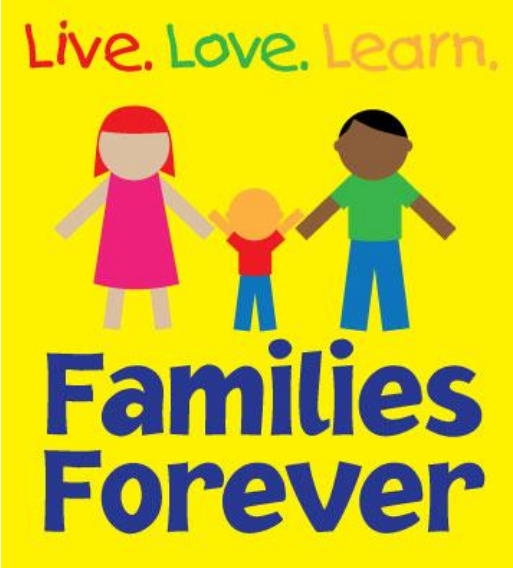

The South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division
Families Forever Adoption Fair

January 19, 2013
Simpsonville, SC

In 2008, South Carolina Bar, Young Lawyers Division (YLD) established a project entitled, Families Forever, which focuses on adoption awareness. It was recognized by the American Bar Association as the "**Most Outstanding Service Project**" in the country offered by Young Lawyers.

This year, in order to better serve South Carolina families, the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division (YLD) will hosting adoption fairs in **Charleston, SC (February 9)** and **Lexington, SC (March 2)**. You can learn more information about these programs at *www.scbar.org/adoption*.

By partnering with domestic, international, and public (Department of Social Services), adoption related organizations we increase adoption awareness and help build strong adoptive families.

ADOPTION FAIR AGENDA

10:00 – 10:30
Mix and Mingle with Agencies

10:30 – 11:15 Session 1
Workshop A- *Adoption 101*: Explore the process of different types of adoption and learn where to start
Workshop B- *Domestic Infant Adoption*: Explore the legal process of domestic adoption, the role of the attorney, requirements and the adoption process

11:15 – 11:30
Break

11:30– 12:15 Session 2
Workshop A- *DSS Adoption*: Learn about public adoption programs, domestic and foster care adoption, available children, requirements and procedures
Workshop B- *Financing Adoption*: Where there is a will, there is a way: Creative ways to finance your adoption

12:15 – 12:30
Break

12:30 – 1:15 Session 3
Workshop A- *International Adoption*: Requirements, accreditation and choosing a country
Workshop B - *Parent Panel*: A group of parents that have adopted children (some domestic, some international, and some DSS) will share their wisdom and experience with the process

EXHIBITORS

Adoption Advocacy

Adoption Advocacy was founded in 1999 with the mission of helping South Carolina families access the broadest range of adoption services possible. Just as each family is unique, so are the adoption needs of every family. Adoption Advocacy understands that a family has the right to select an agency and/or attorney that best meets their unique needs. Adoption Advocacy completes the home study services, family preparation, ICPC compliance, and the post placement supervision until finalization. The agency also reviews family profiles of clients that are seeking a domestic infant adoption. Adoption Advocacy offers services in three different categories: 1) Adoption from Foster Care in other states, 2) Domestic Adoption and 3) Interagency Coordination for International Adoption. It should be noted that Adoption Advocacy has a nationally recognized grant based program through the Dave Thomas Foundation and Adopt American for families that want to adopt a child age ten and older or a sibling group that is legally free and residing in foster care in over 23 states.

Lifeline Children's Services

Lifeline Children's Services is a full service, holistic orphan care ministry. We serve families who desire to share the gospel with Children in need. Our South Carolina office is located in Mt. Pleasant, SC and we are thrilled to serve families all over this great state! Whether you feel God calling you to adopt domestically, internationally, or perhaps to foster or support those who are, Lifeline can help you get involved in defending the fatherless and venerable child. To learn more, please visit us at www.lifelinechild.org.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Nightlight Christian Adoptions, founded in 1959, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) Hague accredited adoption agency. We provide international, domestic, and embryo adoption services to families living anywhere in the US as well as home study and post-placement services in the states in which we are licensed. In addition, Nightlight provides education, support groups, and counseling services for adoptive and birth families.

Christian World Adoptions

Christian World Adoption has been serving adoptive families for over 20 years and has facilitated adoptions from 19 different countries. Based on the founding principle that God is in charge of our agency and your adoption, CWA continues to make a priority of finding permanent homes for vulnerable children from some of the most difficult places. CWA is currently working with families adopting from China, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, although we are only accepting applications at present for Ethiopia and Russia. For information on Ethiopia, contact Emily Beddingfield at emilyb@cwa.org or (828) 693-7007 x 318. For information on Russia, contact Anya Rutherford at anyakr@cwa.org, or (828) 693-7007 x 304.

Raymond W. Godwin, Attorney at Law

Raymond W. Godwin, Esq. has been involved in children's issues for over 20 years and has two adopted daughters. He has been involved with over 2,000 adoptions, and in 2012, assisted with 66 baby placements in addition to representing foster adopt couples, numerous grandparents and step-parents in adoptions. Ray and his wife Laura have co-authored, The Complete Adoption Book, which focuses on a wide range of adoption plans including private adoption. If more information is needed, please contact my assistant, Becky Tompkins, at beckytompkins@scadopt.net.

SCDSS Region 1 Adoption

DSS places children who are unable to return home from foster care. They also offer services to birth parents who are considering adoption for their child or children. A large number of waiting children are considered "special needs" meaning they are older, minorities, have physical or emotional disabilities, or are sibling groups.

SC Youth Advocate Program

The South Carolina Youth Advocate Program (SCYAP)-Resource Family Program, is a private not for profit organization providing services to children and families in South Carolina for over 25 years. SCYAP is working in partnership with the SC Department of Social Services to recruit, license, re-license, and support foster resource parents in 10 Upstate counties in South Carolina. Additionally, SCYAP will facilitate placement options for DSS when children enter DSS care. SCYAP provides support to foster resource families through a variety of means; 24 hour crisis line manned by trained mental health professionals, license coordination and support by foster care professionals. SCYAP partners with the SC Foster Parents Association to recruit new resource foster families thru the FPA's Heartfelt Calling Program.

A Home For Me

Our mission is to provide a Christ-like, loving family to every child God entrusts to us. The Goal of A Home for Me is to ensure a safe, loving home for children in need by providing spiritual support, economic help, social enhancement, psychological intervention and physical protection. Areas of ministry through A Home for Me are Foster and Respite Care, Adoption, Wrap-Around Families, Independent Living, Support Groups, International Partnerships with Ethiopia and Haiti, Domestic Partnerships.

South Carolina Highway Patrol

Occupant Restraint /Child Passenger Safety- Concentrating in the use of the proper car seat , assisting parents in proper installation, and providing information as it regards to safety issues, recalls, and the law s regarding.

Together for Adoption

Together for Adoption exists to provide gospel-centered resources that magnify the adopting grace of God the Father in Christ Jesus and mobilize the church for global orphan care. We provide teaching, training, and resources to the local church on the theology of adoption as the proper foundation and motivation for orphan care ministry. Since the theology of adoption has implications for every aspect of orphan care ministry (adoption, foster care, international care, etc.), we are able to equip individuals,

churches, and organizations theologically however they are engaged in caring for orphaned and vulnerable children. Learn more about us at www.TogetherforAdoption.org.

The Bair Foundation

The Bair Foundation is a Christian, non-profit, foster care ministry dedicated to the mission of providing a safe, loving and nurturing home to children and teens who find themselves in foster care. The Bair Foundation is committed to providing foster homes for these kids. Our mission field is the sea of lost children and teens that often go unnoticed in our own cities and towns.

Carolina Center for Counseling & Behavioral Interventions, LLC

The Carolina Center for Counseling was founded to provide high quality services in an environment designed to put clients at ease. Located in Simpsonville, the Center provides services for children, adolescents, adults and families. The practice offers individual, group and family counseling. The clinicians have access to a wide array of resources and tools that will assist the client in maximizing their work and success here. The Center focuses on the client while working in response to specific medical direction and in conjunction with pastors, educators and families.

A Step Ahead Adoption Services

A Step Ahead Adoption Services (ASA) offers a unique service for person(s) who seeks to start or enhance their family through adoption. We will provide you with information, financial planning, adoption agency/attorney referrals, emotional support, and education as you journey this path. *ASA* consultants and the owner do not discriminate based on religion, ethnicity, marital status or sexual orientation. We assess prospective client families' potential success with our services based on our personal interviews with each prospective client family as well as the successful completion of a home assessment/home study. ASA is based out of Colorado with several contracted consultants in the Eastern, Central and Mountain time zones to meet the needs of families throughout the United States.

ASA enhances the information provided by any adoption support organization, social worker, adoption agency, or attorney. While not a child-placing agency or a home assessment provider, *ASA* is able to provide guidance and referrals to these professionals. We do not charge any fees to agencies for referring clients to them. We take pride in the depth of training we provide our families; training that equips them to face the challenges that arise in the adoption process. Because of the education we provide our clients, several agencies call *ASA* when they have birthmother situations before they call anyone else. We quickly turn around and send those cases to you. You have the opportunity to accept or decline any of these cases.

A special THANK YOU to Raymond W Godwin, Attorney at Law, PC for their donations and services.

QUESTIONS?

Please see any of the YLD Volunteers in one of the blue t-shirts. They'll be happy to help.