The Adoption Exchange
Impact Summary Report
Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017

1,252 waiting children benefited from over 5,550 recruitment activities

$3,329,324 in total program expenses included

- Media Based Recruitment: $1,422,614
- National Diligent Recruitment: $861,776
- Intensive Recruitment: $639,753
- Family Support: $523,615
- Mentoring: $161,566

we responded to over 18,000 adoption inquiries from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada

2,257 individuals received more than 6,718 hours of training & support through The Adoption Exchange's classes, webinars, and conferences

324 children were connected with an adoptive family, bringing us to a total of 8,797 children joining their families since 1983

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The Adoption Exchange served over 1,200 children who have been waiting in foster care. Of these children, 26 percent were joined with adoptive families. Your support has changed the future for these kids and we can’t thank you enough.

Six of these children were adopted by Kevin and Tami Prince, who after having three biological children, wanted to do more. The Princes started looking and found a sibling group of six in need of an adoptive home on The Adoption Exchange Children’s Gallery. Now, Lanasia, Chris, Kyle, Dana, Marcella, and Armani have the family they’ve always wanted and the impact doesn’t stop there:

“We adopted these kids and broke the cycle for them, and it’s not just about them; this has changed our lives, their lives, and ultimately their children’s lives. The ripple effect is huge.”

We are so proud to serve youth like Lanasia, Chris, Kyle, Dana, Marcella, and Armani and families like the Princes, but there is still a tremendous amount of work to do to reach the goal of emptying the foster care system.

As we move into a new fiscal year, we wanted to share with you our plan to amplify our work to connect even more youth and families, do it faster, and make it last. We are currently in the process of developing and refining a comprehensive strategic plan to scale our programs in Colorado, Utah, and Nevada over the next three years, which will allow us to get even closer to our vision of a world where no child has to wait in foster care.

So how are we going to achieve our goal? Here are some key highlights on the incredible work already in place, and how we plan to grow and improve our programs:

**A RECRUITER FOR EVERY CHILD**

We know that kids served by a child-focused recruiter are up to three times more likely to be adopted. The Adoption Exchange currently employs eight devoted Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Recruiters who work diligently to find families for 124 of the 431 children waiting in Colorado and Utah. Our goal over the next three years is to grow our team in order to provide a dedicated recruiter for all children waiting in the Colorado, Nevada, and Utah foster care systems.

**GROW MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

We’ve seen tremendous success from our new mentor program, CHOICE, which started as a pilot program working with youth in Colorado. CHOICE specifically addresses waiting youth who are most at-risk of exiting the foster care system without a permanent adult connection. Because of this program, six youth, ages 12-16, have established personal relationships with adults that can help them transition into adulthood. We’re already in the process of expanding CHOICE to more counties in Colorado with plans to implement CHOICE in the state of Utah!

**ENHANCED FAMILY SUPPORT**

Our work for families and children does not stop at an adoption finalization. We work to ensure that each youth’s connection with an adult lasts forever by supporting adoptive families before, during, and well after adoption finalization. Adoptive families often encounter challenges for years after adoption finalization, as their children move through different developmental stages. In addition to our extensive resource databases and specialized trainings, this year we launched our Online Learning Center to make training opportunities more accessible to families. We are now working to expand our reach so that we can empower all adoptive families in Colorado, Nevada, and Utah with the tools they need to create healing and attachment with their children.

We are excited about the transformative change that has impacted our work this past fiscal year and our plan to expand our reach - so that all children waiting in foster care can find the right family to help them achieve their highest potential.

Sincerely,

Lauren Arnold
Executive Director