

EVAN B. DONALDSON

# adoptioninstitute

# 2009 Annual Report

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

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.



## EVEN IN A WEAK ECONOMY . . . OUR WORK KEEPS GOING STRONG

### A Message from the Executive Director



Adam Pertman

A few examples of recent comments about the Adoption Institute from ground level: An adoptive mother wrote on her blog that one of our studies had provided her with “invaluable information” with which to better raise her child. An adopted person, in an email, said our work had helped him “feel more whole” and “empowered.” A birthmother called to thank us for a report that “really hit the mark ... and gave me hope that the world will one day get who I really am and treat me with respect.” An adoption agency official, over coffee, told me that the Institute’s work is enabling her social workers around the country to “improve what we do for real people every day.”

Usually, when I describe the organization I’m privileged to lead, I talk about instigating broad, systemic change – that is, the laws and policies we help to reform, the ethical “best practices” we help to shape, the knowledge-based testimony and materials we offer to legislators, the dependable information we provide to the media and other professionals. But it’s critical to point out that none of those are the ultimate, intended beneficiaries of our programs and projects. Rather, they are all the means for achieving the Institute’s vital, singular mission: tangibly improving the lives of the children and adults who do not think about adoption, foster care or orphanages in terms of systems or policies or practices, but as integral parts of their personal reality.

And so, as I recall the past year, I don’t think mainly of the big accomplishments the Institute was able to contribute to our world, though there were plenty of those and I urge you to read about them in this annual report. Instead, it is the individual communications from people young and old, people who sought our help or benefitted from our work, that remind me most vividly of why we do what we do.

I spent a lot of time in schools this year, striving to achieve curriculum change, for instance, so that adoption and foster care are included in their understanding of their students and their implementation of diversity, inclusion and lesson plans. But it’s the one comment from one teacher – “I never thought of all this before; I’m going to change what I do in class starting tomorrow” – that touches me most profoundly, because it demonstrates that our work is making a genuine, concrete difference.

I could give you many more examples from communications with adoptees, birth families, prospective parents, journalists, practitioners, policy-makers, and on and on. But I’ll spare you, because you get the idea. In a nutshell, since we are not a

*(continued on page 5)*

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 adoption-related attitudes, laws, policies and practices. One of the ways the Institute has been highly effective in educating the public, policy-makers, professionals and practitioners is through the media. Our research and policy papers are frequently used as background for and cited in news stories, while our Executive Director and other staff members are regularly interviewed on a broad range of topics relating to adoption, foster care, child welfare and ethical practices.

Our expertise is utilized when there's a story in the U.S. or abroad about specific policy concerns, and 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. 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 FY09:

- The Institute, along with several other adoption organizations, mounted a media and advocacy campaign to change some of the most offensive aspects of the promotion of the horror film "Orphan." The Institute's Executive Director, Adam Pertman, was quoted in many news stories on this film and recommended that the studio produce educational materials about adoption's realities. In response, Warner Brothers revised the movie's trailer (for the better) and added an educational message in the DVD version of the



Susan Notkin

Leading a nonprofit organization in the middle of a historic recession isn't anybody's idea of an ideal situation – but I'm delighted to report that, while my first year as Board President has been one of challenge and change, it has also been one of remarkable successes for the Adoption Institute.

Despite the economic downturn, which necessitated belt tightening everywhere, we managed to produce an array of important, high-impact work, much of which is described in this annual report. Perhaps most pointedly, the Institute continued to grow as a leader in advocating for knowledge-based, ethical best practices in adoption and foster care, and for better laws and policies to improve the lives of the millions of people who benefit from our work: the adopted children and adults; the adoptive and birth families; the professionals in social work, education, the media and other fields; and, most of all, the too-many hundreds of thousands of boys and girls in this country and around the world who still need safe, permanent and loving homes.

We have always relied on hard-working and dedicated Board members and staff, as well as on the support of those who care about positive reforms to achieve best practices. But during FY09, as many foundations and corporations that previously provided funding discontinued their support, I have been moved and amazed at the extraordinary generosity of individuals who know how important our work is, and who were determined to keep it moving forward. In particular, our Board members went above and beyond by increasing their personal donations, securing contributions from friends and colleagues, providing their expertise to enhance our work, and in so many other significant ways. In short, they refused to let a global recession get in the way of the Adoption Institute's progress, and I could not be more grateful to them all.

I want to express my sincere thanks as well to a few special people and organizations, because they also played key roles in the life of the Institute: Hugh Jackman and Deborra-lee Furness, adoptive parents who share our passion for helping children and families and who served as honorary co-chairs of our annual Taste of Spring event; our dedicated agency partners, Spence-Chapin Services for Families and Children and The Cradle, both of which continued backing us even in tough times for their own finances; longtime supporters Bill and Jane Donaldson, who come through for us year after year; and Bloomberg LLP, which has become a significant corporate sponsor of our work. Sadly, one of our most generous and enthusiastic benefactors, Roger Kline, died unexpectedly last spring. We were all moved by his thoughtfulness in leaving the Institute a generous bequest to continue the work he championed; that is, better preparation and support for adoptive parents. Our continued best wishes go out to his family, and we are proud to carry on this important initiative in his memory.

In addition to weathering the financial storm and keeping our research, education and advocacy initiatives moving forward, we formed exciting partnerships in this past year that will greatly enhance the breadth and impact of our work. Most notable of these are a new relationship with LifeCare, the country's leading provider of health and productivity solutions for employers; with the Child Welfare League of America, the nation's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization; and with

Dear Adam,

As spring semester here at U Mass comes to a close, I wanted to tell you that I have found the Evan B. Donaldson policy briefs and position papers to be extremely useful as I have taught my new senior seminar, The Psychology of Adoption. The papers are goldmines of information and perspective. They were especially useful because they were available for free through your website. Anyway, hat's off to you and the staff for producing such consistently high-quality papers. They are making a difference!

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

Adoption Learning Partners, a leading force in online education. Please see the last page of this report for information on all the Institute's partners. I want to express my appreciation to each one of them for enhancing the Adoption Institute's efforts and for helping to extend our ability to champion systemic change in so many realms.

Last – but absolutely not least – I want to extend my deep appreciation to the extraordinarily talented and dedicated staff of the Institute, headed by one of the true leaders in our field, Executive Director Adam Pertman. Simply put, through their unique and vital work, they have established the Institute as the leading adoption research and policy organization.

So, despite the odds, it was a very good year, and it has been a privilege for me to help guide the Institute through it. Now, with new partnerships forged and new friendships formed, we look forward to an even more exciting and productive year ahead. Once again, my thanks to everyone – our dedicated Board members; our outstanding staff; our Senior Research Fellows and other leading professionals who so generously volunteer their scholarship and expertise; our loyal individual and institutional sponsors and contributors; and – most of all – to you, the readers of this report, who care about and support the Institute in its efforts to improve the lives of everyone touched by adoption.

With warm regards,



Susan Notkin

## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

We're happy to report that the Adoption Institute had a very strong year (again) in FY09, despite cutbacks we had to implement because of the faltering economy; indeed, we worked successfully on a growing number of projects to improve the lives of children and parents everywhere. We also continued to build on collaborations with major organizations and to forge new ones that hold great promise for having significant, systemic impact in the future. We're particularly proud of two new strategic partnerships – one with the Child Welfare League of America to enhance our national work with adoption professionals, and another with LifeCare, the country's leading provider of corporate health and productivity solutions, to improve adoption-related policies, practices and attitudes in workplaces nationwide.

The Institute has achieved its growing, far-reaching influence in part through the dissemination of research-based knowledge about adoption by providing input for thousands of news stories, by answering hundreds of inquiries to connect people to appropriate information and resources, and by providing our monthly e-newsletter to tens of thousands of readers. We also have continued to advocate for improvements in laws, policies and practices in numerous ways – for example, by providing testimony to prevent enactment of statutes that sought to restrict the rights of parents considering adoption and that posed barriers for children in need of adoptive families. In addition, we continued to educate educators, mental health professionals, social workers, parents and others to expand their understanding and sensitivity. The impact of our work is sometimes hard to measure, but we know it's making a big difference. For instance:

- Our “Adoption in the Schools: A Lot to Learn” report, along with materials from our Educate the Educators program, were sent to over 4,000 educators in Australia by the Australian foundation Orphan Angels for that country's first National Adoption Awareness Week.

movie. Parents, adopted persons and organizations all over the U.S. praised our work in improving media portrayals of adoption.

- An Institute report released in September 2008, “Expanding Resources for Waiting Children II: Eliminating the Legal and Practice Barriers to Gay & Lesbian Adoption from Foster Care,” was used widely by journalists to inform news stories in a range of media outlets, including large newspapers such as the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune and NPR radio programs. Information from our paper was also used by journalists in connection with coverage of events relating to gay/lesbian adoption, such as a court ruling in Florida permitting a gay couple's adoption of their foster son. In addition, Executive Director Pertman wrote an op-ed commentary criticizing Arkansas' new state law – aimed at gays and lesbians – that prohibits unmarried, cohabiting couples from becoming foster or adoptive parents.
- Our report released in early 2009, “Old Lessons for a New World” – which recommends that many of adoption's best practices be applied to assisted reproductive technologies – received media coverage in print outlets, as well as radio and TV, and was cited in coverage of ongoing news events in that field; those included the death of a 69-year old woman who gave birth to twins at age 66 through egg donation, as well as responses to the case of “octomom” seeking to limit the number of eggs implanted. The American Fertility Association also included a link to the report on its website, and Pertman co-wrote an op-ed based on the Institute report, along with one of our Senior Research Fellows, Naomi Cahn.



## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS *continued*

- Through scores of interviews with the Institute staff, as well as consistent use of information from our work, media coverage was improved on a wide array of issues; they ranged from laws to give adopted adults access to their original birth certificates; to the legalized abandonment of infants (and sometimes older children); to the decrease in international adoptions; to the reforms taking place in foster care; and on and on. We were quoted by virtually every television network, by major and minor newspapers and magazines from coast to coast (and around the world), and on internet sites and radio stations everywhere. To put it mildly, in the past year and right through today, we have helped to improve the understanding and coverage of adoption-related issues – and the beneficiaries are the professionals doing a better job as a result, the policy-makers shaping better laws and practices and, most of all, the children who need families and the tens of millions of people for whom these issues are already a part of everyday life.

- Dozens of adoption agencies throughout Canada and the United States utilized (and expressed gratitude for) our **Adoptive Parent Preparation training curriculum**, which Institute staff members also used to “train the trainers” at conferences across the U.S.
- The largest adoption agency in the U.S. – among others – wrote to thank us for our **“Safeguarding the Rights and Well-Being of Birthparents”** study, and said their personnel use it in training over 300 social workers nationwide who work with expectant parents.
- Mental health professionals let us know they’re using our work; for example, a psychologist working on a custody case for a sibling group e-mailed to say that our book on **“Siblings in Adoption and Foster Care”** had been an invaluable resource.
- Academics and researchers used our work to educate a new generation of professionals entering the field; a professor, for instance, thanked us for our policy papers – saying he assigned three of them to students in his Psychology of Adoption class.
- A journalist who has written for Newsweek, among many other publications, wrote: “You have provided current and credible data, analysis and encouragement that amplifies the work so many of us do as we delve deeper into the world of foster/adoption. THANKS!”

Some of the programs or projects we have worked on in the past year include:

**Beyond Culture Camp: Promoting Healthy Identity Formation in Adoption.** This is the largest study of identity in adopted adults to date, and its findings and recommendations promise to have significant impact on law, policy and practice both in international and domestic adoptions. We’ve been conducting this research for a few years, and it was nearing completion in FY09 – with publication scheduled for November 2009 (the Institute’s FY10). The findings in this study are significant, for instance, that adoption increases in importance to adopted persons not only during adolescence but throughout adulthood for the vast majority of respondents. Adopted adults in the research also reported on the experiences that were most helpful to them in achieving a healthy adoptive identity – such as living in diverse communities – findings that will be used by parents, professionals and adoptees themselves. The full study will be available free on-line – as is all the Institute’s research.

The Institute also continued to address the needs of the 129,000 U.S. foster children waiting for adoptive families through several ongoing initiatives. We have worked with eight national child welfare and professional organizations to follow up on our report entitled **“Finding Families for African American Children: The Role of Race & Law in Adoption from Foster Care.”** This very-influential and much-discussed report called for major changes to better serve the needs of children of color. We continue to focus on diligent recruitment of minority families to be foster and adoptive parents, better preparation and support for families adopting transracially, and to work for new legislation in the coming year, as well as presenting this work in many important forums and national conferences. Our report has had tremendous impact on evolving national policy, has logged over 65,000 downloads from our website, and has been used in many news stories in this country and abroad.

Dear Adam,

I attended your workshop at NACAC and am ecstatic over the new study “Beyond Culture Camp” as my 2 daughters are Chinese. Keep up the good work. It is so gratifying to have the Institute and people like you helping us, adoptive parents.

Karen Boros, Adoptive Parent

Adam,

I put together a brief teacher packet on your presentation with info you shared about curriculum and awareness of adoption in the classroom. I’ve heard back from a bunch of teachers who said they learned so much from the materials and that they will think about their curriculum with much more awareness. ... Other teachers who attended your presentation said you said so much that touches on their jobs in the classroom in ways that go beyond adoption, they found you incredibly helpful.

Martha Haakmat, Diversity  
Coordinator, Packer Collegiate

## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS *continued*

The Institute also has sought to expand family resources for children in foster care by removing barriers to adoption by gay and lesbian prospective parents. In September 2008, we released our report “[Expanding Resources for Waiting Children II: Eliminating Legal and Practice Barriers to Gay and Lesbian Adoption from Foster Care](#),” which offers strategies for overcoming the impediments posed by some state laws and policies as well as some agency practices. Institute staff members continue to provide testimony and briefs in court cases around the country, some of which have resulted in landmark victories. We also are completing a survey of over 300 adoption agencies and approximately 100 adoptive families as part of a large, ongoing project on best practices in working with gay and lesbian adoptive parents.

Early in 2009, the Institute was responsible for two publications that we hope will have ongoing impact in the lives of children. The first is a book, [Siblings in Adoption and Foster Care](#), a cooperative effort with the Kinship Center in California that provides knowledge about the value of sibling relationships, as well as strategies for maintaining them. The second is a cutting-edge paper that we published entitled “[Old Lessons for a New World: Adoption’s Lessons for New Reproductive Technologies](#).” This report discusses how knowledge derived from adoption-related research and experience can be used to improve policy and practice in the world of assisted reproductive technologies, including issues relating to secrecy and the withholding of information; a focus on the best interests of children; the creation of “nontraditional” families; the impact of market forces; and legal and regulatory frameworks.

In addition to the initiatives described above, other ongoing projects include: preparing adoptive parents to address the mental health and developmental needs of their children; promoting honesty and equity in adoption, including adult adoptees’ access to their original birth certificates; exploring best practices related to openness in infant adoptions and state statutes on post-adoption contact; and addressing barriers to permanency for older youth in foster care; among others. Institute staff members are also working to complete two studies focused on supporting families after adoption, including one on therapeutic interventions with families adopting the most challenging children from foster care.

Adam,

I LOVED having you be a voice for our community on the Today Show last month. I hated the reality that mom was facing and I didn’t want to judge. I’m glad you were there to REPRESENT.

Warmly,

Barbara Lee, Adoptee and Filmmaker

Hi Adam,

I’ve been a long-time fan, and think the world of your work. It is THE place I refer our folks who need in-depth information and perspective on all issues related to adoption, and it’s such a relief to have such an intelligent and comprehensive resource out there.

Terry Boggis, Director,  
Center Kids, the family program of  
the NYC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual  
& Transgender Community Center

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## EVEN IN A WEAK ECONOMY . . . OUR WORK KEEPS GOING STRONG

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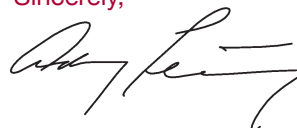
service agency, we do not place a single child into a permanent, loving home; but when we do our work, thousands of kids get such homes and many tens of thousands more have better lives. When they call or write to tell us their stories, when we hear their voices, they resonate more powerfully than you can imagine.

Before I sign off, I want to thank the people who make all of our initiatives possible: our superb staff (welcome to the team, Kerri Johnson), our deeply committed Board (including our newest Director, Doug Mehne, and especially our exceptional President, Susan Notkin) and, of course, every one of you reading this report. Without your support, your volunteered time, your hard-earned dollars – which you continue to give generously even in these challenging economic times – we simply couldn’t continue to serve the millions of children and families who are indeed the ultimate, intended beneficiaries of our work.

Stay tuned in the year ahead for more high-impact projects and additional professionals doing the good work of the Adoption Institute as we restructure our staff to improve its performance, build our Board to make it even stronger and more supportive, and keep taking on the major efforts that shake entire systems, to be sure, but that are felt most keenly by the individuals within them. A parent wrote just last week to say that the Institute’s work “continues to break down barriers, educate people, and build a better world for every child and family touched by adoption.”

To borrow a phrase, that’s change you can believe in. Thank you for making it possible.

Sincerely,



Adam Pertman

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The Adoption Institute thanks the following individuals and corporations for their generous donations of goods and services that helped us continue our work this year:

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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, 2008 – June 30, 2009). 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, Development Director, at 212-925-4089 or [ljames@adoptioninstitute.org](mailto:ljames@adoptioninstitute.org).

# SPECIAL EVENTS ROUNDUP

## LOS ANGELES BENEFIT

This year's Adoption Institute Los Angeles Benefit, held on October 23, 2008, was a great success in every way, continuing the growth and presence of the Institute on the West Coast. Event hosts and adoptive parents Sue Naegle (President of HBO Entertainment) and Dana Gould (comedian and long-time writer on "The Simpsons") graciously opened their home to more than 80 guests. Actors Laura Dern, Zach Braff, Famke Janssen, Scott Lowell, Victoria Rowell, Regina Taylor, Nanci Christopher, and Taylor Treadwell joined other entertainment industry movers and shakers and adoption supporters to help raise funds, and to learn more about the Institute's efforts to make adoption work better for everyone it touches.

The event netted more than \$70,000, assisted by attendees and donors, silent

auction bidders, and generous corporate sponsors, including HBO; Creative Artists Agency; United Talent Agency Foundation; the Oprah Winfrey Network (Discovery); William Morris Agency; NBC Universal; Warner Bros.; Hansen, Jacobsen, Teller, Hoberman, Newman, Warren & Richman, LLP; and Myman Abell Fineman, Fox Greenspan & Light LLP.

Silent auction items included a high-end automatic watch donated by Richmond L.A.; a luxury accessories package including two La Loop necklaces and Robert Marc eyeglasses; a two-night ocean-front stay at Casa del Mar; three collectible designer Barbies donated by Mattel; a chance to have your child do a voice-over, and have a likeness appear as a character, in an episode of the PBS animated series Curious George (donated through NBC Universal); meals

at local restaurants, including Breeze at the Century Park Hyatt Hotel and Bar Marmont; a custom made dress by Mellisa Masse; a basket of DVDs from Showtime; and a catered dinner for 10 by Kari Ann Lauritzen, who also provided the delicious food for the event.

Los Angeles-based Adoption Institute Board members Christine Solomon and Peter Levine were joined by Chicago-based Julie Tye, Institute Board Treasurer and President of The Cradle, and New York-based Susan Notkin, new Board President, and Sandy Kresch, former Board President and current Chair of the Board's Governance Committee, who traveled across the country to attend the event.

*Photos by Laura James*



Adoption Institute Board President Susan Notkin; actor, director, screenwriter and producer Zach Braff; his mother, Anne Brodzinsky, Ph.D. (psychologist, author, and wife of David Brodzinsky, Ph.D., the Adoption Institute's Research and Project Director); and Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman



Event Co-host Dana Gould serves as auctioneer in the live auction.



Adoption Institute Board member Christine Solomon, actress Famke Janssen and boyfriend Cole Frates, and Institute Board member (and host of last year's LA Benefit), Peter Levine of CAA.



Event co-hosts, and adoptive parents, Sue Naegle, President of HBO Entertainment, and comedian/writer Dana Gould



Therapist Fanny Magier, with her son Andy, and actress and writer Victoria Rowell, founder of a foundation assisting children in foster care



Event co-host Sue Naegle, actress Laura Dern and Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman



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

## TASTE OF SPRING

On May 14, 2009, Institute supporters got to mingle with stars including Hugh Jackman, Bette Midler and Kristin Chenoweth while tasting gourmet foods prepared and served in person by master chefs Jean-Georges Vongrichen, David Burke, Jonathan Waxman and Zarela Martinez, among others.

This year's "Taste of Spring," the Institute's major fund raising event of the year, was a success in every sense, bringing together old friends of the Institute and creating new ones, and raising almost \$400,000 to support vital programs to improve adoption policy and practice. Board members Kimberly Donaldson, Kathleen Hricik, Caroline Fitzgibbons, and Sandra McManus were the event's Co-Chairs. The Honorary Chairs included Institute Board member Jurate Kazickas and her

husband Roger Altman, Board member Jim Stevens and wife Mimi, and Institute supporters Jane and Bill Donaldson.

This year's Honorary Co-Chairs included adoptive parents and adoption advocates Hugh Jackman and Deborra-lee Furness, who also spoke at the event; Daryl McDaniels (DMC of Run DMC), advocate for adoptee rights and foster children; and last year's honorees, Tony-award-winning Broadway star Christine Ebersole and her husband, musician and composer Bill Moloney (also adoptive parents).

The event's Corporate honoree was Wendy's, founder and supporter of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The Institute also honored Chef Cyril Renaud, who was participating in Taste of Spring for the fifth consecutive year. Cyril surprised the gathering by announcing that he and his wife are in the process of adopting a child.

*Photography by Jay Ackerman*



Event Co-Chair Sandy McManus hands award to Denny Lynch, representing Corporate Honoree Wendy's



Event Co-Chair and Board Member Kathleen Hricik, Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman, Institute Supporter Bette Midler, and Event Honorary Co-Chair and Board Member Jurate Kazickas



Executive Director Adam Pertman, Honorary Chair Bill Donaldson and Honorary Co-Chair Hugh Jackman



Adoption Institute Board President Susan Notkin, Event Co-Chair and Board Member Sandy McManus, Honorary Chairs Deborra-lee Furness and Hugh Jackman, Executive Director Adam Pertman



Kristin Chenoweth, Mike McManus, Jr., and Event Co-Chair Sandy McManus



Event Co-Chair Kim Donaldson presents the award to Honoree Chef Cyril Renaud

I am so thankful for the work that you and the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute do for foster/adopted children. It is so refreshing to have the clarity of your research and outreach as I work for foster/adoption reform. I have sourced extensively from your organization over the years as a writer (In These Times, Newsweek, The Advocate, etc.), as well as for a documentary short I created in 2007.

You have provided current and credible data, analysis and encouragement that amplifies the work so many of us do as we delve deeper into the world of foster/adoption.

-- John Ireland,  
[GetToKnowUsFirst.org](http://GetToKnowUsFirst.org)

## Staff

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*Legislation and Policy Director*

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*Development Director*

Jennifer E. McFarlane  
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Jeanne A. Howard, Ph.D.  
*Policy and Research Director*

Harris Kaplansky  
*Project Administrator*

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

## Senior Research Fellows

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

Devon Brooks, Ph.D., M.S.W., is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Southern California, where he also serves as the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs.

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

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

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

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

Ruth Gail McRoy, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center for Social Work Research and is a Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Texas at Austin.

Ellen Pinderhughes, Ph.D., is the incoming Chair of the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University.

Scott Ryan, Ph.D., has just been named Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington.



## Meet Our Newest Board Member - Douglas E. Mehne

Mr. Mehne works at State Street Corporation as Senior Managing Director, Global Markets. State Street, headquartered in Boston, MA, is the world's leading provider of financial services to institutional investors. Previously, he was Head of Sales, Marketing and Business Development for Finaplex, an early stage provider of enterprise software solutions for the private wealth management industry. From 1990 to 2002, he held a variety of management positions, most recently as Executive Vice President, Global Accounts, at Reuters, a global information company providing information, news and technology tailored for professionals in the financial services, media and corporate markets. He received his B.S. in Business Administration from Husson College in Bangor, Maine, with additional training at the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business and the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School. A long-time supporter of the Institute, Mr. Mehne is an adopted person, and adoptive father, and lives with his wife Cara and their three daughters in Winchester, MA.

## Board of Directors

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# EVAN B. DONALDSON ADOPTION INSTITUTE, INC.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES\* FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>			
Contributions - cash: unrestricted		\$663,570	\$663,570
temporarily restricted	120,000		120,000
Less: Direct costs of special events		(62,355)	(62,355)
	120,000	601,215	721,215
Contributions - services		54,100	54,100
Speakers' Fees		11,650	11,650
Other program service income		3,329	3,329
Royalties		798	798
Investment income		3,318	3,318
Realized gain on investments		3,104	3,104
Satisfaction of program restrictions	(146,198)	146,198	
<b>Total Support and Revenue:</b>	<b>(26,198)</b>	<b>823,712</b>	<b>797,514</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Program services		485,769	485,769
Supporting services:			
General and administrative		65,014	65,014
Fund-raising		176,412	176,412
		241,426	241,426
<b>Total Expense:</b>		<b>727,195</b>	<b>727,195</b>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(26,198)	96,517	70,319
Beginning net assets	152,785	460,842	613,627
Ending net assets	\$126,587	\$557,359	\$683,946

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



## Roger C. Kline: In Memoriam

The Board and staff of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute are proud to dedicate this year's Annual Report to the memory of our friend, colleague and supporter Roger C. Kline, who died unexpectedly in mid-March of this year.

A devoted adoptive father, Roger dedicated himself to helping children in need of loving families – and to promoting the best possible outcomes for those families. To that end, Roger instigated our Parent Preparation Project, which trains professionals and parents to better deal with the unique issues that adopted children sometimes face. Most important, he provided the wisdom and spirit to spearhead the project, as well as the generosity that made it possible. The depth of his commitment is further evidenced by Roger's substantial bequest to the Adoption Institute, and his request that gifts in his memory be directed to the Institute.

Roger enjoyed a distinguished career at McKinsey & Co. – starting in 1976 – where he co-founded McKinsey's investment office, served on the firm's board, chaired the finance committee, and was a member of the office of the managing partner. He also served as Chairman of Whole Child International, as President of Friends of the Atlantic Partnership, and as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Board and staff of the Adoption Institute are deeply saddened by Roger's untimely passing. He will be missed, but never forgotten, as we honor his memory by carrying on with our efforts to help children who need homes and the families who provide them. We join his son Matthew, his brother Gil, the rest of his family and friends and his McKinsey colleagues in mourning the loss of a remarkable man.



# THE ADOPTION INSTITUTE CELEBRATES OUR PARTNERS

## SPENCE-CHAPIN SERVICES TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Seeing a need for an independent and 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 adoption, committed to the well being of all members of the adoption triad.

## THE CRADLE/ADOPTION LEARNING PARTNERS

Renowned as one of the foremost adoption agencies in the country since opening in 1923, The Cradle provides lifelong support for all who are touched by adoption. In recent years, The Cradle has expanded its scope to include Adoption Learning Partners (ALP), online training courses for prospective adoptive parents and adoption professionals. The Cradle has been a generous provider of operating support for the Adoption Institute, and now participates in a partnership between the Institute and ALP to improve the preparation and training of adoptive parents and adoption professionals.

## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

On July 8, 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 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

On June 18, 2009 LifeCare, Inc. – the country’s leading provider of health and productivity solutions for employers – and the Adoption Institute formed a partnership to enhance service offerings to and best practices by corporations throughout the U.S. 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 QUARTERLY

Adoption Quarterly is the leading academic research journal in the field 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 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.

As a reunited birthmother for 23 years I think what the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute stands for and works to accomplish is a wonderful thing for birth families everywhere who are thwarted in their efforts to locate each other.

- Teri Brown

## 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 making a tax-deductible donation.

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

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

Special thanks to all those who sent us their photos for “Faces of Adoption.”

EVAN B. DONALDSON

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