

SPRING 2013

Second Endowment Campaign Launches as *Legacy II: The Next Generation*

The Barker Board of Trustees and the Endowment Steering Committee are pleased to announce the official launch of a second campaign that will build on the endowment created through the Legacy I campaign of 1998, led by Jim Smith and Margaret O'Bryon. A robust endowment contributes to organizational growth, stability, and vitality. Barker has been greatly encouraged in this new campaign by a significant "launch gift" pledged by a Barker family. That pledge was then followed by generous leadership gifts given by 100% of the Board and 100% of the Endowment Steering Committee. The campaign, to be called *Legacy II: The Next Generation*, aims to grow the endowment and

secure Barker's services for future generations.

John Duff, Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Trustees, was appointed to chair the Endowment Steering Committee and has assembled a strong group of committee members who are dedicated to the organization's mission. Committee members include Kamal Ali, John Freeman, Maureen Golden, Robert Long, Gary Rappaport, and Cathy Card Sterling. Also advising the committee are Kathryn Bucher, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Robert DeLucia, Chair of the Friends of Barker. Marilyn Regier, Executive Director/CEO, and Mary Reyner, Development Director, are also actively involved in the campaign.

As the Steering Committee now moves from the "silent phase" to a public launch, John Duff shared the following progress report:

"The Steering Committee overseeing the Legacy II campaign to raise Barker's endowment from \$3,000,000 to \$10,000,000 is very pleased to report that we are already halfway towards our \$10,000,000 goal! The need for Barker to have an endowment in order to endure and flourish in the volatile world of adoption was recognized 15 years ago by Barker leaders who wisely started an endowment for Barker. That endowment – which today is valued at \$3 million – provides a critical annual distribution to Barker

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Front: John Duff, Endowment Steering Committee Chair; Marilyn Regier, Executive Director & CEO
Back: Robert Long, Jr., Kamal Ali, Cathy Card Sterling, Gary Rappaport, Maureen Golden, John Freeman





FROM THE *Executive Director*

The Annual Conference is one of Barker's most distinguishing features and enduring contributions to the adoption community. For eighteen years we have gathered to listen, learn, and be inspired by recognized national adoption experts and also by those who have lived the life of adoption. Barker's commitment to adoption education was one of the chief factors that drew me to Barker ten years ago. I had attended the conferences long before I began my work at Barker and never failed to find the conferences life-changing in one way or another. Once here, I was determined to continue this tradition of excellence in learning begun by my predecessor, Robin Allen,

along with many gifted and dedicated Barker volunteers.

The conference has a rich tradition of engaging speakers who are seminal thinkers in the adoption field. Even before Barker instituted an annual conference series, the Foundation often brought distinguished lecturers to the Annual Meeting. Over 40 years ago, for example, Pearl Buck and David Kirk addressed the Barker community in a foreshadowing of the Annual Conference tradition.

Those who have authored books, conducted groundbreaking research studies, and begun innovative adoption programs are always to be found at the conference. Surely, though, a unique aspect of the conference is that Barker has also welcomed the full participation of birth

parents, adoptive parents, and adopted persons, who add their voices to those of the adoption professionals.

As I wrote in this column some years back: "There are times when the solitary approach simply lacks the power to excite and inspire that is produced by the synergy of caring people gathered together." I hope you will join us on April 13 at the 19th Annual Conference!

Marilyn Regier

Second Endowment Campaign

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representing 6%–7% of Barker's annual revenues. The Strategic Plan recently approved by the Barker Board of Trustees has as one of its priorities the goal of increasing Barker's endowment to reflect the substantial growth in Barker's activities over the last 15 years."

Acknowledging the significant cornerstone gift, Duff continues: "A couple renowned for their remarkable generosity to Barker – Allan and Shelley Holt – has agreed to match \$3,500,000 raised by us with \$3,500,000 donated by them. We have to date received pledges of slightly more than \$1,750,000, payable over five years. When we raise another \$1,750,000 of pledges during the public campaign, the Holts' match will have enabled us to raise \$7,000,000 of new funds for the endowment and reach our \$10 million goal."

From now through the end of this year, the committee members will be calling on Barker parents and other supporters to consider

a pledge to the endowment fund. Executive Director & CEO Marilyn Regier, agreeing that now is the right time for a second campaign, states that "we have a story to



The steering committee chose a quilt logo for the Legacy II campaign.

tell – a story of resilience and growth; a story of respectful, ethical adoption services since 1945; a story of the creation of over 7,000 loving families; and a story of impressive comprehensive services,

including domestic infant adoption, *Project Wait No Longer* older child adoption, international programs, and post-adoption services. Legacy II will strengthen these programs tremendously."

Maureen Golden has a unique perspective as the only committee member to have served on both Legacy I and Legacy II campaign steering committees. From this vantage point, Maureen observes: "Fifteen years ago, when Barker created its endowment "The Legacy Fund: A Family Gathering," so many friends and families like yours and mine were involved. Together we laid the foundation to ensure that Barker will be there for those families to come. Now, in its seventh decade of building families, Barker is strengthening that foundation with the launch of *Legacy II: The Next Generation*. Working on both endowment efforts has been a powerful reminder for me of why families like ours whose lives have been connected by adoption

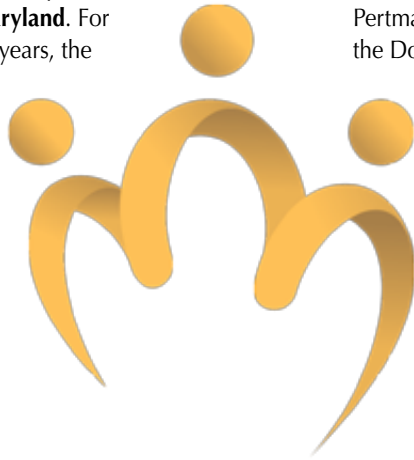
cherish our continuing relationships with each other and with Barker. Together, we can celebrate the gift of family by leaving a lasting legacy for future generations."

In urging the Barker community to support the endowment campaign, Duff notes that if we reach our goal, "we can then all be justifiably proud that today's Barker community has put in place one of the key foundation blocks necessary to enable Barker to endure and flourish for many years to come. Our Steering Committee greatly appreciates your support."

Those who would like to learn more about the campaign are urged to contact Marilyn Regier (mregier@barkerfoundation.org) or Mary Reyner (mreyner@barkerfoundation.org). ■

19th Annual Conference to Focus on the “Modern Family of Adoption”

Where can you enjoy discussions about the latest trends and issues regarding adoption, see old friends and meet new ones – all in one day? Barker’s Annual Adoption Conference provides such an opportunity, and this year’s event will be held on **Saturday, April 13 from 9:00am – 4:30pm at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.** For 19 years, the



Barker Foundation has demonstrated its leadership in adoption education by providing a stimulating venue for learning, growing and celebrating adoption.

This year’s conference will open with **Adam Pertman’s** keynote exploring what it means for each member of the adoption constellation to be part of the “modern” family of adoption. Pertman is Executive Director of the Donaldson Adoption Institute, the pre-eminent research, policy and education organization in the field.

Other distinguished presenters include **Susan Branco Alvarado, Amanda Baden, Beth Hall, Jennifer Shaw, and Chauncey Strong.** Breakout session topics range from embracing



Adam Pertman, Keynoter

openness to transracial, transcultural, and special needs adoptions. You will have an opportunity to exchange ideas with nationally recognized speakers as well as with panelists who will bring their

real-life, modern family perspectives to the table.

The National 4-H Conference Center is conveniently located on Connecticut Avenue just north of the District of Columbia city limits. You may wish to stroll the lovely 12-acre campus after indulging in the all-you-can-eat buffet with salad and sundae bars at the Clover Café.

Everyone touched by adoption truly stands to benefit from attending the conference. Registration information and further details about speakers and breakout sessions is on the Barker website at www.barkerfoundation.org or call 301-664-9664 during business hours. Please register today to attend! ■

By Mary Reyner, Development Director

Preserving the Future: Estate Planning Gifts

In 1980, Joe and Joy Jacques adopted Jeffrey through Barker. Jeffrey was later joined by three siblings by birth. Joe and Joy are proud of their children and have made provisions for all of them. Joe noted that their Barker son “Jeph,” now in his thirties, is one of a handful of successful, professional web-based comic artists. His strip *Questionable Content* receives over 400,000 “hits” a day which makes it an attractive site for advertisers.

Throughout the years, the family has made generous annual gifts and participated in Barker community events. As a long term way of acknowledging the agency that helped build his family, Joe made Barker the beneficiary of an insurance policy when he reviewed his estate plans. When asked why he made his thoughtful contribution, Joe said, “It just makes sense.

By paying a small annual premium on the policy, which is fully tax-deductible, I can be assured that my gifts to Barker will continue even after I am gone. It’s a way of showing you have the same allegiance to an organization that you have to your family.” As a Financial Planner and a CPA, Joe added that he frequently encourages and advises his clients to consider financially wise ways to give to their charitable causes after their families needs are cared for.

Many years from now, Barker will benefit from the proceeds of the insurance policy the Jacques have gifted. Estate planning gifts can be transformational to Barker and ensure the agency’s future. By naming Barker as a beneficiary of your estate, you are making an important statement about yourself, your family, and the legacy you



The Jacques family: Joe, Joy, Joelle, Jeremy, Justin, Jeph and his wife Cristi.

want to leave for future generations. You can choose to include Barker in your will, trust, life insurance policy or retirement account.

Making a planned gift costs you little or nothing now. An estate planned gift is entirely free from federal estate taxes and you retain

the ability to change it at any time. Please contact your attorney or Barker’s Development Office for information 301-664-9664. ■

By Mary Reyner, Development Director

New Parent Groups Offer Support and Friendship

Barker offers new parent groups throughout the year where families have the opportunity to share adoption experiences and get to know each other. These photos are from groups offered this winter.



Back row: Kathryn Hughes with Sofia, Norma Chicas with Maria, Nils Bertrand with Noomi.
Front row: Brent and Christine Garland with Aoife, Sonia Bertrand.

The "Joy of Boys" Group had children from China, Ethiopia and Korea. Standing: Kristin, Stephen and Ryan Donahoe; Michelle, Timothy and Jackson Paper; Lisa and Connor Park;
Front: Bambi Semroc and Douglas Clarke with Destin.



Making new friends: Noomi Bertrand and Aoife Garland.



Destin relaxes with Mom and Dad.

College Bound

An Interview with Aya Rhodes

Note: Just as Aya Rhodes celebrated her high school graduation and college entry, Barker celebrated with her and her family in a very special way, for Aya is the first youth in our Project Wait No Longer program to go to college. Special thanks to Surina Amin of the PWNL staff for the following interview:

Before you were adopted, what were your thoughts about college?

Before being adopted, going to college wasn't something I ever thought about. I was just trying to get by. I was focused on caring for my siblings. The thought of going to college never even crossed my mind! My grades were not very good and my foster parents didn't encourage us to think about college plans. It wasn't until my sisters and I had found our "forever family" that I had the time and support necessary to begin dreaming about college.

How was the college application process for you?

Filling out applications was really exciting! My parents helped me a lot. They helped me with my expectations and guided me on what colleges would be the best fit. They also helped me with my academics in high school because in order to get accepted I needed to have good grades and I was struggling to maintain them. Picking the right college was definitely

a challenge and I struggled with writing my college application essays. My mom and dad did a great job of helping to guide my decisions and they really focused on what I wanted rather than what they wanted for me. This was really important because then we were both invested in the plan.

What have you chosen to study? What led you to that decision?

I am majoring in psychology with a minor in criminal justice. I felt drawn to this major because of the three years I spent in the foster care system. In my life, I have known many people that were labeled as being "troubled" or "crazy." As I got to know many of them and their stories, I realized that often they were just "people" who had been hurt and needed someone to listen to them. I want to help people who may be going through a rough situation and with psychology and criminal justice I hope that I can make a difference.



How was your initial adjustment to college?

My parents really helped me with the adjustment. The first day was the hardest. It was a new environment, I was away from my

Has college changed you in any way so far?

A lot about me has changed since being in college. It made me more aware and more confident. Being away from home has made me more independent and it's preparing me for the rest of my life and living on my own. Before I got to college, if there was a problem I had to rely on my mom and dad to help me come up with a solution. My parents are now 5 hours away so I figure a lot more things out on

"Before being adopted, going to college wasn't something I ever thought about. I was just trying to get by."

family. Very soon after that first day I started to meet new people. I pushed myself to get out of my comfort zone. After that, everything just kind of fell into place and now I'm having a great time!

Do you feel your experience has been different from your peers? If so, how?

I would say it's a little bit different. My peers are 18, 19 and 20 year olds and have lived pretty "typical" lives. Due to my life experiences, I find myself to be more focused on the future and I want to make sure I'm getting everything I can out of college. I feel fortunate that I don't have to work my way through college. My parents have given me the opportunity to fully embrace my college experience and I don't want to waste it! I am so happy that I can focus on school and of course – socializing! Many of my peers cannot begin to understand why this is such a huge opportunity for me, because for them college was always a part of the picture. While I am having fun, I am always aware of what a gift this is to be able to get an education without having to worry about survival.

my own – even though I know they will be here for me if I need them!

Do you have any advice for other teens that may be struggling with their adoption transition?

My biggest advice for teens that have been adopted from foster care is that it will get better! Being adopted means we have someone that cares to rely on – no matter where life may take us. In my experience as time passes and you get older, things get a lot easier and you become a lot happier. The struggles and difficulties you are going through will pass. In some ways, being a foster child can be special because once you've seen the worst – you can choose to take that experience and make something positive out of it. My adoption process wasn't easy. I now understand that there are no limitations to what you can have in life. When I finally learned to let go of some of my anxieties – everything fell into place.

Aya was placed just before her 15th birthday through PWNL. She is the first youth placed through PWNL to go to college! Congratulations Aya! ■



David and Amy Rhodes celebrate with their daughters on Aya's graduation day.

Becoming a United States Citizen

For most of us, becoming a U.S. citizen happened on the day we were born and occurred without any flag waving, singing of the national anthem or awarding of a certificate of citizenship. On November 8, 2012, three Barker



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton provides opening remarks at The State Department's National Adoption Month Citizenship Ceremony.

children had the joy of a very different citizenship experience, when they – along with their adoptive families – were special guests at the U.S. State Department's National Adoption Month Citizenship

Ceremony. Twenty children who were adopted from seven different nations – China, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Nepal, South Korea and Thailand – were the honored guests at the event, which featured Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

For Barker parents Jason and Lissette Nobles, the celebration meant so much. Lissette said that “it was great to see our son JJ recognized as a citizen and be given all of the rights that we have in this great country.” Lissette also saw this day as a special one for her entire family, including JJ's three older siblings who were unable to make the journey to Korea to welcome their brother. Barker parents Sandra Eminger and Michael Crook were thrilled to be there with their son, Ben. Since that day, Ben has frequently insisted that his parents reenact the ceremony, complete with singing the Star Spangled Banner. Kai Guzdar enjoyed the celebration with his adoptive parents, Julie Witzken and Russ Guzdar. Julie commented how great it was “that our government took



It's official: Ben Crook is a U.S. Citizen!

the initiative and effort to recognize the importance of adoption as a way to create a family.” During the ceremony, each child was presented with an official Certificate of Citizenship, and following the

event, the families received a complete video of the ceremony as a keepsake. ■

By Sue Hollar



Kai Guzdar and his parents, Russ and Julie, enjoyed the special day.



The Nobles family celebrates JJ becoming a U.S. citizen.

Barker Staff Out and About

In recent months, the Barker staff has been active outside the office at many appearances relative to education, marketing, outreach, and advocacy on behalf of adoption issues. We encourage readers to call us if you know of a speaking opportunity related to adoption. Our staff has appeared at the following places and events:

- Freddie Mac Adoption Expo
- “Assessing Adoption” course at American University
- “Fathers, Father Figures, and Mentors”
- George Mason University undergraduate class in social work
- Sterling Women’s Network Event
- Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival
- International Adoption Conference in Delhi, India
- HOPE Adoption and Foster Care Information seminar, Reston Bible Church
- Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center
- “The Styyles Chronicles” radio show



Barker Staff were featured on “Adoption is an Option,” a 2-hour program for The Styyle Chronicles Radio Show. Listeners were also encouraged to call in with questions. Left to right, Bev Clarke, Lisa Hughes, Cecilia Racine.

- Washington Hospital Center
- Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee
- American University “Sociology of the Family” Course

Congratulations to Our New Adoptive Families

Craig & Kelly welcomed Kiya
Paul & Amy welcomed Samara
Al & Tonia welcomed Benjamin
Keith & Susannah welcomed Micah
Joon & Lisa welcomed Connor
Oliver & Ivana welcomed Sooah
Andrew & Mie welcomed Zachary
Stuart & Emily welcomed Travis
Stephen & Eileen welcomed Timothy and Silas
Patrick & Susan welcomed Madeline
Steven & Carolee welcomed Ana
Christopher & Jennifer welcomed Xiang June

Daniel & Jennifer welcomed Allison
Ronald & Christina welcomed Charlotte
David & Nina welcomed Jonathan
Scott & Quang welcomed Zachariah
Timothy & Terri welcomed Joshua & Chris
Suzanne welcomed Terisea
Chris & Brent welcomed Aoife
Rachel & Joseph welcomed Ava
Rachel & Dan welcomed Rhys
Kate & Matt welcomed Simone
Melissa & James welcomed Andre
Amanda & Jim welcomed Andrew
April & Heather welcomed Elliot

Karen & Matthew welcomed Wesley
Virginia & Ben welcomed Matilda
Laura & Eric welcomed Margaret
Carrie & Frank welcomed Tayo
Crystal & Robert welcomed Braxton
Dawn welcomed Sydney
Alison & Mike welcomed Sam
Selene & Gabriel welcomed Noemie
Sara & Andrew welcomed Jayden
Elizabeth & Chris welcomed Ethan
Sharon & Eric welcomed Waverly
Hennessey & Karen welcomed Grayson

Save the Date

Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference – Saturday, April 13, 2013,
National 4H Center, Chevy Chase, MD

Annual Meeting – Tuesday, May 14, 2013, 7 PM, Maryland Office

Barker Family Picnic – Sunday, May 19, 1–4 PM, Cabin John Regional Park,
7400 Tuckerman Lane, Rockville, MD 20852

Colombia Homeland Tour – June 22–29, 2013

Parents of Adopted Adolescents – 2nd Tuesday of month, 7 PM

Older Child Adoption Support Group – 2nd Wednesday of month, 6:30–8:30 PM

Birth Parent Support Group – 2nd Thursday of month, 7 PM

Adopted Persons' Discussion Group – 3rd Thursday of month, 7 PM

Barker accepts donations made through CFC (38308) and United Way (8806). Please send a copy of your completed pledge form to Barker's MD office, so that we can recognize your gift. Thank you!

THE
BARKER
FOUNDATION since 1945

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