

A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

THE BARKER
ADOPTION FOUNDATION



WE BELIEVE

**EVERY CHILD
DESERVES A SAFE,
PERMANENT, AND
LOVING FAMILY.**



Hannah



**WE ARE
ETHICAL
RESPECTFUL
CHILD-CENTERED**

LETTER FROM THE LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends,

The Annual Report recounts Barker's successes and challenges in 2015, our 70th anniversary year. Not only did we celebrate Barker's many decades of proud history, but we especially celebrated the singular joy of finding families for 110 children. The year was also punctuated by many celebratory events that even spilled over into calendar year 2016. Seventy years represents uncommon longevity for an adoption agency. The Barker Adoption Foundation continues to be recognized for its ethics, stability, and high standards of practice.



Our Board of Trustees, our staff, and the community at large again gave tremendous support to our mission. It was a year in which supporters were asked to support both the Annual Fund and the endowment campaign, and so many generously answered the call. We recognize with enormous gratitude Shelley and Allan Holt, who through their family foundation have truly transformed our Legacy II endowment campaign, ensuring that the Barkers' legacy of family will be carried into the next generations.

We know you will be moved by the Annual Report's photos and stories that bring our mission to life. Whether a child was placed through our flagship Domestic Infant Program, our compelling International Program, or our more recent powerful initiative, *Project Wait No Longer*, all the children needed homes and found them through your support. Undergirding all the programs is our Department of Family & Post-Adoption Services, providing a variety of services from education to counseling.

And finally, this was also "The Year of The Flood." In mid-November, the flooding of our suite from a broken sprinkler system in an upper floor necessitated our relocating the office to another floor. As you will read in the message from our Director of Finance, the significant damage to our suite surely hurt our bottom line, at least temporarily as insurance claims are being processed. But most importantly, the placement services of the Barker Adoption Foundation continued seamlessly. Nothing could dampen our spirits and our commitment to our vital mission. Resilience to overcome the unexpected is nothing new to an agency founded in 1945.

We invite you to recommit to the mission that inspires us and is our great unfinished work!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Regier".

Marilyn Regier
Executive Director & CEO

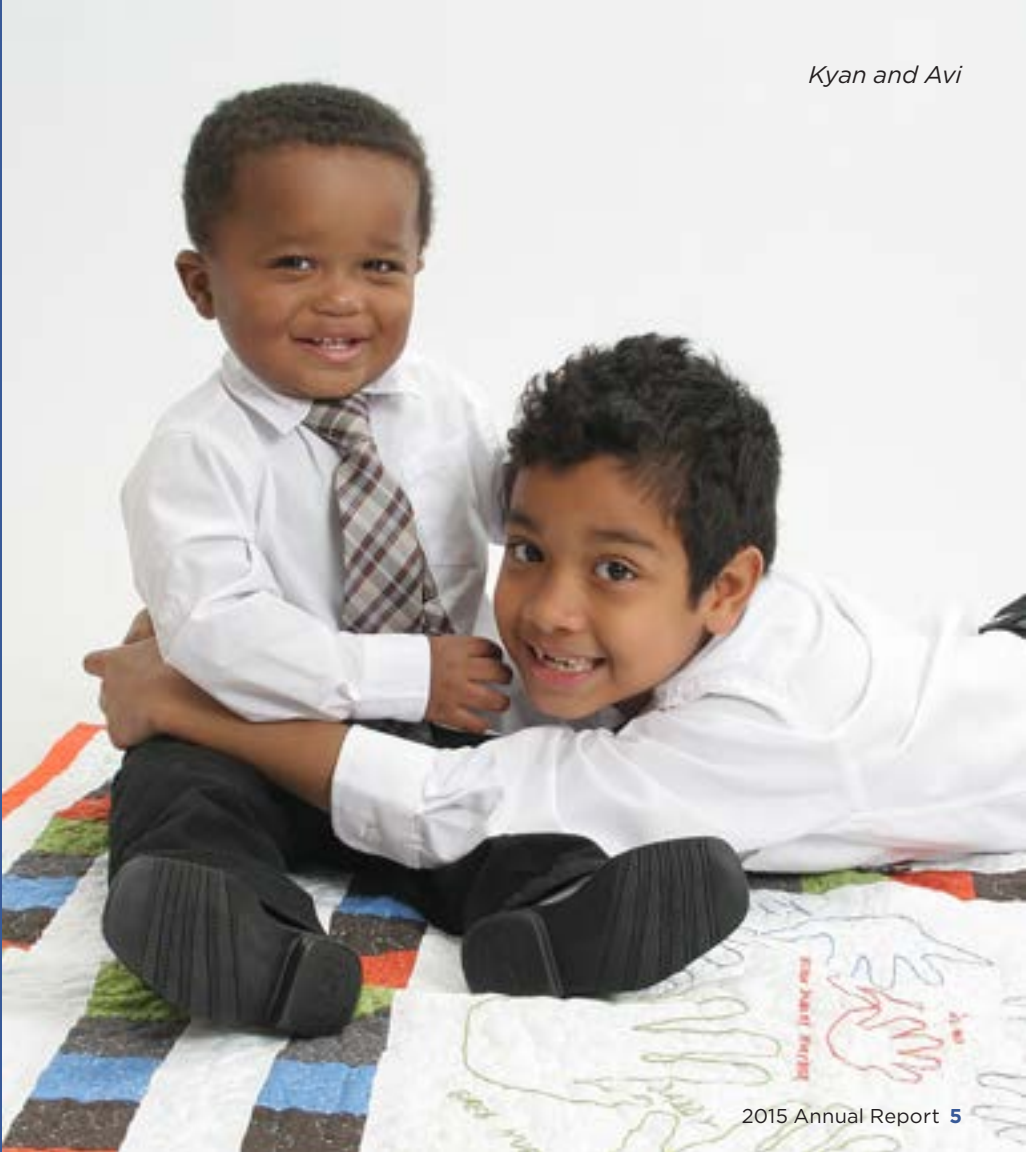
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John K. Freeman".

John K. Freeman
Chair, Board of Trustees

**NUMBER OF
CHILDREN PLACED
IN 2015**

110!

2 SETS OF FOUR SIBLINGS!



BARKER PROGRAMS

THREE ROADS TO ADOPTION



DOMESTIC

Our domestic adoption program brings families together in two ways:

Local: Families receive training, counseling and their home study through Barker and matched with birth parents from Maryland, Virginia or District of Columbia.

National: Families receive training, counseling and their home study through Barker, and then match with birth parents elsewhere in the United States through other agencies or attorneys.



INTERNATIONAL

In 2015, we placed children from five countries:

- China
- India
- Colombia
- South Korea
- Costa Rica



OLDER CHILD

Our **Project Wait No Longer (PWNL)** program aims to restore the hope of older children in public foster care and answer their longing for safe, permanent and loving homes.

In 2015, we placed our 100th child through PWNL.

Nicole



THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR BARKER FAMILY

IN 2015:

Alex & Nicole welcomed Axel
Anthony & Silke welcomed Cecilia
Armstead & Lisa welcomed Evan
Barry & Michelle welcomed Marcus
Ben & Daniela welcomed Nicolás
Bernie & Tina welcomed Kyle
Brian & Margaret welcomed Summer
Brian & Mary welcomed Tess
Brian & Will welcomed Hazel
Calvin & Annie welcomed Elliot
Carl & Maria welcomed Abigail
Charles & Kelly welcomed Caleb
Chris & Cara welcomed Thomas
Chris & Elizabeth welcomed Frances
Chris & Sarah welcomed Hannah
Dan & Yuko welcomed Tai
Daniel & Amy welcomed Edison
Darren & Rebecca welcomed Jerome,
Carlos, Cherish and Carmelo
David & Amy welcomed Pierce
David & Dave welcomed George
David & Elizabeth welcomed Samuel,
Joshua and K'Lee
David & Mary welcomed June
Debra welcomed Maria
Dipesh & Lakshmi welcomed Neil
Elaine welcomed Patrick
Eric & Elizabeth welcomed Dee
Eric & Erin welcomed Lorraine
Eric & Sarah welcomed Elliott
Erik & Emily welcomed Elijah
Ethan & Laura welcomed Zoe

Greg & Chuck welcomed Avi
Greg & Gretchen welcomed Oliver
Greg & Meighan welcomed Isaac
Greg & Nancy welcomed Frances
Harvey & Nicole welcomed Corrine
Jason & Kimberly welcomed Katie
Jeff & Amy welcomed Emilia
Jeffrey & Marie welcomed Michael
Joe & Kristen welcomed Henry
John & Holly welcomed Cooper
John & Wendy welcomed Weslie
Jonathan & Jennifer welcomed Lillian
Jonathan & Kelly welcomed Alexandra
Jose & John welcomed Damascio
Joseph & Janis welcomed Siena
Kazuaki & Jeana welcomed Nicholas
Keith & Heather welcomed Autumn
Kelvin & Michelle welcomed Nicole
Kevan & Elaine welcomed Camila and Andrea
Kevin & Rebekah welcomed Theodore
Kurt & Robin welcomed Isabella
Kyle & Jackie welcomed Dylan
Kyle & Soma welcomed James
Laura welcomed Edwin and Dulce
Leah welcomed Kyle and Brock
Lee welcomed Kyle
Lisa welcomed Addison
Liz & Candace welcomed Ian
Marco & Anja welcomed Mariana and Jose
Mark & Miriam welcomed Eli
Matt & Jackie welcomed Daniella
Maulin & Johnnda welcomed Rama

Michael & Alicia welcomed Nala
Michael & Brenda welcomed Lucas
Michael & Sandra welcomed Lucas
Mike & Julia welcomed Grace
Montserrat welcomed Leila
Nils & Sonia welcomed Mattis
Oscar & Lina welcomed Martin
Paul & Lindsey welcomed Dominic
Phil & Ann welcomed Lucas
Phillip & Susan welcomed Mia
Rachel welcomed Kirby
Richard & Annmarie welcomed Julia
Rodney & Dorothy welcomed Josiah
Roger & Judith welcomed Benjamin
Ryan & Andrea welcomed Carson
Samuel & Heidi welcomed Sky and Gauge
Scott & Melissa welcomed Cora
Seetaram & Sreedevi welcomed Ganesh
Seth & Merideth welcomed Ryan, Camron,
Jasmine and Kaden
Stephen & Catherine welcomed Matthew
Steve & Kristen welcomed Olivia
Steve & Patti welcomed Daniel
Thorsten & Martina welcomed Mica
Tim & Natalie welcomed Luke
Timothy & Jennifer welcomed Franchesca,
Angie, Katherine, and Pamela
Todd & Daaiyah welcomed Arianna
Todd & Shannon welcomed Grace
Todd & Terry welcomed Lucas
Travis & Andrea welcomed Caleb
Varun & Valerie welcomed Mira





64

NUMBER OF PREGNANT
WOMEN RECEIVING UNBIASED
COUNSELING IN 2015

All Barker pregnancy counselors hold Master's degrees in social work and are licensed in at least two (often three) states. Being licensed means our counselors have the training and skills to provide informed, competent, and compassionate care to birth parents in need.

“

We call ourselves pregnancy counselors rather than “adoption counselors” because we never assume expectant parents will place their baby for adoption. We hold space for the birth family to carefully consider its options. When we work with parents who are ultimately able to parent, and choose to do so, we rejoice with them. We firmly believe that no persons should ever feel pressured to place their child for adoption, and we weave that message into everything we do - right down to our titles.

”

- Kate Simpson, Barker Pregnancy Counselor

Dylan



7000+

CHILDREN PLACED WITH
LOVING FAMILIES

70 YEARS

SINCE OUR FOUNDING AS
AN ETHICAL, FULL SERVICE
ADOPTION CENTER

2000+

INDIVIDUALS SERVED
EACH YEAR

BOUNDLESS!

OUR JOY IN
BUILDING FAMILIES

Cora and Scott



“

WE ALL HAVE STORIES TO TELL.

IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW,
MEMBERS OF THE BARKER
FAMILY SHARE THEIR STORIES
ABOUT ADOPTION AND ITS
IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES.

”

THE MOODY FAMILY

To enter the Moody home is to be immediately charmed by the energy, enthusiasm and exuberance of the four Moody children. Whether introducing you to their two cats, sharing the latest entry in a notebook diary, or pointing out which family game is their favorite, Ryan, age 11, Camron, age 10, Jasmine, age 7, and six-year-old Kaden, are the picture of engagement and joy.

If you visited two years ago, your greeting likely would not have been as boisterous. Back then, Merideth and Seth Moody were a young couple in love, living busy professional lives and just beginning to think about expanding their family.

ADOPTION AS A PRIORITY

For Seth, forming a family through adoption had always been a priority. “Growing up, I had one parent who was suitable for parenting and one who was not. I knew that if anything happened to my suitable parent, I would be in a precarious situation. It made me very aware that not everyone has a ‘forever family’ and that that isn’t right. I was adamant whoever I married would need to be open to the idea of adoption.”

Adoption was so important to Seth that when he and Merideth met through an online dating site, he raised the idea of adoption before they even got together in person. “I thought it was a great idea in theory, but had never really considered it for myself,” Merideth recalls.

After marrying, the topic came up again at their first anniversary. While Seth was ready to move forward, Merideth needed some time to explore her feelings to make sure she was at peace with the choice. “It was a journey for me from first considering it to saying I wanted it too. I needed to take a little time to let go of what I had always pictured as a family and accept that I might never ever have biological kids.”

FOCUS ON FOSTER CARE

Once Merideth was sure in her choice, they reviewed their options – domestic infant adoption, international adoption or adoption of older children from public foster care. With Seth’s childhood experiences adding to their perspective, the latter easily won out – “it’s clear that’s where the need is,” he says.

The couple agreed they would consider adopting one to three children. “We knew it might be a reach to adopt three children at once, but we were willing to stretch,” Seth says.

THREE BECOMES FOUR

Stretching seemed like an understatement when they received their very first referral. “It was for four kids. I told Seth I wasn’t sure we could handle that and he said we shouldn’t even look at it then because he knew as soon as he did, he would be ok with four. We sat on it for a few days and then I started tentatively asking ‘We can’t do four, right?’” Merideth recalls. “There was just something drawing me in.”

After talking to an impromptu support group of friends, the couple decided to open the envelope and take a look. Once they looked, they were hooked. A month after reviewing the kids' profiles, the couple was enjoying a "get-to-know-you" breakfast with them in their home state.

"We went to Bob Evans," Ryan says, recalling that he was "a little bit nervous" and kept asking Merideth and Seth for their names. Camron and Jasmine remember that they were shy, too, but Kaden reports feeling comfortable fairly fast.

Other activities soon followed – a trip to a nearby science center, swimming in the hotel pool, ice cream, and a nearly three-hour bilingual church service with the foster family with whom two of the children lived. "It was quite the adventure," Merideth says, with everyone nodding in vigorous agreement.

A month later, the kids made their first visit to Maryland to see their potential future home. In total, the family shared three visits before approval for the adoption came through. "During that time, we painted their rooms and prepared the house," Seth says. "We asked each child about their favorite colors and then decorated with those."

"When we Skyped, we wanted them to show us our rooms, but they were keeping them a surprise," Jasmine recounts. "When we got here, I LOVED it when I walked in my room and three of the walls were pink!" There was another surprise – all four beds each held a stuffed animal Seth had saved from his childhood.



The kids joined Seth and Merideth forever in June 2015 and the family took the summer to spend time together and bond. In the fall, they started school, entering Kindergarten and Grades 1, 4 and 5, respectively. Merideth saw the kids off to school each morning before heading to her job at a hospital, while Seth traveled to his office in Washington, D.C. before dawn so he could conclude his work day in time to pick everyone up after school.

MEANINGFUL MOMENTS

Today, the kids evoke playful puppies tumbling over each other as they show photographs of meaningful moments in their lives as a family. There's the "I Am A Moody" image where their t-shirts make their family status very clear.

Another image shows them forming a giant "M" with their hands. And a photo taken at a medieval restaurant enjoys special status as a marker of their first anniversary as a family – an event they call "Moody Day."

HARD WORK

Lest anyone think it's all been easy, all six Moodys are also quick to tell you there have been bumps along the way as everyone adjusts to their new lives. For the children, absorbing a sense of permanency has taken work as has living as four siblings again after being separated into two pairs during their two years in foster care. Merideth and Seth, in turn, are not only first-time parents to four children who haven't always had a stable and loving home, but first time parents, period.

"Adoption changes everything about your life. It's no different than having a baby in that respect. Parenting brings out the best and worst versions of you, and Seth and I have grown a lot," Merideth says.

The couple says support from Barker has helped them immensely. "Carol Liu, our Barker social worker, has been incredibly supportive throughout this process. She has tons of experience in a lot of different roles – lawyer, advocate, and now social worker. There have been times when we have called her in a panic and she's given us very practical advice that's worked. She's been empathetic, supportive and encouraging. I'm not sure we would have made it without her," Merideth says.

(continued next page)

ADVICE FOR OTHERS

When it comes to advice for other couples considering older child adoption, Seth advises flexibility. “We relaxed our restrictions significantly and we are so happy we did.”

He also says prospective parents should be willing to put in the time that’s needed to build a family. “Once a child joins your family, you have to be willing to devote time and effort to making it work. We put a lot of structure and very firm rules in place right from the start. We established the boundaries and then we had to put in the time to help the kids stay within them. We also had to help the kids learn that we can all be sad or mad at one another and still love each other. It was a learning process for all of us.”

The couple both say a strong support system is also essential. “Find people you can be honest with,” Seth advises. “It’s so important to have people who let you feel what you need to feel in that moment and voice what you need to voice without them holding it against you or your family later.”

Ultimately, Merideth counsels, adoptive parents of older children will need to give themselves what she calls “grace.”

“Understand that you won’t be perfect and that’s okay. You won’t go into this knowing everything or doing everything right. Instead, you will all grow together. When you do, it will work and it will be beautiful.” ■

A FAMILY FOR CALEB

Two years ago, Kelly and Charles (Chuck) would have told you their family was complete. The couple had adopted two daughters from China, the first in 2008 and the second in 2010, and they were living a full and satisfying life in the Pacific Northwest.

That is until they became involved with a young boy in China who needed both medical care and a family.



Caleb

Kelly and Chuck learned of Caleb through Kelly’s connection to Grace & Hope for Children (GHC), an organization that seeks sponsors to pay for foster care for orphaned and abandoned children in China. Kelly joined GHC as a volunteer after adopting their first daughter, who had benefited from a loving foster family.

BORN WITH APERT SYNDROME

At GHC, Kelly helped match sponsors with children, and it was in that capacity that she

learned about Caleb as an infant. Born with a disorder called Apert Syndrome, Caleb had been left by his birth parents when he was born. He bore the trademark signs of his condition, including an altered head and face shape due to premature fusing of his cranial bones, and fusion of his fingers and toes.

Despite these challenges, Caleb was by all accounts a smart and happy child, which made the news that he couldn’t go to kindergarten because of his appearance

very hard for him to bear. It was also hard for Chuck and Kelly to hear. “That’s when it became personal,” Chuck says.

“Every signal indicated he was very capable. It wasn’t a cognitive issue. It was that he looked different. He was engaged with kids in his neighborhood, and when they went to school without him, he was crushed.”

CORRECTIVE SURGERIES

The news spurred a board member of Grace & Hope for Children to begin exploring medical care in the United States to mitigate Caleb’s skull and hand conditions. After lining up a medical team on the East Coast who could perform the specialized surgeries he would need, GHC also obtained permission from the Chinese government for Caleb to travel to the United States to receive the care. The only caveat – he had to return to China once the surgeries were complete.

Kelly and Chuck became further connected with Caleb as Kelly lent a hand with social media, advocating on Caleb’s behalf through Facebook. A growing sense that this might be something more for them began to take hold, especially since they were familiar with pediatric medical issues as their first daughter, while adopted through a healthy baby program, was later diagnosed with an illness that required specialized treatment. Based on that experience, the couple felt confident they had the knowledge and resources needed to manage the care of a child with medical needs.

FOLLOWING THEIR HEARTS

Soon after Caleb arrived in the United States for his surgery, Kelly and Chuck met for lunch. As their conversation spun toward Caleb, they each spoke what was in their hearts. “We said ‘we need him as much as he needs us,’” Chuck recalls.

Adopting Caleb would not be easy, however. The Chinese government had made it clear that Caleb was expected back in China after his surgeries. He also would need ongoing medical care.

EXPEDITED ADOPTION

Grace & Hope for Children put Kelly and Chuck in touch with Betty Betz, Barker’s International Programs Case Manager and an expert on children in China with medical needs. An adoptive parent of an older child from China with special needs herself, Betty is known as a force when it comes to expediting the adoption process for children in need of medical care.

In Caleb’s case, time was of the essence so he could receive ongoing medical care following his surgeries. “Betty was a godsend. She didn’t make any promises or set any expectations, but she was willing to dive in very quickly and she did. She understood the urgency. If Caleb fell and injured his head while in China, he would not have access to the medical care he would need to recover,” Kelly says.

Just four months later, Kelly, Chuck and the girls were on a plane. “We arrived on June 4th

and were able to adopt him just four days later on June 8th. The girls came with us so we could spend some time in China together and within just a week, all three kids were bonding with each other,” Chuck reports.

RIISING FIRST-GRADER

Now home in the United States for more than a year, Caleb has just completed his first year of school. After four additional surgeries and services by 15 different specialists, he’s settling into a pattern of routine six-month medical follow up visits. “He’s done so well, despite the transition and surgeries. When you consider how far he’s come, it’s much further than any of his other kindergarten classmates.”

Caleb, now seven-years-old, will enter first grade this year. “He loves his toys and his sisters,” Kelly says with a smile in her voice. “He’s a trooper. He doesn’t let anything get us down.”

DON’T GIVE UP A POTENTIAL BLESSING

Kelly and Chuck say families who are wondering if they could be open to a child with medical needs should know that “medical science is amazing.”

“If you have access to medical resources, so much is possible. Don’t give up a potential blessing because of the fear of the unknown. Take the time to find out what options are available to you. There are so many children out there who need a home.” ■

At Barker, our services do not end at placement. We offer lifelong support to all members of the adoption circle whenever it is needed. Our post-adoption services are available to any person touched by adoption, even if we were not the placing agency.

**COST OF BARKER'S
ADOPTEE AND BIRTH
PARENT DISCUSSION
GROUPS TO ATTENDEES:**

\$0

HERE, I FOUND MY TRIBE

Our **Adult Adoptee Discussion Group**, which meets monthly at our Maryland office, is an example of the post-adoption support we provide. Open to any adoptee, the group regularly explores topics ranging from adoptive identity, relationships with adoptive families, relationships with birth families, and feelings about search and reunion.

Before a recent meeting, some participants shared their thoughts on what the group offers them and why having a safe and welcoming space to talk can be so important to adoptees:

SHARED UNDERSTANDING

- This group gives us a place to work through the hard stuff about adoption. Here, people instantly understand you.
- Just knowing the group is here brings comfort. Hearing other people's story helped with my individual journey. I felt like I found my tribe. It always makes you feel better afterwards and I'm really grateful to this group.
- It's the common experience. I have been told how to feel all my life. I hate birthdays and I can talk about that in here and find shared understanding.
- We have never seen anyone who looks like us. We don't have our medical histories. We don't have the answers to questions and information that non-adoptees take for granted.
- I never felt free to discuss adoption at home. It always felt like a very clandestine thing, a huge taboo.

- It has been humbling to meet others like me. My family didn't like to talk about adoption and it's so nice to be with people who know how I feel.

A GUILT-FREE ZONE

- People ask "Aren't your parents enough?" and you feel like you should feel guilty for thinking otherwise until you come here.
- When I'm here, no one thinks I'm being ungrateful and betraying someone.
- Even records that are available to us aren't always accurate. Everyone has opinions about what we are entitled to. There is frustration in dealing with institutions. Add in feelings of abandonment and guilt - feel like we're betraying our adoptive families.
- Outside of this group, people will tell me I should feel lucky and complete with what I have.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

- This group was just what I needed as I started to meet my birth family and process my feelings.
- It helps to talk about how adoption affects intimate relationships. It's there, the impact on attachments and partnerships.
- We've heard a lot of stories in here – good, bad and sad. Sometimes we hear “I almost wish I hadn't,” when it comes to search and reunions, but that “almost” is always there. Truth is truth and not knowing is worse.
- Reunion is just the beginning. Once you walk through that door you can't go back. The reintroduction process can be fraught and with a lot of stuff and it's so helpful to have people to talk to as you work through it.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

- I have also found practical support here. Answers to questions like “How do I write this letter to my birth family?”
- If we are in a search, we can ask questions in here like “What do we share with our parents? Our siblings? What boundaries do we need to create? Some parents are more equipped than others to handle a search.
- In addition to the group, the Barker bookshelf we have access to is helpful. The books and documentaries help prepare us for what could happen. It's a nice counter to the Lifetime movie version of reunions that are usually presented.

- If I had this group before I searched, I would have done things differently and gone a little bit slower.

FUTURE FOCUS

What would adult adoptees like to see more of in the future from Barker and other organizations?

- Financial support for people who can't afford to access post-adoption services
- Financial support for search efforts, such as paying for investigators and records searches
- Training therapists on adoption + educational programs
- Advocacy for open records laws

“Barker goes the extra mile when it comes to post-adoption support. When my 83-year-old birth mother wanted to be part of the birth parent support group, Barker paid for a cab to get her there!”

– Member of the Adult Adoptee Discussion Group

OUR POST-ADOPTION SERVICES



SUPPORT AND DISCUSSION GROUPS



INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING



CONTACT BETWEEN BIRTH AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES



HOMELAND TOURS



PROGRAMS FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN AND TEENS



ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



SEARCH AND REUNION

EXCITING THINGS WE DID IN 2015:

We launched our 70th year! It all began in 1945 when Ruth and Richard Barker, themselves adoptive parents, founded the agency in response to a post-World War II request by the U.S. Navy Department to support pregnant women who had participated in the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program. We've been doing good work ever since!

We talked about books. The newly-created Barker Book Club brought birth parents, adoptees and adoptive parents together to read and discuss adoption-related books. In 2015, we held robust discussions of *Ghost of Sangju* by Soojung Jo and *Ithaka: A Daughter's Memoir of Being Found* by Sarah Saffian.

We traveled. Barker staff made visits to China and Colombia to meet with our partner agencies and government officials.

We engaged our Barker kids. More than 40 children joined us for a series of kids' groups where they shared their adoption-related experiences in a safe and nurturing environment. Using games and art projects, the groups' facilitators help children explore their thoughts about adoption and express themselves.

We expanded in Colombia. After careful vetting, Baker Victory, a New York-based social services organization, selected Barker to assume responsibility for its Colombia adoption program. Citing our expertise and our experience in working with FANA, a respected, ethical, child-centered orphanage in Bogota, Baker Victory felt comfortable transferring their program to us.

We joined others in learning at our 70th Anniversary Conference. More than 300 adopted persons, adoptive parents, birth parents and adoption professionals attended the conference. The inspiring and educational event featured a keynote address by award-winning CNN news anchor Michaela Pereira, an adoptee and an advocate for adoptees, foster children and youth at risk.

We communed. Our tradition of an annual picnic continued, with more than 200 moms, dads and children joining together for an afternoon of food and friendship at a local park. Families travel from near and far to attend and provide a reminder of the lifelong connections our families have with Barker.

We offered work and service opportunities. In keeping with our past practices, we continued to offer opportunities for college and masters-level students to volunteer and intern at Barker. We are proud of the mentoring and learning opportunities we offer these students and are encouraged by their commitment to social services. We were particularly pleased to provide an internship for the prestigious Sondheim Non-Profit Leadership Program.

We conducted a Colombia Homeland Tour. Two Barker staff accompanied five adoptive families to Bogota for eight days. Our tour's unique adoption focus included taking part in cultural activities and visiting the orphanage where the children spent their initial months of life. In a rare and special moment for everyone, the adoptees were able to read portions of their Colombian case files for the first time.

We collaborated on an adoption expo. We served on the planning committee and co-sponsored a regional adoption and foster care expo designed to educate, inspire and celebrate families formed through adoption or foster care. Through the expo, prospective adoptive parents were able to meet adoption professionals and learn first-hand

from adoptive and foster parents as they shared their knowledge and personal stories.

We debuted a new website. The new Barker Adoption Foundation website is mobile-friendly, interactive and attractive! With its audience-based approach, the new website is helping us reach all of our stakeholders in a fast-paced, digital environment.

We hosted Barker Day at Nationals Park. We hosted another wildly successful and fun Barker Day at Nationals Baseball Park, bringing together Barker families, friends, staff and trustees for an afternoon of baseball and bonding. The Nationals acknowledged Barker on the field at the beginning of the game, giving us a wonderful opportunity to promote our important mission in a very public way.

We empowered the broader community. Through in-service workshops for school-based and hospital-based professionals, we expanded the pool of people who are attuned to and able to support the needs of those in the adoption circle. Our presentation at the University of Maryland Law School's *Innovations in Family Dispute Resolution* conference also furthered this goal.

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE

We are grateful to each and every one of you for giving to The Barker Adoption Foundation in 2015. As a non-profit agency, we are sustained by individual donations, foundation and corporate grants, fundraising events and fees for services. Your donations give us the resources we need to provide no-cost pregnancy counseling, find permanent families for older foster youth, build families through infant adoption, and provide sound post-adoption support for all touched by adoption.

Anonymous	Vincent & Chris Baldwin
Lorna & Justin Abernathy	William & Helen Ballinger
Nina Abernathy	John & Carolyn Bargeron
Nicole & Michael Adams	Evelyne Barker
Roger & Diane Adams	Ginette Barker
Keith Adams	Joseph & Susan Barloon
Richard & Joyce Aguglia	Lynn Barnes
Larry & Nonie Akman	Susan Barrick
Mark Alexander & Tawnya McKee	Mary Hellen Barry
Jean Alexander	Dae Sung Batoff & Lale Kuyumcu
Gerald & Michelle Alexander	Timothy Beardsley & Anna Gillis
Kamal & Sonya Ali	Gary & Gail Beauchamp
Dwight Allen & Joan Centrella	William & Mary Beebe
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Jerome & Andrea Bober
Richard Bohn & Bette Rossen
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Robert & Cynthia Bonsib
Marcia Boogaard
Linwood & Carole Bower
Darllene Boydston
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Tony & Shelly Bralich
William Brannon & Katherine Smith
Scott Bredow & Martha Glover
Alan & Diane Breier
Andrea & Richard Brenner
Ann Brinsmead
Alvin & Nancy Brockway
Neal & Ellen Brown
Thomas & Sally Brown
Bryan & Michelle Brown
Karen & Kevin Brown
Nancy Brown
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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: MEGAN AND VINCENT DENNIS

When Megan and Vincent Dennis made the decision to adopt 16 years ago, they knew they and their future children would be a family for life. What they didn't foresee was that they also would find a lifetime family in The Barker Adoption Foundation.

The Dennis children, adopted through Barker's Colombia program, are now 14 and 10, and the family has stayed connected to Barker from the start. Whether attending the annual picnic or cheering on the home team on Barker Day at the Nationals Stadium, they have always enjoyed spending time with the many members of the Barker community.

The Dennis' commitment to Barker is much deeper than just camaraderie, however. They are generous donors, supporting Barker's priorities both financially and with their time. Megan, for example, is in her sixth year as a trustee on Barker's Board of Trustees, helping the leadership team set and achieve the agency's strategic priorities. The duo are also important contributors to our Legacy II campaign, helping us as we strive to bring our endowment to \$10 million to ensure our long-term financial stability.

Ask Megan why they are willing to give so much of themselves to Barker and she'll tell you the answer is simple: they deeply respect and appreciate Barker's unshakable commitment to ethical, child-centered adoption. "The world of adoption is

evolving and Barker is steadfast in holding itself to the highest standards. The unpressured support that Barker gives to expectant mothers is nothing short of amazing, as are its post-adoption services.

Barker gives everyone – birth families, adoptive families, adopted children and adults – access to help and resources whenever they are needed. It's rare to find this and we want to make sure Barker can continue to make their services available for at least another 70 years!"

For Vincent, supporting Barker is important because "it helped us create our family and remains both a touchstone for our children in this area and a portal to connect with their birth country, Colombia. I think it's significant that Barker is as much a part of our lives now as it was when we first started our adoption journey in 2000."

Lastly, both Dennis parents feel strongly that their involvement with Barker sets a good example for their children and others in the broader community. "Whether it's our money or our time, by giving we show how much we respect adoption and Barker, and we do something to bring children into families where they can be safe and thrive. Barker is doing an excellent job adapting to the changing climate around adoption while still maintaining the highest ethical standards. Who wouldn't want to be supportive of an organization like that?" Megan asks.



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Thank you to everyone who helped us make our fantastic Day At Nationals Park a reality:

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2015 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2015, The Barker Adoption Foundation placed 110 children in permanent, loving homes. This represented an increase of 10 placements over the previous year, and included 25 children from the foster care system finding forever families through our Project Wait No Longer Program.

Despite the higher placement numbers resulting in increased fee income, Barker ended the year with a deficit. In November 2015, Barker suffered a major flood as a result of a pipe burst on the third floor that completely destroyed our first floor office space. The flood had a devastating effect on development efforts at the key time of year for soliciting donations, causing our Contribution revenue to fall much below expectations.

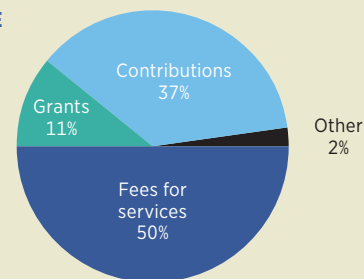
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2015	The Barker Adoption Foundation	Friends of Barker, Inc.	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Fees for services	\$ 1,212,965		\$ 1,212,965
Grants	258,500		258,500
Contributions	906,514	\$ 514,561	1,421,075
Other	43,308	-	43,308
Revenue	2,421,287	514,561	2,935,848
Investment income net of fees	711	(100,901)	(100,190)
FOB	203,906	(203,906)	-
Total Revenue	2,625,904	209,754	2,835,658
EXPENSES			
Program services	2,311,650	-	2,311,650
General & administrative	202,964	4,412	207,376
Fundraising	196,180	-	196,180
Total Expenses	2,710,794	4,412	2,715,206
Change in Net Assets from Operations	(84,890)	205,342	120,452
Non-operating Activities - Flood Loss	(8,055)	-	(8,055)
Change in Net Assets	(92,945)	205,342	112,397
Net Assets - beginning of year	511,922	7,716,093	8,228,015
Net Assets - end of year	\$ 418,977	\$ 7,921,435	\$ 8,340,412

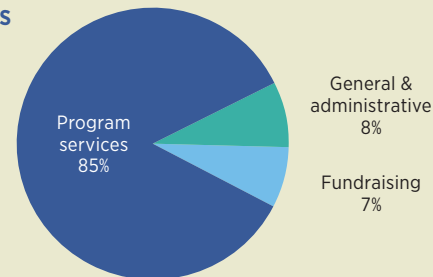
Note: At time of publication, the insurance claim from the 2015 flood remains open.

THE BARKER ADOPTION FOUNDATION

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Negotiations with our insurance company are in process in hopes that some of this shortfall will be covered by our Business Owners Policy.

Additional 2015 expenses included the cost of the redesign of the Barker website, which was funded by grants received in 2014. The revitalization of our web presence has increased awareness of Barker and its available services, enabling us to extend our efforts for a brighter future to even more children and families.

Continued generous pledges and donations to Friends of Barker's second endowment campaign *Legacy II: The Next Generation* were received in 2015, enabling us to reach 80% of our fundraising goal. There is still \$650K to be raised, all to be matched by a generous Barker family, with the goal of a \$10M endowment in order to secure Barker's continuity for future generations.

A consistent sign of Barker's commitment to our mission is the way spending is carefully managed, with 85% of expenditures going directly towards making a difference in the lives of those we serve. We can see that in the increasing number of children and families being brought together by Barker and in the lifelong services we offer to any and all of those touched by adoption.

MAKE MORE FAMILIES POSSIBLE

What can you help make possible at Barker? EVERYTHING!

In just the next year, through the generosity of our donors, we hope to:

- Raise the remaining funds we need to increase our endowment to \$10,000,000.
- Increase the availability of post-adoption counseling services
- Further strengthen the services for families adopting older children

- Add support/discussion groups and educational workshops as needs emerge in our community
- Launch Project Connect, a mentor program for those who share foster care and adoption experience.
- Engage a marketing professional to help make Barker's services more widely known

With only 46% of our operating costs covered by the fees for our services, meeting the needs of our children and families depends on support from our community. With a full agenda for the coming year, we hope we can count on you!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Ways to invest in Barker include:

- Direct Donations
- In-Kind Gifts
- Workplace Giving
- Matching Gifts
- Honor/Memorial Gifts
- Planned Giving
- Volunteer Service

Please visit our website at barkeradoptionfoundation.org/support-barker-adoption-foundation for more information or contact Lori Hoffmaster, Director of Development, at lhoffmaster@barkeradoptionfoundation.org

Your donation allows The Barker Adoption Foundation to provide no-cost pregnancy counseling, find permanent families for older foster youth, build families through infant adoption, and provide sound post-adoption support for all touched by adoption.

THE
BARKER
ADOPTION
FOUNDATION since 1945

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2957 Monticello Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042
301-664-9664

ACCREDITATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

The Barker Adoption Foundation is licensed in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. The agency is Hague-accredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA) and a member of the National Council for Adoption, Local Independent Charities, the Maryland Coalition for Adoption, the Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations, the North American Council on Adoptable Children, and the Virginia Association of Licensed Child Placing Agencies.



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