

EVAN B. DONALDSON

# adoptioninstitute

# 2008

# Annual Report

Since its establishment in 1996, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute has been the pre-eminent, independent voice providing leadership and support to improve laws, policies, and practices – through sound research, education and advocacy – to enhance the lives of everyone touched by adoption.



July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

## A YEAR OF MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS... WITH A BIG PLAN FOR MORE

### *A Message from the Executive Director*



Adam Pertman

A funder of one of our projects (on finding more families for children in foster care) once asked me: “How the heck do you accomplish everything you do on your budget?” The question was meant as a compliment, because he essentially was saying that the quality, impact and volume of the Adoption Institute’s work are far greater than most nonprofit organizations our size – i.e., small – are ever able to attain.

There is no one answer, of course. As the past year clearly illustrates, our successes stem from a creative combination of a sharp focus on identifying and filling the most important needs for children and families; leadership that brings together a wide range of professionals and activists; a dedicated and supportive Board of Directors; and, most important, staff and Senior Fellows who are among the most committed and accomplished in the field.

Among the Adoption Institute’s most important achievements in 2008 was one that you – the people we serve – couldn’t see: formulation of a Strategic Plan to ensure that our work does the most possible good over the next five years. We all will be navigating uncertain economic terrain for the foreseeable future, so this roadmap couldn’t have arrived at a more vital time. It will help us use our resources more effectively than ever and, most pointedly during this time of fiscal uncertainty, it will ensure that every dollar we receive will be used thoughtfully, deliberately, and to achieve maximum impact.

The Plan establishes detailed programmatic priorities for every area in which we work (domestic infant adoption, adoption from foster care, intercountry adoption, and adoption-related legislation and advocacy), as well as for our highly effective educational initiatives for professionals such as journalists and teachers. And it lays out the specific ways we will build our organizational capacity and financial stability so that the Institute can expand its role as a catalytic leader in the field and, most imperatively, so that it can continue achieving its unique mission of systemically improving the lives of children and families by shaping better laws, policies and practices.

Examples include Beyond Culture Camp, a ground-breaking research project that in coming months will provide essential insights for professionals and families into how to develop positive identity for adoptees, especially those adopted internationally; a multifaceted Adoptive Parent Preparation Program, which will enable professionals beginning this year to better educate prospective adoptive families in critical areas;

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contact us

Evan B. Donaldson  
Adoption Institute  
120 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10016

New York: 212-925-4089  
Boston: 617-332-8944

Fax: 775-796-6592  
info@adoptioninstitute.org

Visit our Web site:  
[www.adoptioninstitute.org](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org)



# Inside the institute

The Adoption Institute is unique in its independent, knowledge-based activities designed to improve attitudes, laws, policies and practices on adoption. One of the ways the Adoption Institute has been effective in educating the public, policy-makers, professionals and practitioners is through the media. Our research and policy papers are frequently used as background and cited in media stories, while our staff members are regularly interviewed on subjects relating to foster care to ethical practices, from the way adoption is transforming the very fabric of society to stories that examine the challenges within these same "nontraditional" families. Most importantly, our projects receive wide coverage in newspapers and media nationally and globally, helping to raise the discourse and awareness on critical issues in adoption. The following are examples of the Adoption Institute's recent impact:

Last November 2007 for National Adoption month the Adoption Institute released a groundbreaking report, **"For the Records: Restoring a Right to Adult Adoptees"** which arguably raised the dialogue about the right of adopted adults to access original birth certificates to a national scale. Two major articles "Report: Let Adoptees See Birth Info" by David Crary of the *Associated Press*, and "Report Urges Open Access to Records for Adult Adoptees," by Bonnie Miller Rubin of the *Chicago Tribune* - along with others written by additional journalists around the country - were featured in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and websites in stories and editorials nationwide and in some other countries. In addition, Executive Director Adam Pertman was extensively interviewed by print and broadcast media, including National Public Radio and CBS Evening News.



Sandra Kresch

As I prepare to step down after six years as Board President and turn leadership of the Institute over to my very able friend and colleague, Susan Notkin, I can't help but think about how the world of adoption has changed and how much impact the Institute has had on the field. We can be proud of what we've accomplished in building a solid institution and in establishing our position as the leading catalyst for change in legislation, policy and practice.

Over the years, the Institute has delivered on its promise to effect change that has impact on everyone touched by adoption. We have pushed the field forward with leading-edge thinking on adult adoptee access to their original birth certificates, the role of race and law in the adoption process, birthparent rights and needs, and eliminating barriers to permanent homes for children who need them. Looking at the recent controversy surrounding the Nebraska safe haven law, which permits the abandonment of children up to 18 years of age, we can be very proud of the work we have done to push for improvements in "safe haven" laws, which, unfortunately, can have a negative rather than positive impact.

In this year alone, we have provided research and testimony in a Florida case that resulted in the elimination of barriers to the adoption of children by gay and lesbian foster parents, have supported initiatives that have helped adult adoptees in Maine to gain access to their birth records, and significantly increased the dialogue on the most effective process for helping to find homes for more children in need by improving laws related to transracial adoption. Our Parent Preparation Project is moving into its second phase, disseminating educational materials and training social workers to help adoptive parents better address the unique developmental needs of their children. We continue to build our initiatives to educate educators about adoption, so that they can treat adopted children in the schools with greater sensitivity, and to improve media treatment of adoption - both unique programs that benefit everyone connected with adoption.

At our annual meeting this year, the Adoption Institute's Board approved a new strategic plan outlining an ambitious vision for the future. It will help to focus the Institute's activities on clearly defined, high-priority initiatives that will enable us to continue to have significant impact, while building the infrastructure of the organization to support continued future growth. Our aspirations have been tempered somewhat given the challenging economic times we face, but the need for our work continues to far exceed our capacity to address it. Our new strategic plan is prudent with regard to financial targets, but aggressive in moving beyond research and analysis into advocacy for systemic change. We are confident that it is an effective blueprint to assure that the Institute thrives in the next decade.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to lead the Institute through an important period in its history. My capacity to serve effectively was very much a function of having the support of an amazing professional staff, led by Adam Pertman, and a passionate and dedicated Board of Directors. Our partners, Spence Chapin Services to Families and Children and The Cradle, continue to nurture and nourish us, working by my side in every possible way to help us grow our impact. All of our supporters, be they individuals, foundations or corporations, have provided the wherewithal to enable our work. I am extraordinarily grateful for your generosity and commitment to our vision. Without you, none of this would be possible. And now, on to the next chapter ...

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra D. Kresch".

Sandy Kresch

## MISSION AND VISION

Through its program efforts, the Adoption Institute seeks to better the lives of children who need safe, loving, permanent families; to increase the number who move into such families; and to enhance the lives and treatment of all members of the children's birth, adoptive, foster and guardian families by accumulating information to improve laws and policies; by developing "best practices" and more effective, more ethical solutions for everyone affected; and by disseminating the acquired knowledge and advocating for changes that put it into practice. As part of a comprehensive Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Directors in October 2008, the mission and vision of the Institute have been refined as follows:

**Mission** – to provide leadership and support to improve laws, policies, and practices – through sound research, education and advocacy – to enhance the lives of everyone touched by adoption

**Vision** – to achieve equitable treatment for all parties to adoptions, existing and potential, and to enhance the adoption experience for all parties and their family members

As part of the Vision of the Adoption Institute, it envisions a world wherein –

- Every child lives in a safe, permanent family
- Adoption is viewed as a natural, beneficial way to form a family
- Everyone's needs in the extended family of adoption are respected
- Adoption is marked by openness and honesty, free of deception and coercion
- Adoption practices adhere to high ethical standards, free from profiteering

## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The Institute has had a strong year of high-impact activities that continue to effect positive changes in the adoption field. More than ever, we have forged partnerships with other major national organizations to improve laws, policies and practices in ways that benefit adopted persons, adoptive families, and birth families.

On October 15-16, 2007, we co-sponsored with Ethica a national conference, "Adoption Ethics and Accountability: Doing it Right Makes a Lifetime of Difference," in Arlington, VA. Approximately 90 adoption policy-makers, practitioners, researchers and activists, along with over 200 attendees from around the country and the world focused on developing more humane, ethical policies and practices. A highlight of the event was an evening forum on Guatemalan adoption with speakers from UNICEF and the Joint Council on International Children's Services. We ended the conference by developing a collective agenda for change.

*(continued on page 4)*

Adam,

Your presence (and Evan B. Donaldson's presence) at yesterday's conference added so much to a day that gave so much information and support to adoptive and pre-adoptive families. I got to meet Jeanne Howard at the LGBT Adoption workshop where I was the recipient of a wealth of information. You at The Institute have become such an important presence in the adoption community over the years.

- Carolyn Berger

in the **NEWS**  
*continued*

A second major report released by the Adoption Institute, "Finding Families for African American Children: The Role of Race and Law in Adoption from Foster Care," was released in May 2008 and was also widely reported in national print and broadcast media. Major articles were written by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and the *Chicago Tribune* (among others), and a piece by the *Associated Press* - as well as editorials and other stories - was featured in hundreds of newspapers, magazines and websites throughout the U. S. and in other countries. In addition, Adam Pertman was extensively interviewed by print and broadcast media, including National Public Radio, Fox Television, and many others.

Just a quick note to say I've read several of your reports and I find them to be very interesting and accurate...I'm glad there are organizations like yours and authors like you who are getting this message out...I hope your work gets widely published and well known.

- Jacqueline Snyder



## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS *continued*

Another paper released in September 2008 “**Expanding Resources for Waiting Children II**” was covered by the *Chicago Tribune* as well as other outlets and a third report, “**Meeting the Mental Health and Developmental Needs of Adopted Children**” was widely received by professionals and adoption triad members. In addition, the Institute’s groundbreaking report, “**Unintended Consequences**,” released in 2003 which provided the most extensive research to date on the issue of unsafe infant abandonment, continues to be widely cited in media stories and has altered the debate on whether so-called “safe havens” in fact solve this difficult national problem.

Wow! What great accomplishments! Of special interest to me is the preparation of adoptive parents to meet the special needs and developmental issues of adopted children – so glad Dr. Brodzinsky is one of your experts! But everything you’re doing is wonderful!

- Alyce M. Jenkins



An ongoing goal of the Adoption Institute is promoting honesty and equity in adoption, which includes advocating for adult adoptees to have access to their original birth certificates. “**For the Records: Restoring a Right to Adult Adoptees**,” published in November 2007, represents the most comprehensive examination to date of this issue, the arguments for and against access, and current state laws and legislative initiatives. This report is being used widely across the nation to educate legislators and the public as part of our advocacy to extend the number of states that have changed their laws on birth certificates in recent years. The Institute hosted a conclave of national leaders on this issue in December 2007, and it continues to work with this coalition to achieve equity for everyone involved. Our Executive Director, Adam Pertman, has also provided testimony to legislatures and study committees in several states on this issue, which remains a strategic priority of the Institute.

In order to address the needs of the 129,000 U.S. foster children waiting for adoptive families, the Institute has several ongoing initiatives. “**Finding Families for African American Children: The Role of Race & Law in Adoption from Foster Care**,” released in May 2008 and endorsed by eight national child-welfare and professional organizations, addressed the needs of foster children of color, who wait the longest and experience the most barriers to finding a family. This report examined the often-sensitive, controversial issues relating to transracial adoption and called for major changes to better serve the needs of these boys and girls. We continue to focus on diligent recruitment of minority families to become foster and adoptive families, a requirement in law that is not being well-enforced. Also, Pertman and two Institute Senior Fellows (Dr. Ruth McRoy and Naomi Cahn) have spoken broadly on these issues at a Congressional briefing, a hearing convened by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, a meeting of the Congressional Black Caucus, a national roundtable of child welfare commissioners, and other venues.

The Institute also has sought to expand adoptive resources for waiting children by removing barriers to adoption by gay and lesbian prospective parents. “**Expanding Resources for Waiting Children II: Eliminating Legal and Practice Barriers to Gay and Lesbian Adoption from Foster Care**,” released in September 2008, addressed strategies for overcoming the barriers posed by some state laws and policies and adoption agency practices. Pertman and the Institute’s Research and Project Director, Dr. David Brodzinsky, have testified in legislative hearings on this issue and Brodzinsky served as an expert witness in a Florida court case that was successful in allowing a gay father to adopt his foster child.

Hi Adam:

Thank you for your participation in last weekend’s Korean Culture Camp! Your presentation, Beyond Culture Camp, was ideal for our adoptive parents. The research is timely, interesting and useful. As you know, my afternoon session was geared towards parents of teens – your presentation sparked a great deal of interesting dialogue. We have received only positive feedback from your presentation – we’d love to have you back!

I know you are doing some wonderful work in order to benefit all triad members.

Many thanks for having the passion behind the projects.

- Deb Shrier, MSW, LICSW  
Social Worker / Post Adoption Counselor  
Wide Horizons For Children, Inc.

## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS *continued*

“Adoptive Parent Preparation: Meeting the Mental Health and Developmental Needs of Adopted Children,” released in February 2008, represents the initial phase of a broad, long-term Institute program to shape best-practice standards that will assist professionals in the preparation and education of adoptive parents about the possible mental health and developmental needs of their children. A curriculum for training parents has been developed and will be widely available in the coming year.

In addition to the initiatives described above, other ongoing projects include: promoting healthy identity in transracial, intercountry adoptions; exploring best practices for adoption agencies related to openness in infant adoptions and state statutes on post-adoption contact; addressing barriers to permanency for older youth in foster care; adoption’s lessons for new reproductive technologies; and others. The Institute also has far-reaching impact by disseminating accurate information through interviews for thousands of news stories across the country and the world, through answering hundreds of inquiries and connecting people to appropriate information and resources, and through our award-winning website and monthly e-newsletter.

## MCGINNIS AND PERTMAN RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FOR THEIR WORK

Policy & Operations Director Hollee McGinnis received the congressional “Angel in Adoption” award this year in recognition of her work at the Adoption Institute and her leadership in the adult intercountry adoptee community; the award was presented at a gala dinner sponsored annually by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Executive Director Adam Pertman received the Marshall Schechter Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists for achievements on behalf of children and families throughout his career; the award was presented at the Academy’s annual meeting in Chicago, where Pertman delivered a lecture on informing best practices through research.

## A YEAR OF MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS... WITH A BIG PLAN FOR MORE

*(continued from page 1)*

and Overcoming Barriers to Permanency for Children, which will be aimed throughout the next several years at finding more families for children in foster care – and helping those families succeed.

The Strategic Plan also commits the Adoption Institute to greater advocacy to achieve equality for everyone in the adoption community. So, for instance, we are taking new steps in our initiatives on behalf of birthparents, are escalating our efforts (stemming from our groundbreaking “For the Records” report) to ensure that adult adoptees can gain access to their own original birth certificates, and are creating an innovate program for agencies to work with gay and lesbian parents. At the same time, we are continuing to diversify our Board and staff so they genuinely reflect all the constituencies we serve.

The Plan is ambitious, but it’s also realistic, balancing attainable goals with economic realities. Most to the point, we’re confident about implementing the Plan because our track record is one of consistently accomplishing what we set out to do. This past year alone, we made a significant difference with advocacy initiatives for boys and girls in foster care based on two new publications – “Expanding Resources for Children” and “Finding Families for African American Children,” on which we partnered with most major child-welfare organizations in the U.S. – while also working with adoption reform organizations, agencies, journalists, educators, and other professionals on an array of successful initiatives.

Real, flesh-and-blood people conduct and support all this work, of course, and we’re lucky enough to have some of the best around. In that light, I want to enthusiastically welcome Arlene Jennings, Susan Hicks and Harris Kaplansky to our staff, and Peter Levine of Creative Artists Agency and Oronde

Miller of Casey Family Programs as the latest members of our Board of Directors.

I’ll also take this occasion to express my warmest thanks to Sandy Kresch, who is retiring as Board President after six years of providing extraordinary leadership, mentoring and friendship; all of us at the Institute are deeply grateful to Sandy for her service and are delighted she will remain on the Board. And we are looking forward to continuing the Adoption Institute’s growth and influence with her successor, Susan Notkin, a longtime Board member, children’s advocate, and proven leader in her own right.

Please read through this Annual Report and take a look at our website, [www.adoptioninstitute.org](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org), to read bios of our staff members and our Senior Fellows, as well as to learn about the unique, high-impact work we do every day.

I’m certain that you, too, will be impressed by how much we accomplish. I’m also confident that you will conclude, especially in the current economic climate, that we need your support more than ever if we are to keep making significant progress for the millions of people for whom adoption is a fact of daily life, and especially for the many thousands of children who – recession or no recession – still need permanent, loving families.

We have the people, we have the plan. Now we need you. Thank you enormously for your support, and best wishes in the coming year.



Adam Pertman

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Scolo, Inc.  
Joyce Selter  
Thomas Severance  
Charles Shaughnessy  
Matthew W. Shea  
Eileen Sheldon  
Richard Shrier  
Karen L. Smith  
Milton Sprowl  
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Sarah Swanson  
Bailey Symington  
Deborah Szulansky  
Richard Thaler  
Shawn Thornsberry  
Mary Tiedemann  
Gene Tweraser  
Marc Vann  
Lawrence Vitale  
Kenneth Weinberg  
Daryl Weinert  
Gerald Weintraub  
Maryanne Weiss  
Andrew Wellnitz  
Bruce Wellnitz  
Walter Ryan Wick  
Myrth York  
Jessica Yu

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, 2007 – June 30, 2008). Please accept our sincere apologies if we have inadvertently omitted or incorrectly acknowledged your gift. Please let us know of any corrections by contacting Laura James, External Relations Director, at 212-925-4089 or [ljames@adoptioninstitute.org](mailto:ljames@adoptioninstitute.org).

# SPECIAL EVENTS ROUNDUP

## LOS ANGELES BENEFIT

A fabulous party in Los Angeles on Oct. 25, 2007 raised more than \$70,000 for the Adoption Institute through ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and silent auction items, and all expenses for the event were covered by our generous hosts, Peter Levine and Eric Mathre. Corporate sponsors included the Creative Artists Agency; the law firm of Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman, Newman, Warren & Richman, L.L.P.; City

National Bank; Variety Magazine; and major studios and production companies including Universal, Sony, Kennedy/Marshall, and Disney. The benefit committee included many celebrities in the entertainment industry concerned with improving adoption, including actors Sara Jessica Parker, Zooey Deschanel, Bette Midler, Helen Hunt, and Rita Wilson.



"Everyone Loves Raymond" star Patricia Heaton with Executive Director Adam Pertman



Co-Host Peter Levine and guest Demi Moore



Event Chair and Institute Board Member Christine Solomon viewing silent auction items



Board President Sandra Kresch with event co-host Eric Mathre

## "ROCKIN' FOR OUR KIDS"

The Institute celebrated National Adoption Month with a Benefit Concert on Nov. 9, 2007 at the Spring Valley Country Club in suburban Sharon, MA. The evening featured a fabulous dinner, silent auction, and live music by the Annulments and Danny Klein's Full House. We're very grateful to our event sponsors, Bonnie A. Emmons and John H. Emmons, Jr.;



Danny Klein's "Full House" rocked the room



Event Sponsors Jay and Bonnie Emmons (Evan B. Donaldson's niece) with Executive Director Adam Pertman

**PARTIES IN CALIFORNIA, MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK BRING FRIENDS TOGETHER TO LEARN ABOUT THE ADOPTION INSTITUTE, SUPPORT ITS WORK – AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!**

Wide Horizons for Children; the Family Equality Council; Peter Hackel and PH Productions; and the publications BostonNOW and TRAVELHOST. We also extend a very special thank-you to our lead sponsor, State Street Corporation, and to our friend and supporter Doug Mehne for all he did to make it happen.



Event supporters and volunteers Doug and Cara Mehne



Soon, everyone was dancing!

**“TASTE OF SPRING”**

At our fourth annual “Taste of Spring” benefit at the Midtown Loft in New York City on Wednesday, May 14, over 200 guests enjoyed great food, fabulous wines, wonderful music and each other’s company – all the while supporting the Institute’s work. The event raised over \$300,000 toward our unique programs, while honoring Institute Board President Sandra D. Kresch and Tony Award-winning Broadway star Christine Ebersole and her husband, musician and composer Bill Moloney, who are adoptive parents. It was co-chaired by Institute Board members Kim Donaldson, Caroline Fitzgibbons and Sandy McManus. The Honorary co-chairs were Board member Priscilla Newman and her husband, Ron Cappello, and Institute supporter Roger Kline. The Institute thanks all the donors and supporters who made the event a success, especially “Angel Underwriters”



Event honoree Bill Moloney, Institute Board member Dr. Jane Aronson, honoree and Tony Award-winning actress Christine Ebersole, and Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman



Adoption Institute Board member Susan Notkin, actress and Institute supporter Dina Merrill and Board member and Event Co-Chair Caroline Fitzgibbons

Jane and Bill Donaldson and Jurate Kazickas and Roger Altman. The featured restaurants were Aquavit, Country, Fleur de Sel, Ideal Cheese, P’Ong, Yuva, and Zarela. The featured wine sponsors were Bottlenotes.com, Kobrand Corporation, RO Imports, and Vintage Capital Wine.



Institute Board member Peter Levine, Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman, and actress Famke Janssen



Donald Sussman, Tony Knerr, Board President and event honoree Sandra Kresch and husband Sam Hagler, and Board member Jurate Kazickas



Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman, Event Volunteer Nina McManus, Board member and Event Co-Chair Sandy McManus, and actor and Institute supporter Scott Lowell



**Adoption Institute New York staff:**

(left to right) Jennifer F. McFarlane, Arlene M. Jennings, Laura James, Harris Kaplansky, and Hollee A. McGinnis

**Staff**

Adam Pertman  
*Executive Director*

David Brodzinsky, Ph.D.  
*Research & Project Director*

Georgia Deoudes, JD  
*Legislation & Policy Director*



Susan Hicks  
*Project Administrator*

Jeanne A. Howard, Ph.D.  
*Policy & Research Director*

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*Development Officer*

Harris Kaplansky  
*Project Administrator*

Jennifer F. McFarlane  
*Policy & Operations Intern*

Hollee A. McGinnis, MSSW  
*Policy & Operations Director*

Susan Livingston Smith, MSSW, LCSW  
*Program & Project Director*

**Board of Directors**

**OFFICERS**

**Sandra Kresch**  
*Board President, 2002 through October 2008*

**Susan Notkin,**  
*Board President, commencing October 2008*

**Susan Schoon**  
*Board Vice President*

**Julie Tye**  
*Board Treasurer*

**DeVerille Huston**  
*Board Secretary*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Dr. Jane Aronson
- James J. Bode
- Bruce A. Boyer
- Kimberly Donaldson
- Caroline Fitzgibbons
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- Kathleen Hricik
- Jurate Kazickas
- Katharine S. Legg
- Verina Mathis-Crawford
- Peter Levine
- Sandra McManus
- Ruth McRoy, Ph.D.
- Oronde Miller
- Priscilla A. Newman
- Christine M. Solomon
- James W. Stevens
- William A. Thorne, Jr.

**Meet Our Newest Board Members**



**Peter Levine**

Peter Levine is a motion picture talent agent at Creative Artists Agency (CAA), a talent and literary agency. Levine works in the Los Angeles office and represents many of the world's leading actors including Naomi Watts, Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, Drew Barrymore, Ethan Hawke, Matthew Perry, Kelsey Grammer, Helen Hunt, Demi Moore, Leslie Mann, William H. Macy, Jessica Lange, Peter Krause, Famke Janssen, Simon Baker, Zoey Deschanel, and Rita Wilson. Peter began his career in the entertainment industry as an actor. He graduated from the University of Southern California with a BFA in the Performing Arts, where he studied under John Houseman. Peter lives in Los Angeles with his partner and their daughter Lily and son Reed.



**Oronde A. Miller**

Oronde A. Miller is a Senior Director of Strategic Consulting at Casey Family Programs, where he is responsible for providing consultation and support to state and local public child welfare systems throughout the United States. He has also worked at the National Center for Research and Data at the Child Welfare League of America – where he was responsible for the evaluation of the Collaboration to AdoptUSKids, a multi-year national adoption initiative of the U.S. Children's Bureau – and the National Center on Permanency for African American Children in Washington, DC. He earned his B.A. in Elementary Education, as well as an M.S. in Developmental Psychology, from Howard University, and is a Ph.D. candidate in the University's Developmental Psychology program. His interest in child welfare stems from his personal history, as he and his brother spent time in the public foster care system before their final adoptive placement. He currently resides in the Washington, DC area with his wife and their two young children.

I offer congratulations on your tremendous work and the work of the group of people you have diligently working to make the lives of adopted children better.

- Allison Gold, MSW, LCSWR

# EVAN B. DONALDSON ADOPTION INSTITUTE, INC.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES\*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR FY 2007

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2008 Total	2007 Total
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>				
Contributions	\$156,809	\$195,500	\$352,309	\$281,314
Special events - net of expenses	395,799		395,799	454,668
Speaker fee income	12,619		12,619	6,304
Consulting income	1,500		1,500	0
Publication income	3,761		3,761	3,617
Royalties	146		146	0
Interest and dividend income	23,460		23,460	24,223
Realized loss on investment	(774)		(774)	(330)
Change in unrealized appreciation on investments	(2,982)		(2,982)	(922)
In-kind services	103,725		103,725	0
Net assets released from restrictions	120,710	(120,710)	0	0
<b>Total Support and Revenue:</b>	<b>814,773</b>	<b>74,790</b>	<b>889,563</b>	<b>768,874</b>
<b>Expense:</b>				
Program	567,050		567,050	470,339
General Administrative	163,658		163,658	89,234
Fundraising	182,498		182,498	166,697
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>913,206</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>913,206</b>	<b>726,270</b>
Change in Net Assets	(98,433)	74,790	(23,643)	42,604
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	559,275	77,995	637,270	594,666
New Assets - End of Year	\$460,842	\$152,785	\$613,627	\$637,270

\* If you would like a copy of our complete audited financial statement, please contact Laura James, External Relations Director, at 212-925-4089; ljames@adoptioninstitute.org.

I am a senior at Lindbergh High School in St. Louis MO and I found your website. I am adopted and have had many questions. Your website really caught my attention and I just thought you should know that it really answered a lot of my questions and kept me interested.

- Adrienne Heutel

Dear Adam: Your presentation and talking with you afterwards inspired me to attempt to locate my bio-father. Thanks for the inspiration and a new and affirming perspective.

- Carol Murray

I happen to stumble across your website and found myself overwhelmed with gratitude of the amount of information available. We are a multi-cultural family — both my husband and I are Caucasian and our two children were adopted from Korea...Thank you ...for a wonderful website full of great information!!

- Jill Dean

# Ways to Support the Adoption Institute

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:

As always, I am deeply impressed with what you're accomplishing on the proverbial shoestring. Please know that I will be a lifetime donor because I value so much the mission of the Institute. As the adoptive parent of two, I am tremendously indebted to the agency who brought my children here from Korea. But I think that the adoption community needs the Institute in addition to frontline adoption agencies. The Institute's work address issues that the agencies cannot. Your advocacy and policy work embraces the big picture. The Institute provides resources and tools that increase the likelihood that more families will have access to adoption worldwide and more children will be placed in loving homes. I'm so happy to be able to contribute to the work you do!

- Dana Lichty

- Making a tax-deductible donation by check, credit card, or gifts of stock
- Asking friends and relatives to honor your birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions with gifts to the Institute
- Making a gift to the Institute in a loved one's honor or memory
- Including the Institute in your estate plans
- Hosting a house party or other event in support of the Institute
- Using your contacts to help introduce us to foundations, corporations and other sources of support
- Volunteering
- Making "in-kind" donations of computer equipment, air miles and hotel vouchers

Please visit our web site, [www.adoptioninstitute.org](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org), and click on "Donate,"

or contact Laura James, Director of External Relations, at (212) 979-0384 or [ljames@adoptioninstitute.org](mailto:ljames@adoptioninstitute.org).

EVAN B. DONALDSON

# adoptioninstitute



Special thanks to Laura James, and all those who sent us their photos for "Faces of Adoption," for photos and photography.