 30, 2011 – September 29, 2012. The report is filed as: "Program Narrative and Year-End Progress Report: September 30, 2010 – September 29, 2011 Infant Adoption Training Initiative by National Council For Adoption – Award #90CG2668." The report was submitted October 31, 2012.

In the early months of 2012, NCFA focused especially on updating the *Consider the Possibilities* curriculum. Revisions reflect statistical updates, changes in state and federal laws, changing trends in best practices, and recommendations of NCFA and Children's Bureau evaluation processes.

While providing trainings remains a high priority, NCFA has dedicated a great deal of effort to sustainability planning for this training. Amongst NCFA's mission and our federal guidelines is the goal to find ways to continue this program beyond the federal funding. Many of our long-time trainers and partner agencies have expressed an interest in using this training in their communities. NCFA is committed to continuing to assist trainers nationwide in distributing this information. To that end, A Train the Trainer conference was held in September of 2012 and participating trainers were committed to hosting training events in their communities. NCFA will continue to provide oversight, workbooks for attending professionals, continuing education certification, and client resources for clinics. NCFA believes its *Consider*

the Possibilities Training remains the best way to ensure that accurate and helpful information gets to women facing an unintended pregnancy and all receive the opportunity to make a fully informed pregnancy decision.

Intercountry Adoption Journey (IAJ) Online Training Program

NCFA's Hague-compliant online training program (www.hagueadoption.org), the Intercountry Adoption Journey, has become one of the leading online training tools for prospective adoptive parents and professionals. It meets the training requirements for parents adopting through a Hague intercountry adoption process. NCFA adamantly believes that standards for ethical intercountry adoption benefits all interested parties, including adoptive parents, birthparents, the US Department of State, foreign governments and institutions, and the children adopted through this process.

In 2011, NCFA added two additional hours to the training, which allows adoptive parents and adoption professionals to receive all ten of the required training hours under the Hague Convention. Several leading adoption agencies in the U.S. require their adoptive families to take NCFA's Intercountry Adoption Journey online, giving NCFA the opportunity to serve many families through this training each year.

Between January and October of 2012, IAJ trained 1490 married parents, 75 single parents, and 73 professionals resulting in a total of 1638 individuals trained. Since its inception in 2008 IAJ has trained approximately 12,888 individuals. The IAJ program content continues to improve, providing a quality educational experience to adoptive parents and revenue for NCFA to continue to invest in the cause of adoption.

Russian Prospective Adoptive Parent Training

In September, Chuck Johnson and Megan Lindsey attended a Train the Trainer session at the University of Pittsburgh's Office of Child Development which prepares them to provide parent education meeting the new amplified Russian Adoption education requirements. NCFA will partner with The Boston Group to advertise these trainings. Trainings are three day, in person trainings providing approximately 30 hours of training to meet the training minimum. NCFA is also looking into providing access to our web based trainings including IAJ and other webinars to help meet training requirements in regions of Russia which will require more than the 30 hour minimum and up to the 80 hours maximum training hour requirement.

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 couldn't 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: “Heart of the Matter”

The 2012 National Adoption Conference was centered on how adoption service providers, adoptive parents, government officials, and other members of the adoption community, could work together to get back to the *HEART OF THE MATTER*—children who need families!

The conference began with a three-day program for adoption service providers and ended with a one-day event for prospective adoptive parents. The three-day program for adoption service providers was filled with interactive sessions that were child-focused and client-centered. The sessions were designed to foster discussion of strategies for practice that are proven to work and to encourage collaboration with one another to improve services to clients. The sessions during the 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 and 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. Panelists: Brandi Blackburn, Assistant Center Director for Adoptions at the National Benefits Center/ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Bruce Paulin, USCIS Supervisor at the National Benefits Center/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Carrie Anna Rankin, J.D., Adjudication Officer (Policy), U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services
- Keynote Address, “Unadoptable is Unacceptable,” delivered by 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 Herbie Newell, President/Executive Director, Lifeline Children’s Services. Panelists: Maureen Archibald, MSW, LSW, Executive Director, Harvest of Hope Family Services Network, Laura Beauvais-Godwin, MPH, Director of South Carolina Office, Nightlight Christian Adoptions, Deb Blickenstaff, LMSW, Constituent Services Director for U.S. Senator Jim DeMint, Office of U.S. Senator Jim DeMint, and a Former Foster Care Youth
- “Part I: Reaching Expectant Mothers with the Positive Option of Adoption” and “Part II: 24/7 Birthparent Support,” moderated by Amy Curtis, LCSW, Program Manager, LDS Family Services. Panelists: Megan Lindsey, J.D., Director of Infant Adoption Training

Initiative, Assistant Director of Policy, National Council For Adoption, Kristin Aucoin, MSW, St. Elizabeth Foundation, Teri Casso, Director, St. Elizabeth Foundation and Robin Marrero, MSW, LCSW, Placement Director, St. Elizabeth Foundation

- Breakout sessions: “Ethics and the Heart: Balancing Emotions, Best Practice, and the Law,” presented by Heidi Bruegel Cox, J.D., Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Gladney Center for Adoption and Dana Templeton, LCSW, International Services Program Manager, LDS Family Services. “Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) Home Study Model,” presented by Kathleen Cleary, Executive Director, Consortium for Children and 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 Pam Wolf, MSSW, Founder and CEO, Harmony Adoptions and Jan Clifton, MSSW, Mid Regional Coordinator of TN Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP), Catholic Charities of Tennessee
- “Birthparent Issues of Grief and Loss,” presented by Kris Faasse, LMSW, ACSW, Director of Adoption Services, Bethany Christian Services
- Keynote Address, “Intercountry Adoption Survey Results,” delivered by Kathleen Strottman, Executive Director, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
- “Preserve and Protect: Maintaining Challenging Adoptions,” presented by Rhonda Jarema, MA, Director of Family Support Services, Nightlight Christian Adoptions
- “When Disruption Becomes Inevitable: What’s Your Plan?” presented by Jon Bergeron, Ph.D., Director of Hope for Orphans FamilyCare, Hope for Orphans and 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 Dawn Davenport, Executive Director, Creating a Family

The third and final day of the adoption service provider conference was a mix of general sessions.

Sessions from Day 3 included the following:

- “Board Governance and Management: Maximizing the Board’s Participation in Your Agency,” presented by Frank Garrott, MBA, President and CEO, Gladney Center for Adoption and Kevin Wrege, JD, Chairman, NCFB 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 Scott Brown, Executive Vice President of International Programs, Gladney Center for Adoption and 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 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 Susan Soonkeum Cox, Vice President of Policy & External Affairs, Holt International
- “Preparing for Hague Reaccreditation,” presented by Jayne Schmidt, LMSW, Senior Management of Hague Accreditation, Council on Accreditation

Following a successful and well attended conference with adoption service providers and government officials, we closed with a one-day event for prospective adoptive parents. It was a chance 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 process to gain the knowledge and resources they needed to move forward.

Sessions were interactive and engaging, and individuals had the unique opportunity to hear personal stories from and ask questions of all members of the adoption triad. Adoption professionals were also in attendance as presenters and exhibitors, which allowed participants to obtain answers to their specific questions both during the sessions and one-on-one.

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, and 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



*Attendees at Prospective Adoptive Parents Day
enjoying the days sessions
June 2012*

Samira Alikadiyeva, LICSW, Permanency Specialist, D.C. Child and Family Services Agency and 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 and 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

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Hill and Government Meetings

January 30, 2012 - Hague Adoption Stakeholders' Conference Call with NBC

February 3, 2012 - Meeting with the staff of Sen. Mary Landrieu RE: National Putative Father legislation

February 6, 2012 - Hague Adoption Stakeholders' Conference call with NBC

February 16, 2012 – Senate Foreign Relations Committee Meeting Re: Hague and Intercountry Adoption

March 8, 2012 – Senate Caucus on Foster Youth Speakers' Series, U.S. Capitol

April 2, 2012 – Conference call (by request) with the office of Senator Amy Klobuchar re: Universal Accreditation

April 2, 2012 – Hague Adoption Stakeholders' Conference call with NBC

April 23, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative Bruce Braley Re: ATC

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

June 5, 2012 – Department of State Adoption Stakeholders Meeting

June 12, 2012 – Save the Adoption Tax Credit Advocacy Day

- Meeting with the office of Representative Gerry Connolly
- Meeting with the office of Representative Hansen Clarke
- Meeting with the office of Representative Chuck Fleishmann
- Meeting with the office of Representative Trey Gowdy
- Meeting with the office of Representative Dave Reichert
- Meeting with the office of Senator Patti Murray
- Meeting with the office of Representative Eleanor Holmes-Norton
- Meeting with the office of Senator Mark Warner
- Meeting with the office of Representative Dave Price
- Meeting with the office of Senator Barbara Mikulski
- Meeting with the office of Representative Jason Chafetz
- Meeting with Senator Orin Hatch



*NCA Staff with Senator Mary Landrieu and Andrea Vavonese to commemorate the introduction of Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act
June 2012*

June 20, 2012 – Meeting with Senator Landrieu Re: Introducing *Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act*

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 – USAID briefing on the U.S. Government National Action Plan on Children in Adversity

July 19, 2012 – Meeting 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) Re: et al

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 Terek Helou from Department of Justice: Re: Foreign Corrupt Practices Act advisory opinion

September 19, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Representative Jim McDermott Re: ATC

September 19, 2012 – Meeting with the office of Senator Richard Shelby Re: ATC

September 19, 2012 – Meeting with Representative Earl Blumehauer Re: ATC

September 19, 2012 – Meeting with Representative Carl Levin Re: ATC

September 20, 2012 – Meeting with Representative Jim Gerlach Re: ATC

September 20, 2012 – Meeting with 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

Meetings with Stakeholder Organizations

January 9, 2012 – Conference Call with PFR Working Group

January 23, 2012 - Conference Call with PFR Working Group

January 24, 2012 – Council on Accreditation (COA) Board Orientation

January 25, 2012 – Meeting with Tom DiFilipo (JCICS)

January 26, 2012 – IATI Grantee Conference Call

January 26, 2012 - Conference Call with PFR Working Group

January 26, 2012 – Conference Call on IA hosted by Both Ends Burning

January 30, 2012 – DC Advisory Council meeting, hosted by Buckner International (Sen. Landrieu’s home)

February 1, 2012 – Tony Blankley’s Memorial Service

February 7, 2012 – Conference Call with CCAI’s Kathleen Strottman

February 15, 2012 – Stakeholders’ Conference Call Re: Senate Foreign Relations Committee Meeting

February 15, 2012 – Religious Liberty Forum; Heritage Foundation

February 16, 2012 – Attended DC Screening of film by Both Ends Burning

February 22, 2012 – Conference Call with Adoption Tax Credit Working Group

February 23, 2012 – IATI Grantee Conference Call

March 1, 2012 – Meeting/dinner with Dr. Elizabeth Bartholet’s International Adoption Working Group (NYC)

March 5, 2012 - Conference Call with Adoption Tax Credit Working Group

March 7, 2012 – Attended the DC premiere of *October Baby*

March 21, 2012 – Meeting with the Adoption Tax Credit Working Group at CCAI

March 22, 2012 – IATI Grantee Conference Call

March 22, 2012 – Religious Liberty Forum; Heritage Foundation

March 24, 2012 – Council on Accreditation Board meeting, NYC: (first one for Chuck to attend as a member of the Board of Trustees)

March 15, 2012 – Conference Call with Adoption Tax Credit Working Group

March 28, 2012 – ATC Working Group Conference Call

April 6, 2012 – Adoption Tax Credit Social Media conference call

April 9, 2012 – Adoption Tax Credit Working Group conference call

April 13, 2012 - Adoption Tax Credit Social Media conference call

April 16, 2012 – Adoption Tax Credit Working Group conference call

April 19, 2012 – G-7 Meeting in NYC

April 20, 2012 - Adoption Tax Credit Social Media conference call

April 25, 2012 – CCAI/Harmony Adoptions meeting on foster care support services

April 28, 2012 – Attended 125th Anniversary Gala for Gladney Center for Adoption in Fort Worth

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

International Delegations

March 20, 2012 – Dinner with delegation from Ethiopia at the home of Brian Luwis
October 10-29, 2012 – Hosted 20-member delegation from the China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption

International Travel

May 2012 – NCFA contributed to McLane Layton’s trip to consult on Ugandan Children’s Law

May 29-30, 2012 – International Policy Conference on the African Child, Ethiopia

December, 2012 – Scheduled to lead approximately 100-participant culture camp to China

Conferences/Presentations

March 3, 2012 – Chuck attended Center for Adoption Policy Conference at NY Law School

March 9, 2012 – Chuck presented six sessions for Career Day at Grace Academy High School on “non-profit advocacy”

March 28, 2012 – Megan presented at Media and Law Conference at Regent University’s Center for Global Justice

May 3-4, 2012 – Chuck 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”

Legislative Projects/Issues

January, 2012 – Released *2012 Policy Priorities and Adoption-Related Legislation*

February, 2012 – Released *Adoption Tax Credit Advocacy Kit*

February 28, 2012 – NCFA signed Group letter to President Obama Re: the adoption tax credit

April 17, 2012 – Representative Braley introduces H.R. 4373, *The Making Adoption Affordable Act*

May 20, 2012 – Senator Landrieu introduces S. 3321, *Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2012*

June 22, 2012 - *Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012* introduced by Senators Kerry, Landrieu, Inhofe, Lugar

June 29, 2012 - *Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2012*
introduced by Rep Laura Richardson

October, 2012 – NCFA submitted an Amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court re: Indian Child Welfare Act

Pending

- Presently working on legislation correct the issue of lack of citizenship issue for internationally adopted persons (formerly the FACE Act)
- Presently working on legislation in the Senate regarding the Adoption Tax Credit
- Presently involved in discussions regarding the future of the Indian Child Welfare Act and whether NCFA would support legislative amendments

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