

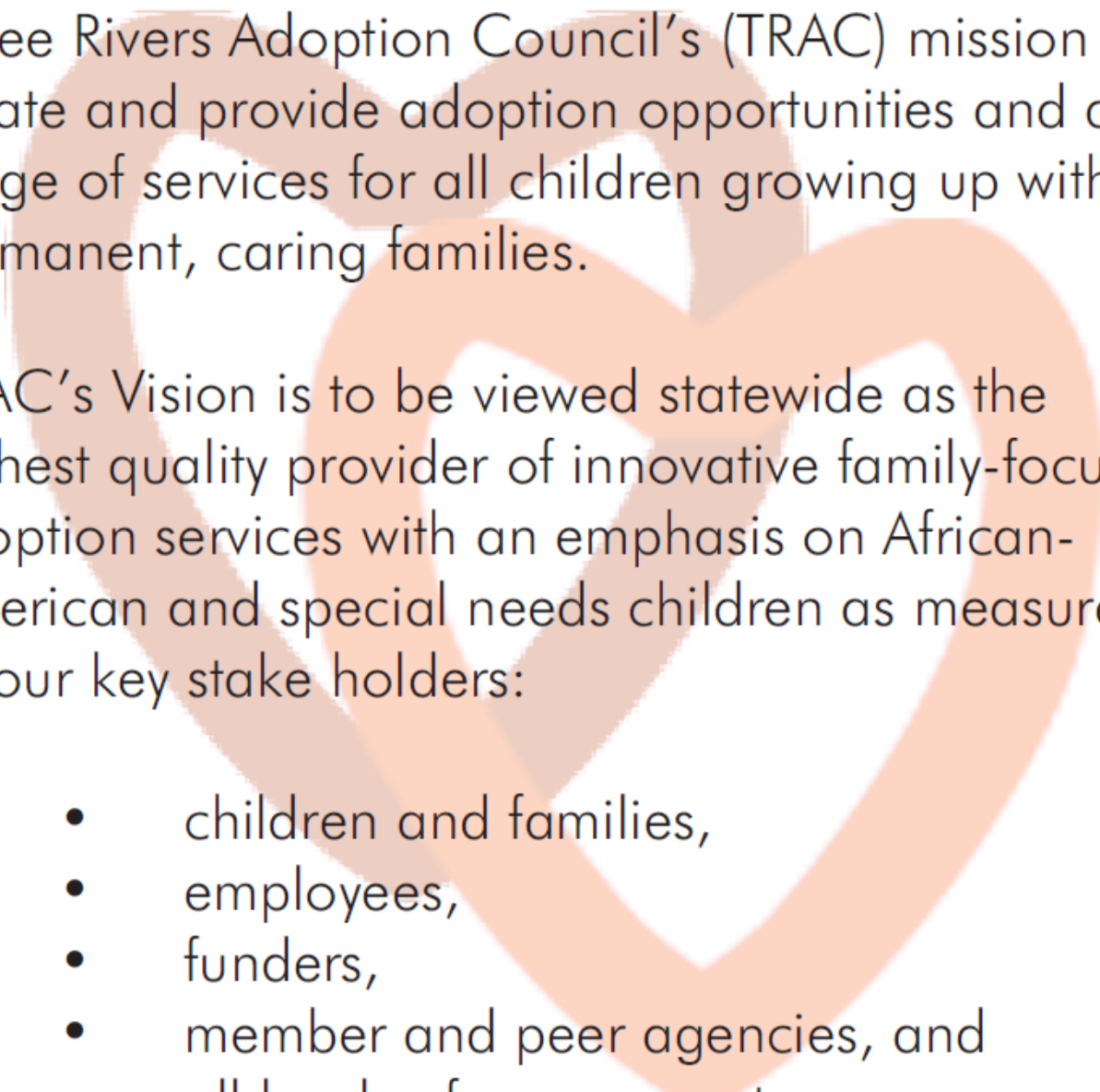


United Way Contributor Choice #324
Pennsylvania West Combined Federal Campaign # 25198



Three Rivers Adoption Council

because every child needs a family



Three Rivers Adoption Council's (TRAC) mission is to create and provide adoption opportunities and a range of services for all children growing up without permanent, caring families.

TRAC's Vision is to be viewed statewide as the highest quality provider of innovative family-focused adoption services with an emphasis on African-American and special needs children as measured by our key stake holders:

- children and families,
- employees,
- funders,
- member and peer agencies, and
- all levels of government



About TRAC

Since its inception over 30 years ago, TRAC has worked so that no child will have to face a life without permanency.

TRAC was founded by adoptive parents and professionals and established as a volunteer staffed project of the Junior League of Pittsburgh. Today, TRAC is a United Way Agency that serves as the central resource for permanency information, family recruitment, placement of special needs children, post-permanency support, education and referral services.

Adhering to the permanency standards of the Child Welfare League of America, TRAC is a multi-service agency serving children who cannot remain with their birth families and the resource families who provide these children permanency. Primarily, the children served fall into several categories. More than half are African American; many are older and/or part of a sibling group who need to stay together; and others have emotional, physical, or mental disabilities. Most of these children have experienced multiple moves in the foster care system and a high percentage have been victims of abuse and neglect. TRAC works with public and private agencies to implement cooperative, cost effective programs to meet the placement and post-placement needs of these children.

TRAC provides recruitment, information and referral services, counseling, family preparation, post adoption services, and parent and professional education services, to achieve and maintain maximum permanency opportunities for children and their families.

TRAC consists of the following programs:

- Adoption Resources
- Black Adoption Services
- Family Connections

Finding and supporting permanent resources for waiting children is essential. The failure to do so constitutes a great potential loss to society because children who grow up without families are at risk throughout their lives to become involved with the criminal justice, mental health and homeless populations. That's why TRAC believes so strongly that EVERY CHILD NEEDS A FAMILY.

because every child needs a family

Adoption Resources



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

BAS Recruitment & Retention:

Conducted **214** recruitment contacts.

Provided information/assistance to **123** African American families.

Conducted **59** information meetings with **91** participants.

Business Recruitment:

conducted **62** business recruiting contacts.

Ministry Outreach Initiative (since 1998)

101 Churches actively collaborate with the Initiative.

281 families have been recruited.

TRAC Exchange:

Assisted in the placement of **7,226** children since 1979.

Provided services to **5,006** families since 1979.

In 2011 served **836** children and families, and provided **3,243** matches.

Hosted the *Celebration of Families* matching event at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium for over **500** participants.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids:

Provided CSR services to **24** children.

10 children were either matched or placed.

13 is the average age of CSR children who were either matched or placed.

Of the CSR children featured on "The Waiting Child" series that airs on KDKA **40%** have found permanent homes.

Heart Gallery (Since 2005):

11 children featured in the Heart Gallery.

63% of children featured in the Heart Gallery have found a permanent home.

Adoption Resources was established to increase public awareness about special needs adoption and bring waiting children together with permanent families.

Black Adoption Services (BAS): Recruitment & Retention

BAS distinguishes itself from other recruitment efforts by its focus on the particular cultural values and needs of the African American community. Because of the disproportionate number of African American children in foster care, this program advocates specifically for the adoption of these children.

Business Recruitment

In an effort to identify potential families, TRAC's Adoption Resources program works with businesses within Pennsylvania to distribute information on permanency options for children in care. By building business partnerships, TRAC can have every community member and organization help find permanent homes for children.

Ministry Outreach Initiative

The Ministry Outreach Initiative seeks to collaborate with churches and faith based organizations across Western Pennsylvania to broaden the awareness of the need for families to raise children currently in the foster care system. The mission of the Initiative is to work in tandem with the mission of the religious community - to serve those in need, to protect those who are vulnerable, and to use one's life and faith to promote healing and wholeness to all those encountered. The Initiative seeks continually to build strong mutually engaging relationships with families and their congregations to bring forward well informed and supported individuals and couples to provide homes for waiting children.

The TRAC Exchange - TRAC's Matching Department

Committed to the goal of providing children with as much exposure to waiting families, Adoption Resources operates the TRAC Exchange. The Exchange is a unique tool used to facilitate matches between TRAC's waiting families and the children who need them.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Specializing in child specific recruitment of older and hard to place children, TRAC has partnered with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to spearhead the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program in Western Pennsylvania. This relatively new effort will use highly creative methods to identify families for these waiting children.

The Pittsburgh Heart Gallery

The Heart Gallery was originated by Diane Granito, an Adoption Recruiter for the state of New Mexico, and opened for the first time in March, 2001. Used as a Child Specific and general recruiting tool, the gallery's objective is to capture the essence of those children who prove to be more difficult to place. TRAC has enlisted the time and talent of many area photographers to help capture these children. This year TRAC thanks the Ron Richards Studio for their commitment to this project and to the children it serves. The Heart Gallery is a traveling exhibit that is able to be seen throughout the the Pittsburgh Community.

We serve the children whose

Black Adoption Services (BAS)

Families for Children

Black Adoption Services began as a recruitment effort to bring forth African American families to adopt African American children who were over represented in the child welfare system. In 1988, BAS was expanded to include licensed adoption and foster care programs to support African American families through out the adoption process. Over the years, BAS has provided culturally sensitive support to families from pre-service training, through the homestudy process, placement and eventual finalization.

BAS was later expanded to provide additional services such as preparation of child profiles, emergency foster care and respite services.

Family Training

Every family beginning their adoption journey must start with pre-service training that will prepare them for what lies ahead. BAS offers numerous opportunities throughout the year for families to receive the 24 hours required for certification. All training curriculum is approved by the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) and will cover such topics as; Who the Children Are, Who the Parents Are, Working With Birth Parents, Grief and Loss, and Parenting Skills to list a few. At the completion of pre-service training all potential parents are better prepared for the joys and challenges adopting and fostering will bring.

Family Profile Services

After pre-service training a BAS Profile Writer will guide a potential family through the family profile process. At the end of the evaluation process each family is presented with a culturally appropriate well crafted profile that will be used to identify the child that will best fit with the family. Once the profile is completed the approved profile is transferred to TRAC's Matching department.

Placement Services

Once a child has been identified, a BAS Caseworker is assigned to supervise the placement from the initial visit to finalization. BAS Caseworkers are well trained and can provide the kind of support that is necessary to see a placement to a successful finalization. Families become very close with their BAS Caseworker and often keep in touch long after finalization occurs.

Child Profile Preparation

The child profile program has been a component of BAS: Families for Kids since 1992. Each child within the custody of a county Children and youth Services agency with a court ordered goal of adoption is required to have a completed child profile. The purpose of the child profile is to provide an accurate account of the child's background and placement history reflecting the uniqueness and personality of each child. Additionally, the profile maintains a chronology of life events for the child including birth family history as well as placement activities.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

29 families have completed pre-service training.

BAS completed 34 family profiles.

BAS placed 27 children into permanent homes.

9.3 years is the average age of a child placed during this fiscal year.

BAS finalized 12 adoptions.

BAS completed 153 child profiles.

Since 1988

BAS has placed 244 families.

33 disruptions have been reported during the same span.

A random sampling of 45 finalized families were contacted and reported:

89% of the children that they adopted have had NO involvement with the criminal system.

86% of the children adopted improved their academic performance since placement.

95% of the children placed are performing at an average or above average level in school.

pictures aren't on anybody's dresser*.

Family Connections

Family Connections provides mental health services for families built by foster care and adoption and for children who have lived some portion of their lives in the child welfare system. Family Connections encompasses child preparation services, post-permanency services, family and professional education, and therapeutic support. The ultimate goal of Family Connections is to ensure that children placed in permanent families do not return to the child welfare system.

Child Preparation

Child preparation has been a part of TRAC since the late 1980s. Now a unit of service through the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), TRAC has been able to reach children and families on a much deeper and extensive level than ever before. The program is also able to address the permanency needs of children whose goal is not only adoption, but also reunification, SPLC (subsidized permanent legal custodianship), ILP (independent living placement), Guardianship, and so on. TRAC recognized that not all children have the goal of adoption, but they all deserve permanency.

Post-Permanency

Case assessment, case management, respite and support group referrals make up post-permanency services provided by Family Connections. These services are all supported by the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN). A family assessment is completed within one month of referral and followed by five months of direct case management. Service can include in-home therapy, advocacy for the family in community settings and consultation and referral with other professionals serving the family. Parents are also encouraged to participate in one of the 25 support groups existing throughout Western PA.

Respite is another much relied upon component of Post-permanency. This service provides families a much needed break to eliminate burn out and keep the family unit intact. Available options include but are not limited to: emergency respite, planned respite, specialized camps.

Adoption Focused Mental Health Services

The journey of adoption can impact social, emotional and regulatory development and influence the lives it touches in ways not often addressed by many mental health professionals. The Family Connections staff are both experienced at understanding and identifying issues associated with adoption and broadly trained to address them. Some of the areas Family Connections can help with include: pre-adoption family counseling, parent-child attachment, family therapy, identity, independent living. Some of the treatment options available include: child-centered play therapy, individual psychotherapy, attachment therapy, group therapy, child-focused family therapy.

Education Opportunities

TRAC provides a variety of parent and professional education series including, but not limited to, specialized training in such areas as sexual abuse, separation and attachment. Along with its consortium of member agencies, TRAC's highly trained staff also presents at numerous local, state and national conferences. TRAC also hosted its Speaker Series addressing ways to heal the hurt child. Two day-long conferences were offered throughout the year.

Ada Tessaro Memorial

The Ada Tessaro Memorial Library houses a specialized collection of books, journals, article reprints, and videos touching on all aspects of adoption and foster care. It is a comprehensive resource of materials that may be used on-site or checked out for study. Library materials are available to the public and are used by families, students, and professionals in many disciplines.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

Completed **55** family assessments.

113 Children received Child Preparation services.

53 families received case management services.

24 families and children have received Adoption Focused Mental Health Services.

38 families received consultation and referral services.

We serve the children whose

Prayer for the Children

by Ina Hughs

Author of the book: A Prayer For Children

We pray for the children
who sneak popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those
who stare at photographers from behind barbed
wire,
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of
sneakers,
who never "counted potatoes,"
who are born in places where we wouldn't be
caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for the children
who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.

And we pray for those
who never get dessert,
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who can't find bread to steal,
who don't have rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
whose monsters are real.

nightmares come in the day*.

"Thank You" to Our Donors

Foundation Support

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Individual and Corporate Donors

\$5,000 +

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Eaton Corporation
Tammy Foster (UW)
Giant Eagle Foundation
Linda and Glenn Graner (UW)
Massey Charitable Trust

\$1,000 to \$4,999

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Gavin and Anna O'Connor
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Linda Synder
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Trust Franklin Press
Karen Velazquez

* Board Member

"UW" following a name indicates the gift was made in part or in total through the United Way of Allegheny County.

Awards & Affiliations

TRAC's Awards

Recipient of the Adoption 2002 Excellence Award given by President Clinton - 2000.

Honored as a Congressional Angel in Adoption presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCAI) - 2003.

Presented with the Faith Based Recruiting Award at the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Conference. - 2004.

Honored as a Congressional Angel in Adoption presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCAI) - 2005.

Honored as a Congressional Angel in Adoption presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCAI) - 2010.

Affiliations:

TRAC is a member of the following organizations:

Adoption Exchange Association
National Black Child Development Institute
North American Council on Adoptable Children

Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network
United Way
Voice for Adoption

We serve the children who live and

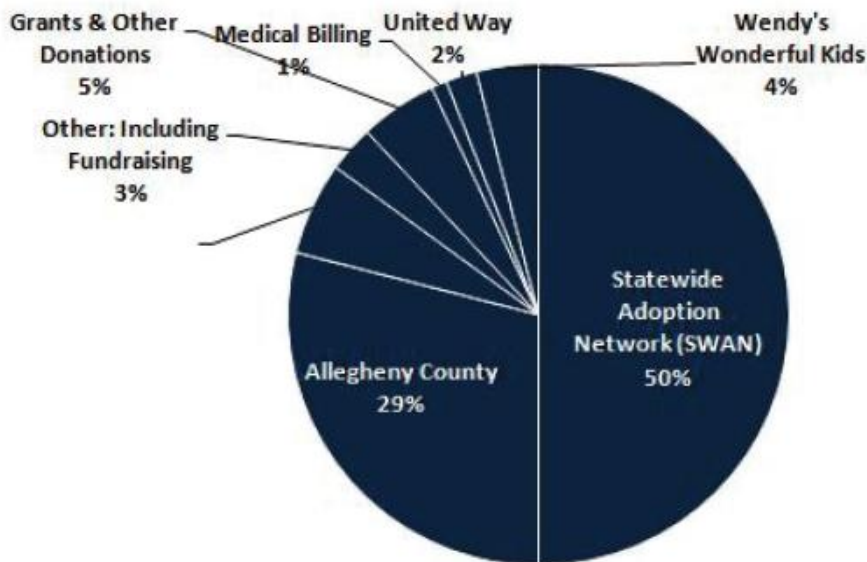
Funding

Three Rivers Adoption Council (TRAC) is funded by contracts through Allegheny County Department of Human Services, The Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), The United Way of Allegheny County, private foundations, corporations and individual donations. We recognize with gratitude and appreciation our supporters who enable us to promote permanency for children

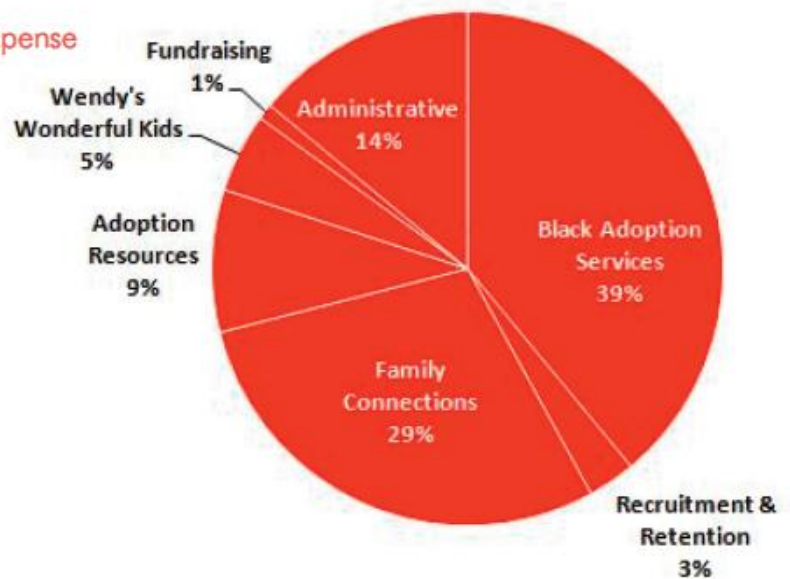
A Note from the Treasurer

An audited financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 is available. A copy will be provided upon request.

2011 Revenue



2011 Expense



A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

move, but have no being*.

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Sitko, Rodella & Bruno, LPC

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Denise O'Connor, Secretary
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Adoptions From The Heart
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Commonwealth Adoptions International, Inc. (CAI)
Council on Adoptable Children (COAC)
Every Child, Inc.
Family Adoption Center
Families International Adoption Agency
International Assistance Group
Lutheran Service Society
Professional Family Care Services
Project STAR
Transcultural Adoptive Families

PA Counties Served

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Armstrong County Children & Youth Services
Beaver County Children & Youth Services
Bucks County Children, Youth and Families
Butler County Children & Youth Services
Cambria County Children & Youth Services
Chester County Children, Youth and Families
Clarion County Children & Youth Services
Delaware County Children, Youth and Families
Erie County Children & Youth Services
Fayette County Children & Youth Services
Greene County Children & Youth Services
Indiana County Children & Youth Services
Lawrence County Children Services
Montgomery County Children, Youth and Families
Philadelphia County Department of Human Services
Venango County Children & Youth Services
Washington County Children and Youth Services
Westmoreland County Children's Bureau

Founding Organization

The Junior League of Pittsburgh

We serve the children who will grab the hand

TRAC Staff

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Chief Executive Officer

Catherine Bogats
Director of Finance

Lindsey Totten
Director of Development & Communications

Management Team

Sherry Anderson, MSW/LSW
Program Director

Joan Barden
Coordinator of Child & Family Profiles

Ja-Neen Jones
Adoption Resources Supervisor

Kelly Sagel
Adoption Coordinator - Matching Services

Jennie Thye
Systems Administrator

Stacia Todd, M.Ed.
SWAN Services Coordinator

Direct Service Team

Whitney Boffo
Family Therapist

Matthew Case
Caseworker

Melanie Koenig
Profile Writer

Carolyn Kovalchick
Profile Writer

Khalilah Martin
Child Prep & Profile Specialist

Susan Mattay
Child Prep & Profile Specialist

Ebony McQueen-Harris, MSW
Profile Writer

Jennifer Rigler
Program Assistant

Candice Robinson
Program Assistant

Kelly Ryan-Schmidt, LCSW
Family Therapist

Danielle Sefchok
Child Preparation Specialist

Jordan Shoenberger
Profile Writer

Tara Weiss
Child Preparation Specialist

of anybody kind enough to offer it*.

307 Fourth Avenue, Suite 310, Pittsburgh,
PA 15222

Three Rivers Adoption Council



Too many children and teens await permanency.

25,000 teens graduate from the child welfare system each year. Many of whom will live a life of homelessness and criminal activity.

Financial assistance for adoption is available.

You can adopt if you are a loving adult willing to make a lifelong commitment to a child.

It's never too late to make a difference in the life of a waiting child.

Make an informed decision.
Get your questions answered.

Call

412-471-8722

or visit us on the web!

www.3riversadopt.org

Three Rivers Adoption Council

307 Fourth Avenue, Suite 310, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Funded in part by Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth & Families and the United Way of Allegheny County.

* adapted from Ina J. Hughs A Prayer for Children