



SUMMER Newsletter 2017

State of the Agency

In 2016 Adoptions With Love placed 53 children into loving homes. We continue to forge ahead in 2017 with our mission of finding the best home for each child and providing caring, confidential services by all touched by adoption.

Nancy and I continue to work closely with AWL's Board of Directors. After many years of service, Michael Krupa has stepped down as Clerk and member of the board. We are deeply grateful for his insights, loyalty, intelligence and sense of humor. This April, the board has welcome Gretchen Morgan as a new member. There is an introduction to Gretchen in this newsletter. We are very pleased to welcome Gretchen to AWL's Board of Directors.

A subsidy sub-committee established a policy to help prospective adoptive families with placement costs. The board has allocated \$50,000 to assist families with approved home studies through AWL that meet financial requirements and can provide a loving home to a child.

The strategic plan AWL embarked upon almost five years ago has helped to guide the work we do. Nancy and I will be working with members of the board to evaluate the goals of the strategic plan and formulate new goals for AWL for the upcoming 3 to 5 years.

Search and Reunion

Every day in the office we receive a phone call or email from an adoptee, parent or birth parent looking for each other. At times we receive a communication from one member of the triad that they have reached out or have been contacted on Facebook. Sometimes these reunions work out well and everyone is respectful of each other. However, frequently we get a call when someone is disappointed and upset. It is usually a teenager or young adult who has reached out to a member of their biological family and has not heard back; they feel rejected. Sometimes one member of the adoption triad has reached out to another before they are ready; they feel invaded upon. Adoption is a complicated, life-long journey. When people reach out for one another it must be done with respect and limits. It is for these reasons we recommend that the searcher be engaged in a therapeutic relationship before, during and after searching. We can help, we are just a phone call or click away; reach out to us first.

Several years ago Jill sent me an email asking for information about her birth mother. We communicated a little and then I did not hear from her for several years. Her life got busy with school, marriage and building a career. Dana was always on her mind, though. This past January I met with Jill and her husband. We discussed her readiness to embark on a search and meeting her birth mother Dana. Jill is a mature young woman that had thought deeply about meeting Dana and forming a relationship. She has thought about all the different scenarios of what could happen when she reaches out to Dana. Jill was prepared and had a lot of support. See the message I received via email from Jill a few weeks ago on page 3.

With warm regards,



A letter from Nancy By Nancy Rosenhaus, Associate Director



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A Unique Perspective Many Do Not See

Most of our newsletters focus on the joy of adoption. Recently, we ran a support group for our birthmother's and this session gave us a unique perspective we thought we would share. It has to do with the *before* and *after* and the losses of unintended pregnancy. "You can't go back to where you were *before*". These women, so poignantly shared with us how their lives changed dramatically following the birth and adoption of their child. Let me start by saying they all feel they made the best decision they could and they would not change their decision. They feel they found the perfect family and are proud that they can share in the life of the child through your updates. This brings them comfort, peace of mind and joy.

However, there are so many pieces to the puzzle of unintended pregnancy and the complicated grief that coincides with it. Fortunately for many, they have had wonderful support networks to bolster them through the rough road they must travel. But unfortunately, many of these brave young women have suffered some consequential losses they did not envision. They lost friends who did not believe they were making the right decision. Family members have not always been kind or supportive, feeling that it was "their fault" for getting themselves in *that* position in the first place. Some had to leave where they were living and/or give up/lose a good job altering their career paths. Relationships broke up because each birthparent dealt with the grief of making an adoption plan in very different ways and they could no longer support one another.

These women are brave. These women are strong and confident. These women had to dig deep inside to discover what they felt was in the best interest of this child. They appreciate every day the love and wonderful life you give your children.

Their message is: thank you.

Adoptions With Love is proud that we continue to provide compassionate care to our birthparents and our adoptive families in the life-long journey of adoption.

AWL is going DIGITAL. We are stepping away from paper and will be providing this newsletter by email in the near future. **PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL SO YOU CAN STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH YOUR ADOPTION AGENCY.**

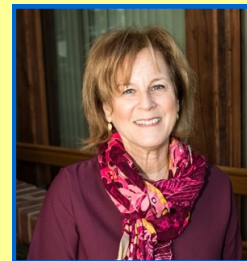
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Introducing Gretchen

Our New Board Member



It is with great pleasure that we welcome Gretchen Brodnicki Morgan to the Board of Directors of Adoptions with Love. Gretchen and her husband Paul are the joyful parents to two young children who came to them through AWL. They have beautiful open adoptions with the birth mothers of their children.

Gretchen became Dean for Faculty and Research Integrity at Harvard Medical School in July 2008. In that role, she serves as the chief compliance officer, responsible for overseeing how the HMS community works together in pursuit of its organizational mission and the community's shared values. Working closely with stakeholders across Harvard and the 16 HMS affiliated institutions, she is responsible for overseeing a coordinated approach to policy setting, implementation, and compliance, which has included operational responsibility for facilitating interactions between the biomedical industry and academia, and research integrity as applied to more than 11,500 faculty across the HMS community, as well as for certain research operations on the HMS campus.

Prior to coming to Harvard Medical School, Gretchen served as the Director of Research Compliance for Partners HealthCare System, Inc. and previously served as the Director of Research Compliance for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical center.

Before her work with the hospitals, Gretchen was engaged in the private practice of law in the areas of civil litigation and health care. She represented clients in intellectual property and shareholder disputes as well as in corporate, regulatory, and transactional matters with an emphasis on fraud prevention, practice integration, and risk management.

Gretchen received a BS in Business Administration from Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, and her JD from Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts.

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Hi Amy,

I wanted to thank you for all of your help in the search and reunion process for my birth mother and I. I wanted to send along a quick update. After our meeting in January, things were able to quickly and easily fall into place and I was able to contact my birth mother. From there, we have spent the past few months getting to know one another, and have become extremely close. She now lives in Detroit, but was able to come visit me in March. I have plans to go out to visit her in June. I attached a picture of us.

Thank you again for all of your help and support. I feel very fortunate that this has turned out to be such a positive and life-changing experience.

I hope you are well,

Jill





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