



Summer Newsletter 2015

Notes from the Executive Director, Amy S. Cohen

As we are almost half way through 2015, I am pleased to report that 2014 was a good year at Adoptions With Love. We completed 45 placements and continue to reach out to clientele through the internet and social media. With the continued support of AWL's board we have implemented sub-committees to enact the goals of the strategic plan we completed in 2012. We are looking forward to our 30th anniversary celebration in 2016. A committee has been formed and all help is welcome. See the articles in this newsletter.

2015 has been a busy year, thus far. The Winter was cold and snowy, but we were working to complete 30 placements, finding loving homes for 31 babies (one set of twins). We have welcomed Amelia Stone to our staff and she has been a wonderful addition to our staff!

Foster Care

A vital piece of the work we do at AWL is providing interim care for babies whose birth parents need more time to make a decision regarding adoptive placement. Over the years we have had many families who have opened their homes and their hearts to these precious babies for as short as one day to as long as a month. A long term foster family for AWL has been the Smith/D'Agostino family. I want to publicly recognize them, especially Karen, as she had decided to retire as a foster parent this Spring.

Karen, John, Geneva, Ben and Jack have taken care of many infants for AWL, as well as other agencies that "borrowed" our foster home. Caring for our babies has been a labor of love for Karen. I recall that when we first discussed becoming a foster parent Karen told me that her family had cared for foster children when she was growing up and now she wanted to do the same. Karen and John have given back many times over. Not only have they cared for many babies, Karen has also met with birth parents and adoptive parents. Karen has welcomed perfect strangers into her family home. Karen has always been warm, sensitive and empathetic with birth parents facing the most difficult decision in their life; making an adoption plan for their child. Countless times, Karen has presented new adoptive parents with their child. She has embraced their joy and comforted their anxiety. It is with our deepest gratitude and love that we at AWL thank you Karen, John, Geneva, Ben and Jack.

Amy S. Cohen

We're only one year away from reaching the 30th year anniversary of Adoptions With Love, and we would love to celebrate with a big event! If you are interested in the helping of planning, please contact Claudia at

cbaier@awlonline.org

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/awl25>



A letter from Nancy By Nancy Rosenhaus, Associate Director



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Adoptions With Love

246 Walnut St.

Suite 103

Newton, MA 02460

tel (617) 964-4357

www.adoptionswithlove.org

info@awlonline.org

Today was an interesting day at AWL. What I am about to tell you is why **Adoptions With Love** is different from other adoption agencies and adoption attorneys. We are here for the long journey of adoption for you, your children and the birthparents. The adoption is not “over” at finalization; it is a lifelong journey for everyone in the triad. You already know this since you are living it as an adoptive family.

Today I ran a meeting between a family whose daughter is three years old, her parents and the birth mother. The birth mother has never told anyone about the child she placed for adoption except her own parents with whom she lives. Also in the home is a sibling who has no idea her sister had a baby and made an adoption plan, nor does her boyfriend or close friends. She has had a difficult three years putting all of the pieces of what happened in her life together and she is stronger for it. She has matured; now runs a side business and works at another job full time. She has purchased a car and lives pretty independently, although still at home for now. She is not allowed to talk about the adoption or she does not allow herself to talk about it. Letters and pictures are exchanged and finally after three years she was ready and brave enough to ask for the meeting she had contracted for in an “open adoption agreement”. She was unsure how things would unfold, but today she was ready. It was amazing. It was beautiful. The three year old twirled around for her in her pretty flowered dress, compared the sparkles on her shoes with that of the birth mom’s and shared her cookies with her. She was completely at ease, as were her parents who were so grateful for the opportunity to see this amazing young woman in person again. Conversation flowed and they felt so honored to know firsthand that she was really okay! She was at peace with her decision, even though the journey along the way was difficult. She had regrets, sadness, and depression. But she knew all along that it was the best decision she could make and today’s meeting confirmed that for this brave young woman. When they hugged goodbye, she said: “till we meet again, I know we will.”

No sooner was she out the door, I made a cup of coffee for myself and in walked another birthmother, from five years ago, unannounced. She was in the neighborhood and thought she would drop by to say hello and perhaps pick up her pictures. She was thrilled they were waiting for her in her file. She gasped when she opened the envelope to see how beautiful and big this child was. She cried. She was happy to know how loved this little girl is and what a wonderful family she has. She could see the happiness in the child, the security and how they cherished each other. She admitted that she too had regrets but she understood there was no possible way she could have parented this child. She would never have gotten to the place where she was today: employed, with a car and finally could pay her rent.

The reason why **Adoptions With Love** is different is that the families that we work with and the birth parents we work with know that we are here for everyone. The term “FULL SERVICE” is accurate. On any given day we are working with potential adoptive families, preparing them for adoption, talking with expectant parents who are contemplating making an adoption plan, listening to the sadness of birthparents who have recently placed a baby for adoption, searching for a birth mother from 20 years ago because her birth child would possibly like to connect with her, helping a young adult prepare a letter to his/her birthparent, or talking with adoptive parents who have questions about the special issues that come up with adoption over the years. We do all of this and more.

Most adoption attorneys do their job, get contracts signed, collect fees and move along to the next situation. The fact that Massachusetts is an “agency state” benefits everyone in the adoption. Did you know there are only 3 states in the United States that are “agency states”? I am proud that we are just that, but more importantly, I am so proud of **Adoptions With Love** and the good work that we do.

You should be proud too.





A Tribute to Karen for her years as a foster mom

Written by her daughter, Geneva

Having been adopted, I know that love and family can be created through adoption. I know that being directly related to a person does not define a family. Love defines a family. I have always known the importance that love and affection play in a young infant's life. Still young and vulnerable, all babies are deserving of a life filled with love and family, and for some, their lives begin with the journey of special creation, adoption.

Not only is adoption important in providing many millions of children with their forever families, but the internal and in-between steps taken to complete the process make adoption possible. In many cases, foster care is vital in ultimately creating a forever family.

My mother is the kindest, most caring, and most loving woman in my life. She has always shown the greatest love and affection for her three children, and this fact has been recognized by so many. So, her decision to become a foster mother after her own three children were growing older was really no surprise.

I could write a book about how wonderful of a person my mother is, noting all the amazing opportunities she gave to my brothers and me throughout the entirety of our lives; her drive to be the greatest mother to her children, her ambition to be each of our best friends, and the love she shows for all around her is unmatched. I began realizing this as I started joining her when she helped place the foster baby to their forever family. So many couples, being first time parents were scared of making a mistake; they asked various questions, and commended her for the enormous help she had provided them by taking such great care of their new child (ren) in the process. To her, it is natural; regardless of her inability to have biological children that did not stop her from being an unforgettable mother. Because of my mother, thirty different infants were touched by her grace and presence, leading them into their new lives.

Over the stretch of ten years, she taught so many, including my brothers and me the importance of family. Her decision to retire from this position was not an easy one, as she always loved holding those little babies in her arms, being a part of the adoption process, and receiving many thanks from the eternally grateful adoptive families. Although her time as a foster mother has concluded, her motherly nature, love and compassion will never end.



If you are interested in becoming a foster parent please contact
Claudia @
cbaier@awlonline.org

If you are 21 years or older, please go to your computer NOW and email us your name and any updated address and phone number. Since you are now an adult, we would like to give you your own place in our database for your personal information for future communication. Go to :

info@awlonline.org



It's our 30th Anniversary!

Mark your calendars for the very special AWL 30th Anniversary Family Day Event

Sunday September 11, 2016 at the Warren Center in Ashland, MA

This will be a day full of fun for the entire family. Boating, swimming, pony rides, tennis, sports competitions, moonbounce, mad science, roving magician, BBQ lunch and ice cream sundae cart. #AWL30 Join the FACEBOOK group for up-to-date plans for this event or to get involved in the planning: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AWL25/>



30th Anniversary Celebration in May or June special for those 21 and over

#30thAWL21+

Join our facebook group for OVER 21+ and keep your eye out for registration for this private young adult event!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/672999682806290/>

INTRODUCING: Amelia Stone

My name is Amelia Stone and I joined the staff of Adoptions with Love in March as the new Expectant/Birth Parent Coordinator. I graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans last summer, where I studied communications. Working at AWL has been a tremendously challenging and rewarding experience. I was initially drawn to this position, because it was an opportunity to combine my communication and administrative skills with my passion for helping others. I truly enjoy building relationships with expectant/birth mothers and helping them deal with precarious situations. Every time we are lucky enough to have a new baby in the office, it makes my day – I love babies! The joy of bringing children into the lives of loving families is an incredible feeling and it is what motivates me each day.

As for my life outside of work, I love cooking, decorating, exercising, and taking walks around town with my rescue pup, Winnie. I am so proud and honored to be a part of the AWL family and I look forward to meeting everyone!

You can reach me at astone@awlonline.org



We have updated our data base to include **OVER 21** adoptee information.
Update your information with us at:

info@awlonline.org

If you are over 21, email us your address, phone, email for our records

Check out our social media sites!!!

- ♦ Join and **LIKE** our FACEBOOK page www.facebook.com/adoptionwithlove
- ♦ TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/AdoptionsWLove>
- ♦ INSTAGRAM: http://instagram.com/adoptions_with_love
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246 Walnut Street Suite 103
Newton, MA 02460

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