Madison Adoption Associates

Help for Adopted Children

Madison Adoption Associates works with the State Wide Adoption Network (SWAN) to provide Post Adoption Services for adopted children and their families. SWAN began providing funding for these services to create a stronger support network for adoptive families.

What are the Services?

- **Assessment**
  A social worker visits with a family in their home to help determine what Madison Adoption Associates services and community supports can be of help for their child. Together, the worker and family develop a specific plan to address the issues a child and family are facing.

- **Case Management**
  A social worker helps the family work on their plan in many different ways. The worker can visit the family monthly, accompany the family to meetings, locate resources or make phone calls for the family. The goal is to support the family in any way possible.

- **Respite**
  All parents need a break from time to time, especially if their child is struggling. Madison Adoption Associates works with a family to identify respite services that will benefit the child and family. Respite services can include resources to enable children to attend camp or therapeutic horseback riding lessons. They may also include traditional respite activities such as overnight stays or specialized childcare.

Who is Eligible?

All adopted children residing in the State of Pennsylvania are eligible for services once their adoption is legally completed. This includes children who were born in different states and even different countries.

How Can Families Access Services?

Adoptive families may call Madison Adoption Associates at 215-512-8020 to talk to a social worker to help determine if these services could be a help to their family. If interested in accessing services, families will call the Statewide Adoption Network at 800-585-SWAN (7926) for a brief phone interview. If eligible for services, SWAN will refer the family back to Madison Adoption Associates.
Other Services for Adoptive Families

- **Educational Workshops for Adoptive Parents**
  Madison Adoption Associates offers educational workshops throughout the year for adoptive parents. Topics include attachment issues, parenting, talking with children about adoption and others.

- **Cultural Celebrations**
  Madison Adoption Associates holds events throughout the year to give adoptive families and children the opportunity to celebrate their children’s birth culture together and to learn about the cultures of other lands. These celebrations include picnics for families and an annual Lunar New Year Celebration.

- **Adoption Search**
  Madison Adoption Associates can assist adoptees who were adopted through Madison Adoption Associates obtain more information about their adoption and locate their birth families when possible.

**Why Post Adoption Services?**

Madison Adoption Associates understands that families that are created through adoption have needs that are different than other families. Parents who have adopted a child of a different race have the added parenting task of helping their child develop a positive self-identity that includes feeling connected to their ethnic group. All adoptive parents have the added parenting task of helping their child develop a positive sense of self as a person who has been adopted. Adoptive families and adopted persons can feel isolated when they are not in contact with others who are also adopted. Some adoptive families, especially those who adopt children with special needs, are in need of supportive services to help them manage the sometimes-overwhelming needs of their children. Adopted persons need the direct support of Madison Adoption Associates if they decide to explore the circumstances of their adoption or attempt to make contact with their birth family.

Madison Adoption Associates’ Post Adoption Services provide the needed supports for the families it has helped to create and other adoptive families in the community.

If interested, please contact Leonette Boiarski at Leonette@MadisonAdoption.org.

**What other Services does Madison Adoption Associates provide?**

Madison Adoption Associates provides adoption services for children waiting for families in Bulgaria, China, the Philippines and the PA foster care system.

You can find out more about our programs at www.madisonadoption.org