

The Adoption Link

From Jerri..

Hello ABC friends and families, Happy Spring! This time of year always makes me nostalgic for summers spent outside, enjoying the sun and relaxing with friends and family. It also makes me think of transformations and change; with the changing of season also comes evolution and new beginnings. I would say this is also reflective of where we are as a company and the transformations we have undergone and continue to see. Although some sad, like the changing of staff, these changes have also brought about new growth and beginnings. Adoption By Choice has entered into it's 30th year as a private licensed agency and we continue to hit new strides and expand our practice.

One of my initiatives in becoming the Executive Director of ABC was to ensure that all families felt connected and apart of the agency. With this idea came our Edmonton and Calgary Meet and Greet, where we saw a large and successful turn out which gave families and staff the opportunity to connect, spend time with one another and build a sense of community. The support group continues to occur regularly in Edmonton and the Calgary support group has started back up again as well, with meeting's occurring every two months. The next one will be June 11th from 5:30-7pm at the ABC office. Watch your emails for more information to come!



As you will see in counting the placement announcements below, ABC has been off to a great start for Domestic Adoption placements. We are continuing to see new referrals come in and have recently added an Edmonton On-Call number to our list of services. This is to ensure that families know we work throughout the province of Alberta.

As always, above all other things, we strive to continue to support our birth parents, adoptive families and children so that all individuals feel supported, empowered, connected and cared for during what is a very significant and meaningful time in their lives.

Lastly, I'd like to announce the start of ABC's first Annual Charity Golf Tournament! This is an exciting new venture that we are taking on with the hopes of fundraising for new programs and services, like our Adoptive Parent Baby Classes (more to come on this soon!). I will be sending out a Save the Date very shortly with all the information and details (sneak peak- we have secured a local celebrity to be our MC!). If you are interested in donating or volunteering please reach out to me jerri-lynn.deveau@adoptionby-choice.ca. All support and/or donations are greatly appreciated.

Happy Spring to all, keep a watch on your emails for details on the upcoming events.

Jerri-Lynn Deveau, B.HLSC, BSW, RSW
Executive Director

From Gurkirat..

As a new Social Worker with ABC, it felt appropriate to take this opportunity with the newsletter to share a bit more about myself and my experience working with ABC thus far.

In terms of my past experience, I have worked as a Child and Youth Care worker in a group home environment, in both Inpatient and Community Mental Health with adults and

children and as an Adoptions Worker with Children Services. I most recently finished the Masters of Social Work program at the University of Regina. My work in mental health and adoptions previously gave me the confidence for this role but I must admit - that adoptions through ABC are much different than the government adoptions I have previously been a part of. The first placement I had the honour of being involved in was a truly unique experience, memories of which I will carry with me. This was an instant placement, where I was a labour support for the birth

mother - this was a completely new and powerful the ins and outs of the processes at ABC very quickly team, I was able to work through the process appropriately. This experience gave me a great deal of confidence in the support I would receive from colleagues, and Jerri-Lynn. The challenges that came along with this placement made it clear that Jerri-Lynn and ABC as an agency not only support their social workers but their strong ethical compass ensures that everyone involved feels supported and heard. This experience validated that I certainly made the right decision by joining ABC.

We now also have an Edmonton on call number and I am working on building relationships within the Edmonton community and service providers. As an agency we have observed an increase in referrals in the Edmonton region. I have also been working closely with Jerri-Lynn on program development and addressing gaps in services that have been identified.

Moving forward, I will continue to connect with adoptive families through the Surviving the Wait support group, placements, completing home studies, addendums, phone calls, coffee visits, and emails. I hope that families in the Edmonton area and northern region reach out to me as needed, I am more than happy to connect with anyone who might have questions, need support or a debrief. I'm thankful to be a part of the ABC team and to have the opportunity to be a part of families' adoption journeys.



Gurkirat, Sidhu, MSW, RSW
Social Worker

Placements

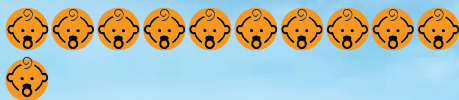
2017

18 Placements
0 revocations



2018

11 placements
0 Revocations



2019

9 Placements to Date
2 Revocations, 0 Matches



Age

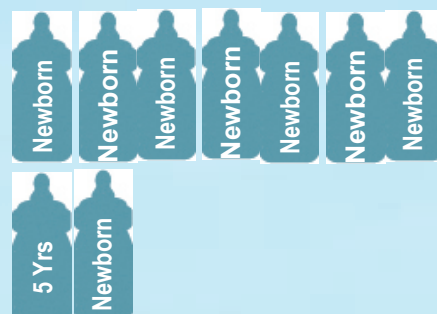
18 Newborns



8 newborn infants Newborn
2 placements of infants 1 month old
1 placement of an infant 13 months old



8 Newborns
1 placement of a 5 yr old



Ethnicity

8 Mixed race placements:

3 Caucasian/Indigenous

1 Caucasian/Metis

1 Indigenous/African

1 Caucasian/Spanish

2 Caucasian/African American

10 Caucasian

4 placements Caucasian

2 placements mixed race Caucasian/Indigenous

1 placement mixed race Caucasian/Barbadian

1 placement Sudanese

1 placement non-Caucasian:

1 Caucasian/Indigenous

1 Sudanese

5 placements Caucasian

1 Indigenous/Caucasian

1 Metis/Caucasian

2 East Indian

New Arrivals

Argue



We would like to introduce you all to Maliya Marie Anastasia Argue! That's three beautiful names for a very beautiful little girl! We are so overjoyed and filled with tons of love! We keep falling more and more in love with her with every smile and coo. Her cuteness makes getting up at all hours of the night a lot easier! Having you in our lives is destiny and we cannot wait to watch you grow and experience life.

We would like to thank Jerri-Lynn with ABC for being there for all of the phone calls and texts and support during our placement, you were truly a blessing and helped us from the first phone call.

We would also like to thank our Birth family and are excited to making memories as the years go by! Welcome to the family and we love and appreciate you all and your openness. Welcome to the world little one, Born on February 24, 2019 weighing 6lbs 8oz and full of love. Remember, there was no luck involved, you were always destined to be family.

Deyell



John Richard Ross



Kyle and I are so very excited to announce the arrival of our Son, John Richard Ross who was born January 12th weighing 10 lbs 10 oz. This little boy has stolen our hearts and we know our wait was just for him.

We are so grateful to his birth mom for choosing us to be his parents and allowing us to build a relationship with her.

Thank you Sheila and Laura for all your guidance through this journey. Even though the wait felt endless we were always reassured our day would come and it would be everything we dreamed of... they were right.

With lots of love, Kyle and Amanda Deyell

New Arrivals

Howden

Please join us in congratulating this family on their new little bundle of joy! We are grateful to be supporting all those involved.

“Well how do you do Miss Bellamy Roux?

We are totally and utterly smitten with you!!

You brightened this world the date of our marriage

Who'd have thought 21 years brought a baby carriage?!

We waited and waited and held out for the best,
And now that we've got you there's no luck for the rest.

We took you home no bigger than a mite,
You wrapped us around your finger so tight.
Your big brother Maverick is nuts over you,
Can anyone blame him, just take a look at you!

You're totally perfect from head to toe, The ENTIRE family has that certain “glow”!

A huge thanks to all involved in our dream, You've been such a help, made a wonderful team!

We felt we were done, we were ready to quit, But God picked a baby, a perfect fit.

Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving and love, For both of our children sent straight from above!! “James, Janene and Maverick are stinkin proud to announce the arrival of beautiful Bellamy Roux Fallen. Born January 9th, 5lbs 6oz, 17.6”.



Protz

Please congratulate the Protz family in welcoming their son Holden Everett Protz, born January 7th, 2019. This is their second adoption with ABC. We are proud and happy to be supporting all those involved.



New Arrivals Sjolie Shields/Nummi



We are thrilled to announce that we've found our missing piece! On March 14th we were so lucky to welcome into our home and family a five-year-old little boy named Owen. He has filled our lives with so much joy and love. Each day brings a new adventure that we share together as a new family.

Cheers,
Michelle and Paul

We are so excited to announce the arrival of Noah Kristjan Sjolie born on March 17 at 1:08pm weighing 5 pounds 9 ounces. Within 48 hours we got the call and on our way home with our perfect baby boy. We are so happy to welcome Noah! We would like to thank Jerri-Lynn, Gurkirat, Anneke and all the staff at ABC for all the help and support.
Ashley And Mark



International Adoption - Spring Update

There has been a lot activity in ABC's international adoption program in recent months. We have been responding to many new inquiries as they are interested in exploring different country's programs. Though the number of countries with stable programs has gradually decreased in the past five to ten years, there are still opportunities to apply for international adoptions from the following countries:

- The United States
- India
- South Africa
- Colombia
- South Korea
- Nigeria
- Ukraine

Each country sets its own program practices, with different ages and special needs of children available for adoption from each country. We can help you determine which programs may be the best fit for you, and help you think through some of the unique challenges and rewards of international, sibling, older child or special needs adoptions. In recent months, we have been working with families as they pursue international adoption with home studies and applications to India, Ukraine, the United States and the Philippines.

Families in the Domestic Program

You may be on the Domestic Active List and also apply for an international adoption at the same time. We have couples that have chosen to pursue adoption through both programs at the same time. You are welcome to contact me to learn about the options available to you with international adoption programs.

Play and Parenting

As parents, we can become overwhelmed with our child's emotions or behaviours. Dinner time and bed time can be two of the more challenging times for our children, and ourselves. As author Jessica Sinarski explains in her article, *Playful Parenting Builds Better Brains: 10 Tips for Success*, when we feel ourselves becoming increasingly stressed or frustrated in interactions with our child and become stuck in power struggles and conflict.

Through play and laughter, different areas of the brain are stimulated relating to problem-solving and creativity, and chemicals that reduce stress and relax the body are released. We can feel greater joy and less stress while disrupting the feelings of frustration and improving our connection with our child. It can help to pause, when you are feeling yourself becoming increasingly stressed or frustrated with

our child and become stuck in power struggles and conflict.

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There are many simple ways we can switch gears to a more playful approach: singing songs, creating silly voices, making a 'race' or contest out of a task your child needs to complete, incorporating a physical activity such as hopping, and creating silly 'code word' or 'phrase' to let your child know it's time to choose a different behaviour or attitude.

Jessica Sinarski's article can be found at www.nacac.org, "Playful Parenting Builds Better Brains: 10 Tips for Success, posed January 17, 2019. She is also the author of a children's book, Riley the Brave.

There are many websites and books with more in-depth information about the neuroscience, play and parenting, and attachment, such as *The Connected Child*, by Karyn Purvis; *The Neurobiology of Attachment-Focused Therapy*, by Jon Baylin and Daniel Hughes; and *Principles of Attachment Focused Parenting: Effective Strategies To Care For Children* by Daniel Hughes.



*Nedra Huffey, MSW, RSW
International Adoption Specialist*

Staff Update

It is with sadness but also with excitement of opportunities ahead that I am announcing my resignation, effective as of July 11, 2019. I would like to thank ABC for the great opportunity's that the agency has given me as an employee. I have enjoyed working alongside my mother and learning from her, as well as the colleagues I now consider friends for the past five and a half years. I am ready to move on to the next phase of my life. I will enjoy my summer and travels in Europe this upcoming September for 3 months.

After the years of working alongside the amazing team with ABC, I want to thank the team for the numerous opportunities for professional and personal development that they have provided me over the past 5.5 years. I have enjoyed working for the agency and appreciate the support provided to me during my tenure with the company. I sincerely appreciate having had the chance to be your go-to gal/Admin with the staff and clients. I consider ABC my second family so I know this will be a hard transition for all of us. While I look forward to enjoying my time off, I will miss the work and seeing my friends/colleagues every day at ABC.

You can always get in touch with me through my Linked in Account: Katrina Kindrat or by my personal email katrinakindrat@gmail.com. I give many thanks and warm wishes to ABC's future as I have lots of faith in our new Executive Director Jerri-Lynn Deveau. She has shown to be an amazing leader through her honesty, communication, empathy and integrity. I have no doubt ABC will flourish even more than it has been over the past few months in the upcoming years.

Warm Wishes,

Katrina Kindrat
Administration



Thank You!

Thanks to all who graciously volunteered to share their adoption experiences at our workshops.

March - The Hawke's

Adoption By Choice sends this newsletter via email to adoptive families, waiting families and interested parties in Alberta and across Canada. If you would like to be on our e-mail list, please give Katrina a call at the office, (403) 245-8854, or email calgary@adoptionbychoice.ca. Previous additions of the newsletter are also available on the website at www.adoptionbychoice.ca. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know and we will remove you from the distribution list.

