



EVAN B. DONALDSON

adoptioninstitute

Annual Report

JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011

Creating a Better World for *All* Families



Who we are

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute

Improves the lives of children and families through research, education, advocacy – and leadership – that advance more-effective laws, policies and practices. The Institute does not place children for adoption but, rather, promotes social justice and systemic change so that the thousands of boys and girls who need permanent, loving homes can get them – and so that all their birth and adoptive families can enjoy better lives.

What we believe

We are guided in our work by these ethics-based principles and values:

- Every child needs and deserves a permanent family
- Adoption is a natural, beneficial way to form a family
- Everyone's needs in the extended family of adoption must be respected
- Openness and honesty are critical; deception and coercion are undermining
- Practices must adhere to high ethical standards and be free of profiteering



What we do

The Institute conducts and synthesizes research; offers education to inform the public; advances ethical practices and legal reforms and translates policy into action. Here are just a few examples of our initiatives:

- Keeping the Promise: An ambitious initiative designed not only to help children who need homes, but also to enable their families to succeed.
- Educating the Educators: Providing training and materials that enhance the prospects for success for children who are adopted or in foster care.
- Expanding Resources for Children: Working, through research, to give children and youth in foster care a better chance to move into permanent families.
- Beyond Culture Camp: Shaping practices to enable children (especially those who are transracially adopted) to grow up with a healthy identity and self-esteem.
- Leveling the Playing Field: A range of programs to achieve social justice, equality and respect for everyone in the extended family of adoption.



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TARA P.

I am a birthmom who relinquished my son almost 14 yrs. ago to an open adoption. I have found the (Adoption Institute's) information ... incredibly helpful and insightful.

A Message from the Executive Director



ADAM PERTMAN

STRETCHING SMALL RESOURCES . . . TO ACHIEVE BIG, TANGIBLE IMPACT

One of the most heartening compliments I receive about the Adoption Institute's effectiveness – and I hear it frequently from funders and many others – came most recently from the Diversity Director at an elementary school at which I had given presentations for parents and teachers as part of our Educate the Educators Program. “I know you have a small staff,” she said, “but what I see in your newsletter, your website, your publications and in the media is the work of a far larger organization. ... **I simply marvel at how much you do with so little.**”

In the 15 years since the Institute came into being (feel free to wish us a Happy Birthday), we have indeed built a model to be proud of.

Utilizing a handful of very talented and dedicated staffers – augmented by our esteemed Senior Research Fellows, interns, volunteers and scholars who work with us on individual projects – we have helped to reform state laws, change agencies' policies, and develop and implement better practices. Our team has also conducted seminal and far-reaching research, written important books and other publications, held highly praised conferences, and advanced the knowledge and performance of journalists, mental-health professionals, movie and television producers, educators, judges and policymakers. Most importantly, as a result of all those successes, we have improved the lives of uncountable numbers of children and families.

As the year draws to a close, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who have enabled us to do our essential, unique work by offering your time and wisdom, donating your hard-earned dollars and providing pro-bono services, in-kind contributions and other support. Here are just a few examples of what we've accomplished during one of the most-productive, highest-impact years in our history:

- **Keeping the Promise**, a major project that puts an unprecedented focus on the post-placement services needed by families who are struggling because their children were abused, neglected or institutionalized before they were adopted. This work is being hailed as a game-changer in the field, and we've embarked on a series of next steps to implement key recommendations in the year to come and beyond.

- **Expanding Resources for Children III**, an ambitious initiative to identify and shape best practices for agencies working to find more families for “waiting” children (older or with special needs) by expanding the pool of qualified gay and lesbian parents. And **Never Too Old**, an effort to help one of the most vulnerable populations in our country: older youth who “age out” of foster care without families or other permanent connections to help them deal with the daunting challenges in their transition to adulthood.

- I'm proud to say that Institute authors had three books published during the last year: **Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution is Transforming Our Families – and America** (written by yours truly); **Adoption by Lesbians and Gay Men: A New Dimension in Family Diversity** (edited by Research Director David Brodzinsky and me); and **Facing the Rising Sun: Perspectives on African American Families and Child Well-Being** (written by Board of Directors member Oronde Miller).

- We recently began three cutting-edge projects that promise to have significant impact for many, many children and families for decades to come – one focused on the

current decline in **international adoption**, with the goal of increasing the number of children who move out of institutions and into permanent, loving families; another, the **Camp Clio** project, in honor of the funder's deceased daughter who was adopted from South Korea, to create best practices for helping adopted children develop positive identity and self-esteem at (truly fun) camps designed especially for them; and yet another that examines and shapes best practices for **adoption on the internet** – possibly the most sweeping initiative we've ever undertaken.

- Of course, we've continued our hands-on efforts to level the playing field for everyone in the “Extended Family of Adoption” through additional work on our **For the Records** (adult adoptees), **Safeguarding the Rights and Well-Being of Birthparents and Adoptive Parent Preparation and Support** initiatives. And we still improve the lives of children and families by working with parents and teachers in schools, by writing commentaries and providing numerous interviews in the media, by holding trainings from coast to coast for social workers and other professionals, and on and on.

Imagine what we'll accomplish when the economy gets healthier, donations increase and our budget grows!

I'll end this letter by expressing my deep gratitude for the people who make these achievements possible, who I am delighted to call my friends, as well as my colleagues. They start, of course, with the Institute's extraordinary staff and Board, which is perhaps the best I've ever had the pleasure

to work with, thanks to the leadership of President **Susan Notkin**, Board member extraordinaire **Sandy McManus** and an array of truly committed directors (including three new ones, **Tim Bunch**, **April Dinwoodie** and **Emily Forhman**). My sincere appreciation also goes to our partners, who enable us to further stretch our resources, expand our influence and accomplish so much for children and families: the **Child Welfare League of America**, **Spence-Chapin**, **LifeCare**, **Adoption Learning Partners**, **Adoption Quarterly** and – the latest addition to this esteemed list – **Adoption Today** magazine.

Thanks to your contributions, large and small, the Adoption Institute has grown into one of the most-respected, most-important, most-consequential organizations in the worlds of adoption and child welfare. Today, as you consider which causes and organizations to support at year's end – and into the future – I respectfully ask you to think about not only where to send your donations, but also how far they will go and the impact they will have.

We promise to keep doing a lot with a little ... and, with your help, to do even more.

I wish you a joyous holiday season and a healthy, successful year to come.

Sincerely,

Adam Pertman

Board President's Letter



SUSAN NOTKIN

For the last 15 years, the Adoption Institute has consistently produced cutting-edge research, thoughtful policy responses, and effective advocacy approaches to meet the most pressing challenges in the adoption and child welfare fields – all aimed at stimulating greater awareness and producing substantive change. Our unique perspective ensures that the needs of every member of the adoption community are considered and addressed. This past year, we continued our groundbreaking work, and I'd like to share just a few examples of the impact we have had.

In March, the Institute published "**Keeping the Promise: The Critical Need for Post-Adoption Services to Enable Children and Families to Succeed.**" This report, which aims to strengthen and sustain adoptive families, is capturing the attention of decision-makers, the media and the public. I am very pleased to tell you that with the generous support of the Freddie Mac Foundation, we are planning a second phase of this significant project to implement policy and practice reforms on the ground – at the federal, state and agency levels.

Every year, the Institute launches research-based initiatives like "Keeping the Promise" on the critical issues affecting birth and adoptive families, the professionals who serve them, and the children who need families but don't have them yet. But that's not enough for the Adoption Institute. To produce meaningful change, we garner media attention —from **The New York Times** to **NPR** to **Fox** to internet outlets — and then we work with public and private partners, testify in legislatures, go into schools, train practitioners and parents, and host events to raise awareness and educate the public.

Another 2011 highlight was a day of discussion and strategizing around restoring adopted adults' access to their original birth certificates, featuring expert panel discussions, a moving video by Jean Strauss entitled **The Right to Know**, and a live performance by Zara Phillips and rap superstar Darryl (DMC) McDaniels. The forum, which was held at NYC's Hard Rock Café, was filled with thought-provoking insights and advocacy tools to advance this reform; and (too slowly) it is happening.

On July 1, Gov. Lincoln Chaffee made Rhode Island the latest state to legalize access and thereby level the playing field a bit more for the people we work for. For the first time after literally decades of effort, the New Jersey legislature passed similar legislation, only to be vetoed by that state's governor. Our allies there will take up this fight again, and we will be there to offer research, education and testimony to help adopted people make the case for their rights.

These efforts are only a small sampling of how we advance our mission—the mission that matters so much to you and the millions of people touched by adoption. My deep thanks go to Executive Director Adam Pertman, a true leader not just of the Institute but in the adoption community, and his terrific team for their tireless efforts. I also want to commend my colleagues on the Board of Directors for their unflinching financial, intellectual and personal support. Each of them offers unique contributions that enable the Institute to succeed, and we truly could not do what we do without each and every one of them.

This year of achievement also was made possible through the generosity of our supporters, including the organizations and companies that provide us with pro bono services throughout the year, freeing funds better used for programs.

Finally and most importantly, in yet another year of economic uncertainty and hardship for so many, I continue to be overwhelmed and grateful to our loyal donors who provide us with the financial wherewithal to undertake all of the work we are so proud to do.

With warm regards and deepest appreciation, I wish you a very good year ahead.

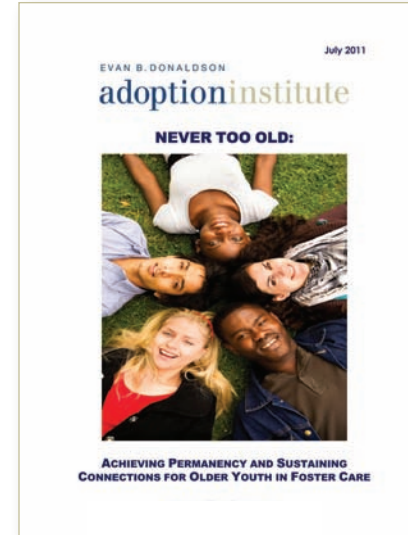
Susan Notkin

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LOUISE C., adoptive parent

The work you do is so important and has so helped to change the landscape for adopted kids and their families.

Programs and Projects



The Adoption Institute improves the lives of children and families through research, education, advocacy and leadership that promote better laws, policies and practices. To achieve our goals, we disseminate information and knowledge to

legislators, journalists, educators, mental-health professionals and adoption practitioners – as well as to those personally touched by adoption and to the general public. We also collaborate with other leading organizations and scholars in the field to achieve ethical and equitable processes and results for individuals in adoptive and birth families; and we take assertive actions such as offering legislative testimony and media interviews, writing books and other publications, and providing conference presentations and trainings for professionals. The following are just a few examples of initiatives we have launched recently to instigate broad, systemic change.

Enhancing Post-Adoption Services: We are working to promote the development of post-adoption services and expand

their availability to all families who need them. Our extensive – and highly praised – study, "Keeping the Promise: The Critical Need for Post-Adoption Services to Enable Children and Families to Succeed," calls for the provision of the essential resources and supports that adoptive families require. It has been endorsed by over 20 major organizations, including the Child Welfare League of America, the North American Council on Adoptable Children and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The **Associated Press** coverage of this work led to over 16,000 stories in news media and on internet sites; consequently, the report was downloaded from the Institute website close to 50,000 times within the first few months of publication. It also has been featured in web-based and print newsletters by a broad array of



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CAROL B.

At last a website that addresses post-adoption needs of a family! Yours is the only website that I have found that even mentions "Supports For Families After Adoption."

Programs and Projects



our work, presented at a meeting of state adoption program managers, and established a post-adoption network of advocates from coast-to-coast.

Early in 2012, we will host two Post-Adoption

Summits – one on practice, another on policy – that will bring together experts from across the country to develop strategies for moving the field forward in this area. The Institute also continues to advocate directly on specific policies to enhance post-adoption services, including by submitting testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee recommending a dedicated funding stream for such services; endorsing a U.S. Senate bill, the Supporting Adoptive Families Act of 2011; and helping individual states to ward off elimination of post-adoption program funding.

Following on the heels of the report's publication, we formed a coalition of influential organizations to advance our national initiative on post-adoption services, and the Freddie Mac Foundation awarded the Institute a generous grant to fund a number of projects stemming from our study. The Institute assembled a group of major adoption and child welfare organizations to sponsor a May briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to inform legislators, the media and others about the vital need for post-adoption services. Additionally, we held focus groups with parents and professionals to further inform

government, agency, parent and other organizations; in addition, many websites, including those of AdoptUSKids and the Child Welfare Information Gateway, feature links to it.

Eliminating Barriers to Adoption for Children in Need of Families:

The Adoption Institute is engaged in several initiatives targeting this goal, both in the domestic and intercountry realms. The Institute's

July publication, "Never Too Old: Achieving Permanency and Sustaining Connections for Older Youth in Foster Care," synthesized knowledge on approaches to better meet the needs of the growing proportion of youth who "age out" of foster care without permanent families each year. We will implement a follow-up plan to further advance the goals and recommendations of this report, including activities such as a December educational event in Boston to inform African American parents about the opportunities for adopting older boys and girls from foster care; we are planning the event with our partner, RFK Children's Action Corp's Bright Future Adoption Center, and in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange.

A related Institute goal is to expand the pool of families available for "waiting" children, including by improving laws, policies, practices and services relating to adoption by gay men and lesbians. Our fall 2011 study of gay and lesbian adoptive families – their perceptions, experiences and needs – recommends best practices for serving them. As a next step in this project, we will not only be widely disseminating the report so it can be used by professionals on the ground, but also will be providing media interviews, trainings and other advocacy awareness so that more boys and

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JAMES K. ERICKSON, Sunny Ridge Family Center

This is a brief note to say thank you to you and the Evan B. Donaldson staff ... Recently, the board of directors of Sunny Ridge Family Center decided to expand our adoption services to gay and lesbian couples and the Evan B. Donaldson materials were critical in our deliberations and decision making. After reaching this strategic decision, we established a training plan for staff, and once again your adoption research materials were our guide.

Programs and Projects

girls will benefit from moving out of temporary care and into safe, loving and qualified families.

Meanwhile, we've just started an important project that focuses on best practices in international adoptions, both in relation to models for improved care of orphans worldwide and strategies for promoting ethical, sound intercountry adoptions that better meet the needs of children and their birth and adoptive families. At a time when adoptions from other nations are declining, yet so many children remain in institutional care, this initiative could hardly be more vital.

Promoting Positive Identity Formation for Adopted Persons:

The Institute has been working with two of the most-effective and most-respected agencies in our country, Lutheran Social Services of New England and Kinship Center in California, to develop a support program for transracially/transculturally adopted children and their families, "Creating an Adoption Clubhouse." Guided by an Advisory Board of national experts and containing a Resource Guide and Activity Workbook, the curriculum will be completed in the coming year; after that, as ever, our focus will be on disseminating the written products, training the professionals, and ensuring that girls and boys truly benefit from our work. This initiative – along with our Camp Clio Project, in which we're developing best practices (and fun activities) for camps that cater to adopted children – builds on the findings and recommendations of our groundbreaking publication on positive identity development for adoptees, "Beyond Culture Camp."

Another ongoing Institute initiative that is central to positive identity – as well as equal rights – is restoring adult adoptees' access to their

original birth certificates. Our July 2010 publication, "For the Records II: An Examination of the History and Impact of Adult Adoptee Access to Original Birth Certificates," is widely utilized by policymakers, activists and professionals nationwide – and it has been among the major tools used to successfully change laws restricting access in states across the country, most recently in Illinois and Rhode Island.

The Institute also held an innovative educational event at the Hard Rock Café in New York in March, "Learning the Right Lessons about Adoption: What the Oprah Winfrey Reunion Story Teaches Us." The event featured a panel of experts who explored strategies for reform and, just for fun, Darryl (DMC) McDaniels and Zara Phillips performed their song, "I'm Legit." In addition, the Institute has advocated for progressive legislation in Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, South Dakota and Washington, and Adam has been interviewed for many media stories and shows on this topic.

Promoting Ethical and Equitable Adoption Policies and Practices:

This overarching goal of the Institute is one that we address on many fronts, including through our advocacy work on laws protecting the rights of birthpar-

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JILL K.

As an adoptee playing a small part to advocate bill A2003 [restoring access to original birth certificates] in NY State, I consistently refer back to The Evan P. Donaldson Institute's folder for wisdom.

ents and changing detrimental and inaccurate messages about adoption in movies, advertising and other media. We also educate many groups of professionals, from social workers and other mental health professionals, to educators and physicians, to attorneys and practitioners and adoptive families, and on and on.

We do this in a variety of ways, such as our monthly e-newsletter, which is distributed to over 10,000 groups and individuals, our website, keynotes at some of the largest, most-important conferences in the U.S., training workshops throughout the country, webinars, books, curricula and research-based reports. Currently, we are completing a series of papers on openness in infant adoptions and a curriculum for training both expectant parents considering adoption, and pre-adoptive parents, to develop effective open adoption relationships. In addition we are planning an initiative to educate adoption professionals about ethical issues and best practices surrounding openness.

We also have recently started a new project that will almost certainly be one of the most-significant initiatives that we've ever undertaken. It is an examination of adoption on the internet, which is changing our world as rapidly as it is changing most others. After considerable study, we will issue the first major report on this vital subject, including recommendations for ethics-based best practices in areas such as practitioners' "recruitment" and care of birth and adoptive parents, social networking in search and reunion, techniques like photo-listings and much more. The adoption field critically needs research and guidelines, so this project promises to have broad, systemic impact.



The Adoption Institute is unique in its independent, knowledge-based activities designed to improve adoption-related attitudes, laws, policies and practices. One of the ways the Institute has been highly effective in educating the public, policymakers, professionals and practitioners is through the media. Our research and policy studies are frequently used as background for and cited in news stories, while Adam writes on key issues in newspaper commentaries, on the *Huffington Post* and on his blog, www.adampertman.com. Journalists from across the nation (and in other countries) regularly interview him on a broad range of topics relating to adoption, child welfare and ethical practices.

Our expertise is utilized when there's a story in the U.S. or abroad about specific policy concerns, when journalists are conducting in-depth examinations on the ways adoption is affecting society, and when the subject is the uplifting (or heart-wrenching) experience of a single family; in other words, whether the issue is big or small, the media turn to the Institute for reliable information and analysis. Perhaps most important, our programs and projects receive wide coverage from print, broadcast and internet journalists nationally and globally, helping to raise the discourse and

awareness on critical issues in adoption – and helping to promote positive change. Here are just a handful of examples of our presence in the media during FY11:

Throughout the past year, human-interest stories have highlighted the impact of social networking sites and the internet on adoption. A *Today Show* segment in June, “Adoptive Families Turn to Social Media for Answers,” featured Adam discussing the effects of Facebook on searches and describing the Institute’s project to develop best practices on adoption and the internet. *Time* magazine’s August 2010 article, “Adoption 2.0: Finding Mom on Facebook,” on the ways in which adoptees and birthparents are using social networking sites to search for and contact each other, quoted Adam in cautioning: “Even in the best of cases, you want a little knowledge first ... you want to do this thoughtfully and methodically. With Facebook, you don’t have any of that.” A *Chicago Tribune* story, “The internet and adoption is like the Wild West,” quoted both Adam and Bruce Boyer, an Institute Board member and Director of the ChildLaw Clinic at Loyola Law School in Chicago.

As always, international adoption has been in the news frequently, particularly in regard to declining adoptions into the U.S. from abroad, countries changing their policies, and responses during natural disasters. Reporters continually seek the Institute’s input in shaping such stories. In a June interview on *FOX News* online, Adam discussed the decrease in international adoptions, the growth of adoptions from foster care, and the need for policies and practices to provide families for all children. He emphasized the importance of learning lessons from the child welfare response in Haiti in a January *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article marking the first anniversary of the earthquake in that country. In a December 2010 *Sentinel* story, “Ins and Outs of Adopting Abroad,” Adam stressed the importance of adoptive parent preparation.

The Institute’s knowledge has informed a number of media stories regarding the growing number of transracial adoptions, including two interviews with Adam on National Public Radio’s *Talk of the Nation*, another on NPR’s *The Overdrive* in Chicago, and stories in *USA Today*, the *Wisconsin State Journal* and others. When we receive media requests for statistics, our researchers provide value-added context and background information, such as historical trends, to help frame the reports.

Other adoption issues that have been covered often over the past year include cases of fraud and unethical practices, reforms to support adoption by gays and lesbians, and birthfathers’ rights. The Institute continually provides input on such topics; for instance, Adam appeared on *CBS News* in March to discuss an adoption fraud report and was quoted in an April *Chicago Tribune* story on questionable practices. He was also cited in a

July 2010 *Salt Lake City Weekly* article, “Some Call It Kidnapping,” about birthfathers’ rights. Additionally, among many other national and international stories, a January interview with Pertman about advances made by adoptive families in the LGBT community was featured in the *San Diego Gay & Lesbian News*.

The Institute cultivates relationships with the media to inform them about our research and programs. The wide coverage we receive through print, broadcast and internet outlets, in the United States and abroad, magnifies the impact of our work and promotes positive change. For example, our October 2010 publication, “Keeping the Promise” on the critical need for post-adoption services, was reported in an *AP* story, “Post-adoption blues? Many families need more support,” by David Crary. Because we worked with the journalist in advance and recommended adoptive families and professionals to interview, his story was an extremely insightful, in-depth examination of families’ needs after adoption and the vital role of support services. The *AP* story was used in thousands of print, broadcast and internet news outlets, and it resulted in other spin-off stories as well, extending from *MSNBC* and *Today* to *The Christian Science Monitor*, local newspapers and adoption websites.

Another example of the Institute’s presence in the media during the year is coverage of reforms restoring adult

“**SARAH SAFFIAN**, author of “Ithanka: A Daughter’s Memoir of Being Found.”
Your Huffington Post op-ed was terrific – characteristically logical, passionate, eloquent, sensitive, and just plain RIGHT. Thank you for all the good work that you do!

adoptees’ access to their original birth certificates. In the two weeks following the Institute’s July 2010 publication of “For the Records II: An Examination of the History and Impact of Adult Adoptee Access to Original Birth Certificates,” there were articles in papers including the *Washington Times* and *Denver Post*. Adam also made appearances on *CNN Newsroom* and *ABC News* and other radio and TV programs to discuss the subject, and he authored a commentary on “open records,” the top-featured piece on the *Huffington Post’s* January 12 Living front page, receiving over 1,000 comments.

Thank you ...

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We have made every effort to recognize all individuals, foundations and corporations who have generously contributed to the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). Please accept our sincere apologies if we have inadvertently omitted or incorrectly acknowledged your gift. Please let us know of any corrections by contacting Development Director William Boltz, at (212) 925-4089 or wboltz@adoptioninstitute.org.

Special events roundup



Taste of Spring 2011

Adoption Institute friends gathered in Manhattan on May 12, 2011, for our 8th Annual *Taste of Spring*. The evening was a wonderful chance to celebrate the achievements of acclaimed actress, singer and long-time Institute champion Kristin Chenoweth. Our award to Kristin, presented by another great Institute supporter, Deborra-lee Furness, was given in honor of her tireless commitment to adoptive families and children in foster care. Among our guests were past honorees Peter Burki, CEO of LifeCare; stage and television star Christine Ebersole; and chef Cyril Renaud. The event featured delicious food tastings from Artisanal Premium Cheese, Bar Breton, Jean Georges, Klee, Kumquat Cupcakery, Me-Oh-My Pie Shop, Sen, Yuva and Zarela – along with magnificent wines donated by Kobrand, Mendocino Wine Company, Shea Vineyards, Sherry Lehmann, RO Imports and Cognac One. As our supporters left, they received goody bags featuring kitchen gadgets and a cookbook, all donated by Katie Brown, host of Katie Brown's Workshop. Almost \$300,000 was raised from the 300 attendees — and from lucky winners from our CharityBuzz online auction.

Taste of Spring Leadership

Honorary Chairs: Jane and Bill Donaldson, Jurate Kazickas and Roger Altman, Mimi and Jim Stevens
Honorary Co-Chairs: Katie Brown and William Corbin, Deborra-lee Furness and Hugh Jackman, Marja and Jean-Georges Vongerichten
Co-Chairs: Kimberly Donaldson, Hollis Forbes, Sandy McManus, Douglas Mehne, Holly Heston Rochell

1) Award Presentation: Co-Chair Sandy McManus, Honorary Co-Chair Deborra-lee Furness, Honoree Kristin Chenoweth. **2)** Honoree Kristin Chenoweth, Institute ED Adam Pertman, Board member Anne Youngblood and guest Tyree Johnson. **3)** Co-Chair Kimberly Donaldson **4)** Event Co-Chair Holly Heston Rochell. **5)** Co-Chair Hollis Forbes and Honorary Co-Chair Katie Brown. **6)** Kristin Chenoweth with past Honoree Christine Ebersole. **7)** Board Members Jennifer Evans and Douglas Mehne.

Special events roundup



For the Records

The Hard Rock Café in the heart of Times Square was the setting for a unique day of advocacy and education. The Institute's March 10 event on restoring access for adult adoptees to their original birth certificates was a rousing success. Panelists – including prominent activists, scholars and a legislator – provided thought-provoking insights into state-level policy strategies to advance reform. Among the day's highlights were a moving video short by Jean Strauss entitled "The Right To Know" and a rare live performance by Zara Phillips and rap superstar and Institute friend Darryl (DMC) McDaniels. Sponsoring partners for the event included the American Adoption Congress, the Child Welfare League of America, Adoptees Have Answers, the Center for Adoption Support and Education, and Concerned United Birthparents.

Adoption Nation Book Parties

The Adoption Institute was proud to celebrate the publication of Adam's new book, a fully revised and updated edition of *Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution is Transforming our Families – and America* with book parties in Boston, New York and San Francisco. The book is getting rave reviews – including that it is "the most important book ever written on the subject" – and the evenings featured readings, lively discussions, information about the work of the Institute and, of course, questions, as well as refreshments and good fun. The Adoption Institute and the book's publisher, Harvard Common Press, hosted the Boston event; the Institute's founder and partner Spence-Chapin hosted the evening in Manhattan, and Institute supporters Genelle and Reese Relfe hosted the one in San Francisco.

Celebrating ... Our Families, Our Children

Nearly 200 friends and supporters of the Institute came together for a fun and family-centered day last November 10 at the Beach Club in Santa Monica. As a special feature of our annual California event, "Celebrating ... Our Families, Our Children," we invited guests to bring their kids, who played games and then toasted marshmallows in a bonfire on the beach. The amazing chefs at the Beach Club provided delicious food, and guests bid on auction items as they learned about our work from Board President Susan Notkin, Adam and others. The event paid tribute to the late Annette Baran, a pioneering adoption reformer, and our honoree was the David Bohnett Foundation, which we recognized for its commitment to a more just world for all families (including through generous support of the Adoption Institute). In accepting the award, Bohnett Board member Christopher Caldwell lauded the Institute, saying "David Bohnett and the Foundation staff only give to organizations that deliver



important service at a lean and mean price. The Adoption Institute has passed this rigorous process with flying colors." The event raised almost \$100,000 to support the Institute's vital work.

Celebrating ... Our Families, Our Children Leadership

Chairs: Muffie Alejandro and Anne Youngblood
Honorary Co-Chairs: Paul Cummins and Pat McCabe
Honorary Benefit Co-Chairs: Dr. Jane Aronson, Zach Braff, Kristin Chenoweth, Deborra-lee Furness and Hugh Jackman, Sue Naegle and Dana Gould, Peter Levine, Sharon Roszia, Nia Vardalos

8) Darryl (DMC) McDaniels. **9)** Glenn and Helaine Ross, Board member Kathleen Hricik and Keeton Geer. **10)** Board members Anne Youngblood and Sandy McManus, Board President Susan Notkin. **11)** Julie Bowen, Scott Lowell and Scott Phillips.

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I am so delighted that we in the adoption community have a source of advocacy like the Adoption Institute. It is reassuring that you and your colleagues are there to defend the interests of our families and our children, both at the individual level and at the policy level.

New Board Members

Tim Bunch is the Global Business Leader for Doctor's Dermatologic Formula (DDF), a specialty skincare line at Procter and Gamble. Tim has been with P&G since 2000 managing businesses in the health and beauty sector. In addition to his business leadership, Tim has had national impact in the field of LGBT diversity, forging collaborations across several Fortune 500 companies to raise awareness of the LGBT corporate experience and to ensure corporate benefits and policies meet the needs of LGBT employees. Tim lives in New York with his partner, Vernon Chamberlain, and their son, Asher, who was born in January 2011 and came into their family through a domestic open adoption.

April Dinwoodie is the Divisional Vice President of Brand Communications & Publicity at J. C. Penney Inc., where she is responsible for developing integrated communications programs for a diverse portfolio of brands. She has held marketing and communications positions with Nine West Group, Kenneth Cole Productions Inc., Fliesman-Hillard and Ruder Finn, as well as consulting for clients including Virgin Mobile USA. A transracial adoptee, April is cofounder and Vice President of the Board of Fostering Change for Children, a grassroots non-profit committed to driving positive change within the child welfare system. While searching for her birth family, April was inspired to create Adoptment™, a unique program in which adopted adults or those who spent time in foster care mentor young people who are adopted and/or waiting in foster care.

Emily Forhman recently became the fifth Executive Director of Spence-Chapin. Emily's previous positions were as Director of Programs for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New York City and Systems Manager at Avon Products, Inc. She received her MSW from Fordham University School of Social Work and her BSW from Adelphi University. Emily lives in New York with her 10-year-old daughter, Katie, whom she adopted from Hungary.

Honorary Board

The Adoption Institute's Honorary Board is composed of distinguished professionals in the fields of adoption, business and entertainment who have committed themselves to increase the Institute's impact, resources and support.

- Dr. Jane Aronson** – Former Institute Board member, pediatrician and leading expert on internationally adopted children's health needs, and founder of Worldwide Orphans Foundation.
- Kristin Chenoweth** – Tony- and Emmy Award-winning actor and singer, author and an adopted person.
- Jane and Bill Donaldson** – Leaders in the fields of finance, philanthropy and education, and adoptive parents.
- Kim Donaldson** – Former Institute Board member and daughter of the late Evan B. Donaldson, in whose honor the Institute was named; she also is Founder and a Director of Bottlenotes.
- Hugh Jackman and Deborra-lee Furness** – Actors, advocates for orphans worldwide, and adoptive parents.
- Chris James-Brown** – President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America.
- Peter Levine** – CAA agent, former Institute Board member, founding/current member of our LA Council and an adoptive parent.
- Sue Naegle** – President of HBO Entertainment and an adoptive parent.
- Sharon Roszia** – Foster/Adoption Program Manager with Kinship Center in California.

Senior Research Fellows

In an effort to enhance the quality and impact of our work – and to improve adoption generally – the Institute launched a Senior Research Fellows Program in June 2006. The Fellows are among the most prominent and esteemed researchers, lecturers, trainers, educators and writers in the fields of adoption and foster care today. They enhance and expand our initiatives by contributing their knowledge and expertise, providing substantive content from their research and experience, and shaping and vetting Institute products so they achieve the highest possible standards and impact.

Amanda L. Baden, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Educational Leadership, Montclair State University.

Richard P. Barth, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Social Work, University of Maryland.

Devon Brooks, Ph.D., M.S.W., Associate Professor, School of Social Work, and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, University of Southern California.

Naomi Cahn, J.D., LL.M., John Theodore Fey Research Professor, The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Clark University.

Harold Grotevant, Ph.D., Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Victor Groza, Ph.D., Grace F. Brody Professor in Parent-Child Studies, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University.

Dana E. Johnson, M.D., Director of the International Adoption Clinic and of the Division of Neonatology, University of Minnesota Children's Hospital and Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota.

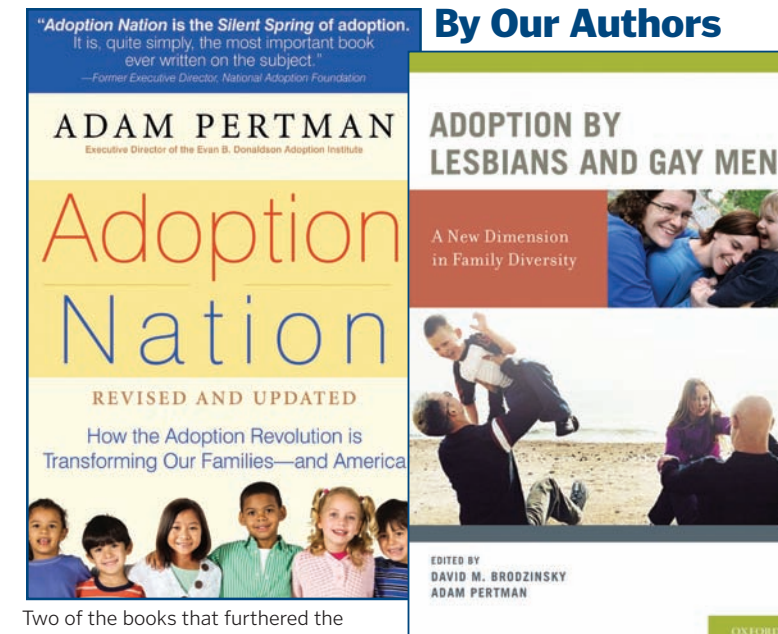
Laurie Miller, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine and founder of the International Adoption Clinic at Tufts Medical Center.

Ruth McRoy, Ph.D., Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

Ellen Pinderhughes, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, Tufts University.

Scott Ryan, Ph.D., Dean, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington.

By Our Authors



Two of the books that furthered the Institute's mission this year.

Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, Inc. Statement of Activities* For the Year Ended June 30, 2011

Support and Revenue	Total 2011
Contributions - cash: unrestricted	\$625,700
temporarily restricted	165,000
Less: Direct costs of special events	(103,044)
	687,656
Contributions - services	46,800
Training fees	1,625
Speakers' fees	11,653
Other program service income	19,756
Investment income	714
Satisfaction of program restrictions	-
	768,204
Expenses	
Program services	544,714
Supporting services:	
General and administrative	147,782
Fund-raising	138,769
	286,551
Total expenses	831,265
Decrease in net assets	(63,061)
Beginning net assets	602,269
Ending net assets	\$539,208

*The Adoption Institute is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization incorporated in the state of New York. If you would like a copy of our IRS Form 990, please call our office at 212-925-4089 or visit www.guidestar.org.

The Adoption Institute Celebrates Our Partners

Adoption Today

The Adoption Institute is proud to announce its latest partnership, with *Adoption Today* magazine, beginning in November 2011. Through this new relationship, the Institute will gain an effective new means of disseminating our work, while readers of this highly respected, informative publication will get even more current, important content. As part of our partnership, the publisher of *Adoption Today* (and its sibling magazine, *Fostering Families Today*) has generously offered to donate a portion of every new subscription to support the research and unique initiatives of the Adoption Institute. We are grateful for and excited by this new opportunity.

Spence-Chapin

Seeing a need for an independent, unbiased adoption research and policy organization, the Board of Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children created the Adoption Institute in 1996 with a substantial initial gift. Since then, Spence-Chapin has continued to provide generous annual operating support, as well as guidance and a vital, ongoing connection to the “front lines” of adoption, as practiced by one of the nation’s premier agencies since its founding in 1908. Now in its second century, Spence-Chapin is a prominent voice and leading advocate for best adoption practices, committed to the well-being of all members of the triad.

Child Welfare League of America

In 2009, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the Adoption Institute formed a strategic partnership to enhance the efficacy of their current work, to forge important new projects together and to increase their impact. CWLA leads and engages its network of public and private agencies and partners to advance policies, best practices and collaborative strategies that result in better outcomes for vulnerable children, youth and families. CWLA and the Adoption Institute remain independent entities, but collaborate on specific research, work products, trainings, advocacy and other programs and projects designed to improve laws, policies and practices in the fields of adoption, foster care and child welfare.

LifeCare, Inc.

In 2009, the Adoption Institute and LifeCare, Inc. — the country’s leading provider of health and productivity solutions for employers — formed a partnership to enhance service offerings to and best practices by corporations throughout the United States relating to adoption, foster parenting and diversity in family life. The Adoption Institute helps train LifeCare’s team of professional Adoption Specialists on the most current research and information on adoption, and the two organizations are developing a variety of educational resources, seminars and webinars.

Adoption Learning Partners

Two years ago, the Adoption Institute formed a partnership with Adoption Learning Partners, whose mission is “to make a positive measurable impact on adoption outcomes.” Adoption Learning Partners is a division of The Cradle, one of the foremost adoption agencies in the country since 1923. The Cradle has been a generous supporter of the Adoption Institute, and now participates in the collaborative efforts between the Adoption Institute and Adoption Learning Partners to improve the preparation and training of adoptive parents, professionals and others through web-based educational resources.

Adoption Quarterly

Adoption Quarterly (AQ) is the leading academic research journal in the realm of adoption, featuring peer-reviewed research and other work from the fields of the social sciences, humanities, biological sciences, law and social policy. Dr. Scott Ryan, one of the Adoption Institute’s Senior Research Fellows, is the magazine’s Editor; Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman is the Associate Editor; and several members of the Institute’s Board, Staff and Senior Research Fellows serve on AQ’s Editorial Board.

EVAN B. DONALDSON

adoptioninstitute

Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute

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SUSAN S. STOCKHOLM, Adoption attorney

Thank you for the excellent work you do and your commitment to continuing to be a mighty voice!!

Our work to improve adoption and foster care could not continue without the support of those who share our commitment to promoting ethical, research-based laws, policies and practices. Please consider advancing our unique initiatives by making a tax-deductible donation.

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