

## **Schedule at a Glance**

### **Friday, July 31st**

Registration	9:00-9:30
Breakout session 1	9:30-10:30
Breakout session 2	10:40-11:40
Lunch on your own	11:40-1:10
Breakout session 3	1:10-2:10
Breakout session 4	2:20-3:20
Breakout session 5	3:30-4:30
Awards Banquet (Eclipse A) (Semi-formal dress)	5:30-7:00

### **Saturday, August 1st**

Registration	9:00-9:30
Keynote address by Troy Dunn	9:30-10:30
Birth Parent Panel (Eclipse B)	10:45-12:00
Lunch (Eclipse A)	12:00-1:00
Breakout session 1	1:00-2:00
Breakout session 2	2:10-3:10
Breakout session 3	3:20-4:20
Closing session and raffle (Eclipse B)	4:30-4:45



## Sessions at a glance

R O O M	<b>Session 1</b> 9:30-10:30	<b>Session 2</b> 10:40- 11:40	<b>Session 3</b> 1:10- 2:10	<b>Session 4</b> 2:20- 3:20	<b>Session 5</b> 3:30- 4:30
B	Checking the Box (CEU)	Openness (EDCredit)	Why Not Me? (EDCredit) (CEU)	Adoption Process (EDCredit)	Impact of Infertility (CEU)
C	Adoption Advocacy	Considering Foster Care	Marketing 101	Intercountry Adoption	School Presentations
D	Adoptive Parenting (CEU)		Partnering with the Local Media to Promote Adoption	Power of Positive Parenting Part I	Power of Positive Parenting Part II
A&E		What We Wish Our Adoptive Couple Knew	Birth Father Panel	Adoptive Couple Panel (EDCredit)	Getting the Whole Story Panel
H		Story Time		African American Hair Care	
G	FSA Leadership Forum	Why Not Me? (EDCredit) (CEU)	What Are You Waiting For?	Openness (EDCredit)	
Z E P H	Courageous Conversation About Transracial Adoption	Understanding Racial Identity Development	The Power of Racial Stereotyping	Our Kids Deserve Us on Their Side – Advocating for Our Kids of Color	What is White Privilege, and Why Does My Child Not Have It?
TW 1-2	United by Love	What's Next? Living Life Post-Adoption	Being a Birth Mother is Just One Part of Who I Am	Husbands of Birth Mothers	Step by Step Through Your Pregnancy & Placement
TW3-4			Adoption Advocacy: Sharing Your Passion for Adoption	Navigating the Difficult Conversations	What Adopted Children Need from Their Birth Parents



## TROY DUNN

Troy Dunn has been granting wishes for families in search of loved ones for nearly 20 years. Beginning in 1990 with his own mother's search for her biological medical history, he created an organization which soon spread to all 50 States and 32 Countries and has reunited tens of thousands of people. He credits the majority of his organization's growth to tremendous media coverage throughout his career, having reunited families on over 500 national tv appearances on virtually every morning talk show, daytime talk show and primetime news program from Dr Phil, Oprah, The Today Show and Good Morning America to Sixty Minutes, Barbara

Walters and the list goes on.

In 2002, he sold his original company to Ancestry.com and turned his complete attention to the care and support of his 7 year old daughter's battle with cancer. She went into remission and he went back into reuniting families by launching TroyTheLocator.com.

Television came calling again but this time offering him his OWN show - "The Locator," which has enjoyed high ratings from the start.

Troy has been married to his high school sweetheart Jennifer, for 21 years. They have 7 children (the oldest currently serving a mission in Moscow Russia, the youngest is 4) and reside in Ft Myers Florida. Troy is a member of The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints and is currently serving as Bishop, for the second time!

BIRTH PARENT PANEL (Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)  
Led by Melinda Buchanan

**Lauren Nelson** placed her beautiful daughter in 2005 with a wonderful family. She is currently married to an amazing man whom she describes as her rock! She is a stay at home mommy. She now has a little girl herself who is 2 1/2. Lauren says that she now realizes the importance of motherhood and will never take it for granted. She currently lives in Cedar City and is enjoying being a part of a wonderful family!

**Martina Muir** placed a baby boy 14 years ago into the arms of a loving couple. Since that time, she has become a strong advocate for adoption. She enjoys serving on the FSA planning committee, and works with the Centerville office of LDS Family Services as the Post-Placement Coordinator, giving support to birthmothers after they have placed a child for adoption. Martina is married to her best friend and has 4 beautiful children (2 boys and 2 girls). She enjoys reading, writing, computers, singing, dancing, traveling, playing games, and homeschooling her children. She loves life and strives to help others love it, too.

**Lucy Clark** placed a precious baby boy for adoption this past January through LDS Family Services. She has a wonderful relationship with him and his parents, and she loves the visits and pictures she receives from them. Since placing her baby, Lucy has enjoyed volunteering with LDS Family Services and Families Supporting Adoption, particularly as a member of the conference planning committee. Lucy works as a full time flight attendant, which means she sees a lot of hotel rooms! In her spare time, Lucy enjoys reading, running, blogging, and spending time with family and friends.

In 1998, **Ian Adams** and his girlfriend at the time placed their baby girl for adoption through LDS Family Services. Ian grew up in Salt Lake County, and graduated from the University of Utah. He currently works as a parole officer on the Sex Offender Unit for the State of Utah. Recently he and his fiancé Sarah Fuller have been working feverishly to move into their new home. Ian is the father of three children, aged five, two, and one years old. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, politics, and technology.

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Sessions at a glance**

<b>R O O M</b>	<b>Session 1</b> 1:00-2:00	<b>Session 2</b> 2:10-3:10	<b>Session 3</b> 3:20-4:20
<b>B</b>	Affording Adoption (EDCredit)	Doctrine of Adoption	Why FSA?
<b>C</b>	Coping With a Failed Placement	Adoption in the Digital Age	What Are You Waiting For?
<b>D</b>	Ages and Stages (CEU)	Adoption and Schools	Lifebooks
<b>A&amp;E</b>	Book Review	Intercountry Adoption Panel	Foster Care Panel
<b>H</b>	Story Time		Back to School Adoption Skills
<b>G</b>	Adoption Process (EDCredit)	FSA Leadership Forum	
<b>ZEPH</b>	What You Choose When You Choose Transracial Adoption	Transracial Adoption Panel	Courageous Conversations About Transracial Adoption Open Forum
<b>TW 1&amp;2</b>	Deciding Who, When and How To Tell	Telling Your Children Your Adoption Story	Letting Go and Moving Forward
<b>TW 3&amp;4</b>	Uniting as a Birth Family	Desires, Expectations and Disappointments	

**Friday, Session #1  
(9:30-10:30)**

**Checking the Box**

*Dr. Donaldson*

*(Staff Continuing Education Credit)*

One of the most difficult parts of the adoption application is the "Preference Checklist," a simple sheet of paper on which you and your spouse decide what medical and physical conditions are acceptable. But how do you decide what box to check when you don't really understand what it means? In this class, an experienced medical professional will help you translate some of the most confusing categories - drug, alcohol, and tobacco exposure and STDs - and what those can mean for the short- and long-term future of the child you adopt.

**Adoption Advocacy**

*Lindsey Redfern and Alison Lowe*

"The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities." -Steven Covey

Even 'busy people' can be adoption advocates. Come learn how! Let us give you practical, do-able ideas that even busy soccer moms and CEO's can fit into their schedule. This interactive brainstorming class will be the 'can't miss' session of the conference and promises to provide attendees with optimism and confidence about successfully and efficiently promoting adoption.

**Adoptive Parenting**

*Marty Shannon, LCSW*

*(Staff Continuing Education Credit)*

This workshop will help adoptive parents understand what adoption brings to a child's development. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of helpful ways to address adoption issues that are part of raising children who were adopted. Core issues in adoption influence normal child development. Topics such as how to talk with your child about adoption and how to balance birth family relationships will be discussed.

**FSA Leadership Forum**

*Phil and Valerie Hochheiser, FSA National Executive Chairs*

*(FSA Chairs required) Session repeats Saturday, Session #2*

Here is a chance for region and chapter chairs to find out more about the new organization of FSA. Ask questions and get information about being involved with FSA leadership in your area. Speak with other chapter and regional chairs to find out great ideas to help your chapter succeed! (Required workshop session for all regional and chapter chairs)

**Courageous Conversation About Transracial Adoption**

*Curtis & Melody Linton*

Get real about “race” in transracial adoption. How will the racial experience of our adopted kids of color differ from our own racial experience? What is race, racism, and institutionalized racism, and how will that enter our transracial home? Engage in a safe and courageous conversation that addresses race honestly and openly. This session will set the stage for the transracial adoption strand by helping us to reach common understanding of the racial issues impacting us and our children.

**United by Love**

*Tamra Hyde*

Birth families from across the nation are united here by their love of children and adoption. We have a common experience and a common bond, something unique to this group of people. Come share the love!

**Friday, Session #2**  
**(10:40-11:40)**

**Openness**

*Kent and Charity Goodrich*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

This class will discuss the following; the various levels of open adoptions, the benefits to each of the parties involved, address concerns and fears, and identify specific tips and guidelines that can be used as couples structure and develop healthy, lasting relationships with birth families.

**Considering Foster Care**

*Heidi Naylor*

Does foster care scare you? Do you have a lot of questions? Let me share how foster care changed my life. I'd like to dispel the myths, walk you through the process, and help you decide if foster care is right for you and your family. Worried you'll get too attached? "If you're listening, if you're awake to the poignant beauty of the world, your heart breaks regularly. In fact, your heart is made to break; its purpose is to burst open again and again so that it can hold ever more wonders." - Andrew Harvey. Your kids may already be here and waiting for you to find them.

**What We Wish Our Adoptive Couple Knew**

*Tamra Hyde and Valerie Mechling*

These experienced birth mothers discuss some of the things they wish their adoptive couple had known that would have made life just a little easier. Bring your questions!

**Story Time**

*Never, Never, Never Will She Stop Loving You*

*Read by Tamara Castaneda, birth mother*

**Why Not Me? Bitterness to Blessings:**

*Summer Morris, M.Ed, LPC*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

*(Staff Continuing Education Credit)*

Trying to cope with the impact of infertility can be challenging and heart-breaking. We often find ourselves asking the question, "Why me?" This kind of thinking can steal and even destroy self-esteem and purpose. In this class, we will discuss a new paradigm of thinking, as well as finding purpose so we can begin to see ourselves and our experience in an entirely different way.

**Understanding Racial Identity Development**

*Michele Johnson*

What are the stages our transracially adopted children will experience as they develop their own unique racial identity? Explore and understand the stages of racial awareness as kids of color grow up, especially in White families. Learn what to expect as kids come to recognize their

own racial identities, how to effectively communicate about your children's discovery of race, and how their identity differs from your own. Discover how to support your children in seeing their racial identity as an asset rather than as a deficit, especially when they are growing up in primarily White neighborhoods, schools, extended families, and churches.

### **What's Next? Living Life Post-Adoption**

*Susan Hawkins*

No matter where you are in life, you'll always have the need to set new goals and get focused. This session helps you take a fresh look at where you're headed and where you want life to take you.

### **Friday, Session #3 (1:10-2:10)**

#### **Why Not Me? Bitterness to Blessings**

*Summer Morris, M.Ed, LPC*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

*(Staff Continuing Education Credit)*

Trying to cope with the impact of infertility can be challenging and heart-breaking. We often find ourselves asking the question, "Why me?" This kind of thinking can steal and even destroy self-esteem and purpose. In this class, we will discuss a new paradigm of thinking, as well as finding purpose so we can begin to see ourselves and our experience in an entirely different way.

## **Marketing 101**

*Joshua Steimle*

## **Partnering With Local Media to Promote Adoption**

*Nancy Sutton, Bonneville Media*

*(A member of each chapter's FSA board should attend this class. If no members are at the national conference, the FSA advisor should attend)*

This session will teach FSA members how to successfully submit FSA Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to their local TV and radio stations. Additional discussion will include maximizing broadcaster relationships to increase local media attention for FSA adoption issues, and other ideas for utilizing the adoption-advocacy PSAs. FSA members will be given access to the necessary resources to make it happen in their geographic regions.

## **Birth Father Panel**

*Led by Mitch Hirano, LMFT*

Hear the perspectives of birth fathers who were involved in placing their child for adoption.

## **What Are You Waiting For?**

*Kelly Grove*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

Did you know that there are currently 132 MILLION orphans in the world? That is half the population of the United States. These children, both domestic and abroad, desperately need the love and care only a family can give. Could you love one of them? This class teaches couples how to find the children who need forever families and how to adopt them. We will talk about the best agencies, low cost adoption options, domestic and international adoption, and special needs babies and children. Heavenly Father cares deeply about these orphans and needs couples like you. Just as you may be waiting to be chosen to adopt, there are millions of little ones waiting for someone to choose them.

## **The Power of Racial Stereotyping**

*Darron T. Smith*

How does both positive and negative racial stereotyping affect our transracially adopted kids? And, how do the race-based things people say about our children affect us, their parents, family, and community? Understand the concept of *Stereotype Threat*, and how messages that

assume positive and negative traits purely based on race impact our children. As our kids of color grow up within primarily White communities, they will be subject to these stereotypes from teachers, friends, youth leaders, the media, and even family. Learn how to counteract these stereotypes and empower our children so that they can feel secure with uniqueness and value their transracial identities.

### **Being a Birth Mother is Just One Part of Who I Am**

*Led by Melinda Buchanan. Panel: Sherri Barker, Tera Miller, Amy Smith, & Rebecca Whale, birth parents*

Our adoption experience is amazing and sometimes overwhelming. These birth mothers discuss how adoption is an important part of their lives, but how they have maintained balance with the other important parts too.

### **Adoption Advocacy: Sharing Your Passion for Adoption**

*Lindsey Redfern & Amanda Phipps*

You feel passionately about children and adoption. You want to share your experiences. We want to show you how. And we want to hear your success stories as well!

**Friday, Session #4  
(2:20-3:20)**

**Adoption Process**

*Tammy Squires, LCSW*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

You have finally made the decision to start the adoption process. The road can be confusing, uncertain, and emotional. This workshop will outline the steps involved in adopting from application to finalization.

**Intercountry Adoption**

*Lois Martino*

Learn the basic processes and considerations regarding adopting outside the United States. What to look for if adopting from an orphanage will be covered.

**Power of Positive Parenting Part I**

*Kathy Andrizzi*

*Note: Part One will focus on "Traps To Avoid As Parents". Part Two will focus on "What To Do When Children Misbehave" and "What To Do When Children Behave Well."*

As they have in the past, parents today are still asking: How can I deal with my child's tantrums? How can I get my kids to do their chores promptly and without complaining? What can I do to help my family members live together more harmoniously? The book *The Power of Positive Parenting* helps parents to resolve such problems. Whether parents realize it or not, they, by virtue of being parents, provide most of the consequences of a child's behavior during the child rearing years. Parents tend to manage their children's behavior in ways they hope will be both effective and expedient. Though their intentions are almost always good, parents also tend to manage behavior in negative, coercive ways. And why not? That's how most of them were parented! In the book, *The Power of Positive Parenting*, Glenn Latham discusses non-coercive positive parenting skills. All of these skills have been shown through scientific study to be effective. Kathy Andrizzi (Glenn Latham's niece) will present concepts from Dr. Latham's work; both *The Power of Positive Parenting* and *Christlike Parenting*.

**Adoptive Couple Panel**

*Moderated by Sandy Smith, LCSW*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

Learn from adoptive couples' experiences with openness, legal issues, family relations, and raising adopted children

**African American Hair Care**

Utilize this hands-on workshop to learn how to properly care for African American hair. Become familiar with techniques and styles that will help you keep your child looking beautiful!

### **Openness**

*Kent and Charity Goodrich*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

This class will discuss the following; the various levels of open adoptions, the benefits to each of the parties involved, address concerns and fears, and identify specific tips and guidelines that can be used as couples structure and develop healthy, lasting relationships with birth families.

### **Our Kids Deserve Us on Their Side – Advocating for Our Kids of Color**

*Jennifer Mayer-Glenn*

How can we as White parents successfully protect and raise our kids of color, when we do not share the same racial and societal experiences? This session will provide parents with the understanding and tools they need to address racial issues our kids may face related to school, community, church, and extended family. Even if we do not share our children's racial identities and experiences, we can become their well-informed advocates as they face racial prejudice and inequities. Learn how to empower your kids of color by helping them understand where they come from and who they are—both culturally and racially—within this powerfully diverse world.

### **Husbands of Birth Mothers**

*Led by Martina Muir*

*Panel: Brent Barker, Doug Dingman & Cory Smith,*

Husbands of birth mothers share how they felt first hearing about their wives' adoption experiences and their reaction, and life being married to a birth mother. Telling your adoption story doesn't always have a fairytale ending, and these husbands discuss the difficult moments and how they handled them.

### **Navigating the Difficult Conversations**

*Kristi Wight & Angie Rhodes*

Adoption relationships change and mature over time, but it is essential for birth parents and adoptive parents to keep the line of communication open after placement, especially during the rough times.

**Friday, Session #5**  
**(3:30-4:30)**

**Impact of Infertility on Marriage**

*Summer Morris, M.Ed, LPC*  
*(Staff Continuing Education Credit)*

We all know how infertility has affected us personally. But, do we know how it has really affected our spouses, and in what ways? In this humorous and informative class, we will discuss how infertility impacts marriage, talk about basic gender differences in coping with infertility, and find ways to understand our spouse's perception more clearly.

**School Presentations**

*Lindsey Redfern and Myra Gilmore*

School presentations are vital to educating the youth in our communities about adoption as an option to unplanned pregnancy. In this class, you will get an overview of the Utah Adoption Council presentation curriculum currently being given in schools. We will also discuss how to get similar presentations into schools in your area.

**Power of Positive Parenting Part II**

*Kathy Andrizzi*

*Note: Part One will focus on "Traps To Avoid As Parents". Part Two will focus on "What To Do When Children Misbehave" and "What To Do When Children Behave Well."*

As they have in the past, parents today are still asking: How can I deal with my child's tantrums? How can I get my kids to do their chores promptly and without complaining? What can I do to help my family members live together more harmoniously? The book *The Power of Positive Parenting* helps parents to resolve such problems. Whether parents realize it or not, they, by virtue of being parents, provide most of the consequences of a child's behavior during the child rearing years. Parents tend to manage their children's behavior in ways they hope will be both effective and expedient. Though their intentions are almost always good, parents also tend to manage behavior in negative, coercive ways. And why not? That's how most of them were parented! In the book, *The Power of Positive Parenting*, Glenn Latham discusses non-coercive positive parenting skills. All of these skills have been shown through scientific study to be effective. Kathy Andrizzi (Glenn Latham's niece) will present concepts from Dr. Latham's work; both *The Power of Positive Parenting* and *Christlike Parenting*.

**Getting the Whole Story Panel**

*Led by Charity Goodrich and Sandy Burborough*

In this panel, get the unique experience of hearing about a single adoption through multiple perspectives: adoptive parents, birth parent, birth grandparent, and caseworker.

## **What is White Privilege, and Why Does My Child Not Have It?**

*Curtis & Melody Linton*

Since I never chose “White Privilege,” is it still real? Honestly explore what it means to be White and the reality of White Privilege, both personally and institutionally. Discover how the benefits associated with being White are subtly present, whether we deliberately partake of this privilege or not. Understand how Whiteness will impact our transracially adopted children as they naturally understand the White world they grow up in, but feel possible frustration at the different treatment and privilege they receive. As you come to understand your own Whiteness, it will create a powerful foundation within which you can understand your child’s experience of color, and help them realistically navigate this very White world.

## **Step by Step Through Your Pregnancy & Placement**

*Tera Miller & Michelle Evans*

Everything you need to know about the months ahead: birth and adoption plans, creating a relationship with the adoptive couple, what to expect at placement, and much more.

## **What Adopted Children Need from Their Birth Parents**

*Led by Valerie Mechling.*

*Panel: Teri and Leslie Carpenter, adoptive parents and Alysha Roberts and Kiersten Zundel, adoptees.*

A birth mother who has healed may be ready to move on with her life, but the child will continue to have questions, fears and a need for reassurance that only a birth parent can provide. A young adult and a teen who were adopted, and an adoptive couple discuss the ongoing needs of adopted children.

**Saturday, Session #1**  
**(1:00-2:00)**

**Affording Adoption**

*Kelly Grove*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

*(Being recorded)*

Money should not stand in the way of your plans to build an eternal family. Learn how to pay for your adoption, regardless of cost. Understand resources available to you through government, insurance, employment, and private programs, along with choosing loans and grants. Creative financing options and fundraising will also be discussed.

**Coping With a Failed Placement**

*Brad and Brenda Horrocks*

*Kris Carpenter, LCSW*

*(Being recorded)*

We all hear about failed placements. But when they happen to you it is hard to know how to handle feelings of loss and anger. Come listen to a couple who has experienced three failed placements share what they have learned. They'll teach you how to cope with loss, and what you can do to help prepare yourselves in case you face a failed placement in the future. Grieving is very difficult for many couples after suffering this type of loss. Kris Carpenter, an adoption supervisor and skilled therapist, will share information about grief and how to cope.

**Ages and Stages**

*David Pitcher, LCSW*

*(Staff Continuing Education Credit)*

While discovering and creating their identity, children who were adopted have the dual task of navigating the more universal tasks of child development, as well as the expected questions that come with adoption. As parents attend to their children's needs they can help transform a confusing and potentially devastating issue to something beautiful and redeeming. This session will explore obstacles and strategies inherent to this journey including specific techniques and metaphors parents can use to assist in teaching adoption based upon a child's developmental needs.

**Book Review**

*Kathy Searle*

Get some ideas to start your adoption reading list or expand your personal adoption library in this class. You'll get an overview of some of the best titles in every subgenre of adoption literature - adoptive parenting, transracial adoption, foster care, children's books, and more. From adoption "classics" to lesser-known titles, there's something for everyone here.

## **Story Time**

*Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born*

*Read by Mandy Whitaker*

## **Adoption Process**

*Tammy Squires, LCSW*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Elective)*

You have finally made the decision to start the adoption process. The road can be confusing, uncertain, and emotional. This workshop will outline the steps involved in adopting from application to finalization.

## **What You Choose When You Choose Transracial Adoption**

*Narda & Steve Emett*

What is transracial adoption and how does it differ from traditional adoption? When you choose to adopt a child of color and raise them in a home that is primarily White, you are choosing transracial adoption. Learn about the impact of race within an adoptive family. Explore how racial identity will influence your child's life in the home, at school, church, and in the community. Discover what you need to understand around race, racism, and racial equity as you consider adopting a child of color and successfully raising them within your home.

## **Deciding Who, When and How To Tell**

*Valerie Mechling and Martina Muir*

*How do I talk about my child's adoption?* Come discuss how to balance discretion and respect for your experiences while talking about it with boyfriends, family members, friends, church members, coworkers, and others who may benefit from your adoption story.

## **Uniting as a Birth Family**

*Taneil Hirschi & Deann Hirschi*

Pregnancy can be a challenge—and not just for the expectant mom. Together, families have the strength to do what is best for the child even in the midst of an unplanned pregnancy. From the viewpoint of a birth mother and *her* mother, things do get better.

## **Saturday, Session #2 (2:10-3:10)**

### **Doctrine of Adoption**

*Tony and Crystal Jewkes  
(Being recorded)*

What is the doctrinal and spiritual foundation of adoption? Understand the role the temple and family sealing plays in adoption, and how gospel understanding can bring peace to the adoption process.

### **Adoption in the Digital Age**

*Tyler Whitaker and Steve Moon  
(Being recorded)*

The rapid advance of the world into the digital age is forever changing the face of adoption. If you decide to place your profile online it changes the adoption experience immensely. Even if you decide not to have an online profile, after being chosen you will mostly communicate online with your children's birthparent(s) both before and after placement. We must choose as a family how we want to leverage the technologies available. Going online can make your information available to birthparent(s) literally around the world. Doing so brings with it tremendous opportunities but does have a number of pitfalls that we need to all be aware of. There are decisions at every turn. Even if you are not currently in the adoption pool there is a lot that the online community can offer you and there are also opportunities to give back as well. As part of this class we will explore how we can use the Internet to increase opportunities, promote adoption, and find the support you need. We will review the tools available (facebook, twitter, blogs, personal websites, etc.) and how to best utilize them. At the end of the class there will be a question and answer session.

### **Adoption and Schools**

*Angi Holden*

Find out what you need to know and prepare for when your child enters school. Help parents know if/how to disclose adoption information, and how much. Should you disclose your child's adoption information to his/her teacher? What do they need to know?

### **Intercountry Adoption Panel**

Come hear the stories of couples who have adopted from outside the United States.

### **FSA Leadership Forum**

*Phil and Valerie Hochheiser, FSA National Executive Chairs*

Here is a chance for region and chapter chairs to find out more about the new organization of FSA. Ask questions and get information about being involved with FSA leadership in your area. Speak with other chapter and regional chairs to find out great ideas to help your chapter succeed!  
(Required workshop session for all regional and chapter chairs)

## **Transracial Adoption Panel**

*Moderated by Curtis & Melody Linton*

Learn more about transracial adoption by hearing the stories of both parents who adopted children of color, and children of color who were adopted into primarily White homes. What are the issues around race that they have dealt with? How have they successfully approached the visual and cultural differences found within their experiences? Discover the richness and the realities of transracial adoption through this panel.

## **Telling Your Children Your Adoption Story**

*Sherrri Barker, Tamara Castaneda & Melinda Buchanan*

Come listen to ideas on how and when to tell your children your adoption experience. You'll hear from two birthmothers who are married with children, and discover how they handled this delicate situation. You will also have the unique opportunity to watch video interviews of the children themselves, and benefit from their perspective.

## **Desires, Expectations and Disappointments**

*Jared Rees*

What kind of relationship do you hope to have with your child and the adoptive couple? How do you expect them to keep in touch? What do you do if things don't happen the way you want them to? These questions and more, along with how to deal with what lies ahead will be discussed.

**Saturday, Session #3**  
**(3:20-4:20)**

**Why FSA?**

*Andrea Allen*

*(Being recorded)*

What does membership in FSA (Families Supporting Adoption) REALLY mean? How can membership benefit you? Spend a few minutes with us learning the “who”, “what”, “when” and “why” of it all. FSA wants YOU! We’re all in this together.

**What Are You Waiting For?**

*Kelly Grove*

*(Adoptive Applicant Education Credit)*

*(Being recorded)*

Did you know that there are currently 132 MILLION orphans in the world? That is half the population of the United States. These children, both domestic and abroad, desperately need the love and care only a family can give. Could you love one of them? This class teaches couples how to find the children who need forever families and how to adopt them. We will talk about the best agencies, low cost adoption options, domestic and international adoption, and special needs babies and children. Heavenly Father cares deeply about these orphans and needs couples like you. Just as you may be waiting to be chosen to adopt, there are millions of little ones waiting for someone to choose them.

**Lifebooks**

*Kim Freeman and Teresa Kendrick*

Learn why Lifebooks are so important to your child and how to use them to create your own family’s story around adoption. How do you create one? What is the process? What do you include and how do you construct the message of the book? Leave this class inspired to create your child’s lifebook.

**Foster Care Panel**

*Moderated by Patricia Jensen*

Hear the stories of several teens who are or have been in the foster care system. What does adoption mean to them? How has their experience in foster care affected their lives?

**Back to School Adoption Skills**

*Angi Holden*

Children sometimes find themselves fielding questions from their peers or others about adoption. This class will teach children (and their parents, too) different techniques for managing questions about adoption and a child’s background so s/he can make his/her own decision about how to respond. We will also discuss creative ways to handle school assignments that can sometimes be tricky for a child who was adopted.

## **Courageous Conversations About Transracial Adoption Open Forum**

*Curtis & Melody Linton*

What have you always wanted to ask about race and transracial adoption, but never had the opportunity to ask? This session is an open forum to conclude the courageous conversations about transracial adoption experienced throughout the conference. Questions can be submitted in advance at [dominofoundation@hotmail.com](mailto:dominofoundation@hotmail.com), or asked during the session.

## **Letting Go and Moving Forward**

*Kristi Monks & Virginia St. Clair*

After placing a child for adoption, it takes time to heal and take control of life again. Coming to grips with our adoption experience, we can move forward—becoming advocates for children and adoption, and living our own lives to the fullest.

## Biographies

**Andrea Allen** is very active in Families Supporting Adoption and currently serves with her husband Josh as Co-Chair of the Mesa, Arizona chapter. She is an avid supporter of adoption and FSA and loves to talk about the LDS Family Services adoption of their daughter Lily whenever she gets the chance. She and her husband are hoping to adopt again and are looking forward to educating others about adoption as they continue to build their family. Andrea has a B.A. in Sociology from BYU and served in the Washington D.C. North mission. Her current callings include a Laurel Advisor and Girls Camp Director. When she's not entertaining Lily or planning the next local FSA event, Andrea enjoys travel, photography, event (and especially vacation) planning, blogging, crafts and music.

**Kathy Andrizzi** and her husband, Brett are the parents of five children ranging in age from 21-28. They currently have six grandchildren with the hope of many more in the years to come. As their children were growing, their family was involved with the State of Utah in caring for abused and neglected children in their home for twelve years. They enjoy being together as a family. Kathy's personal interests include, people (especially children and babies), reading, hiking, an occasional sewing project, and puzzles. Kathy is the niece of Dr. Glenn Latham, who passed away in July of 2001. Kathy finds pleasure in sharing his work with us and will be forever grateful for the skills he taught her.

**Brent Barker** was born and raised in Pleasant View, Utah and graduated from Utah State University in 1993. He has served in the Army National Guard as an artillery officer and is currently a real estate appraiser. His favorite activities are backpacking and being a Dad. He met his wife Sherri just two months after she placed a child for adoption. Brent and Sherri have been happily married since April of 2003 and have 6 children together (hers, mine, and ours). He is pleased to share some of his experiences as a husband of a birth mother.

**Sherri Barker** was born in Miami and raised in South Carolina. She placed a daughter 6 1/2 years ago into the arms of a loving couple. She is now married and feels blessed to be a mother to 6 wonderful children. Sherri is a homemaker and does freelance painting on the side. She loves to paint, travel and spend time with her family. She is currently going back to school to be a surgical first assistant. Since placing, Sherri has enjoyed serving in the adoption community. She has served on several adoption panels and has spoken at a fireside. She is on the FSA committee and is a committee chairperson for LDS Family Services in Ogden, Utah.

**Melinda Buchanan** is a birth parent & adoption specialist with Area Adoption Services. Before coming to Utah, she was a practitioner with the CA Sacramento Agency for six years. Melinda received her Bachelor's degree from BYU and her Master's in marriage and family therapy from Purdue University. In her current assignment, Melinda has especially enjoyed working with the birthmothers involved in this conference, as well as the redesign of [Itsaboutlove.org](http://Itsaboutlove.org). In her (extremely limited) spare time, she enjoys tennis, hiking, yoga, and playing with her nieces and nephews.

**Sandy Burborough** has been working with birth parent and adoption services in the Logan LDSFs agency for fourteen years. "I have made some wonderful friends over the years working with birth parents and their families, and families seeking to adopt." Sandy is a mother to seven and grandmother to nine.

**Terry and Leslie Carpenter** have been married for 36 years and have adopted all four of their children. They range in age from 15 to 31 and are all of mixed race. Two of their children also have some disabilities. They have spent much of the last 25 years advocating adoption in a variety of ways including hosting birthmothers, doing foster care for infants awaiting placement, and speaking to adoptive couples in workshops and conferences. For over 6 years they chaired their local chapter of FSA (then called Adoption Lifeline) and have since served on the National Board of FSA, given school and church presentations on adoption, and worked with birthmothers during the decision process. In 2004 they and another couple compiled a handbook for adoptive couples. The Carpenters live in Pleasant View, Utah where Terry, a retired police officer, is a corporate security director, and Leslie is a seamstress. Their favorite pastime is playing with their 4 grandchildren.

**Tamara Castaneda** placed a daughter over sixteen years ago in a closed adoption through the Dallas, Texas agency. Today Tamara is happily married with five children. She graduated two years ago with her Master's Degree in Family Studies, and is grateful to be putting her education to good use as a stay at home mom! Tamara has volunteered for the past 10 years with the Dallas agency; most recently serving as the FSA co-chair. She enjoys eating out, traveling, reading, taking naps and avoiding exercise!

**Lucy Clark** placed a precious baby boy for adoption this past January through LDS Family Services. She has a wonderful relationship with him and his parents, and she loves the visits and pictures she receives from them. Since placing her baby, Lucy has enjoyed volunteering with LDS Family Services and Families Supporting Adoption, particularly as a member of the conference planning committee. Lucy works as a full time flight attendant, which means she sees a lot of hotel rooms! In her spare time, Lucy enjoys reading, running, blogging, and spending time with family and friends.

**Doug Dingman** is married to Tausha Dingman who is a birth mother. He and Tausha were married two and a half years ago, and she became a full-time mother to his three children that he had been raising full-time on his own. A year ago, they were blessed with a little boy together. Doug is currently the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Dingman Professional Printing located in Ogden, Utah. He is currently finishing up his degree at Weber State University. Doug is involved with the Utah Down syndrome Foundation and also serves as a Foundation Board Member for the Ogden George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park. In his spare time he enjoys running, fly fishing, traveling with his family, and racing cars.

**Steve and Narda Emett** are the parents of four daughters. They adopted their oldest daughter, Madison, through LDS Family Services in 1999. In 2004, they adopted twins, Sierra and Savannah, through Children's Service Society of Utah. Last year at conference, they made the decision to adopt a child from Ghana, West Africa. They began the process in October 2008 and brought home their five year old daughter, Lilly, in March 2009. They have been involved in FSA for over nine years and are currently serving on the national board. Their focus in FSA has been on educating prospective adoptive parents about the process of adoption.

**Michelle Evans** is a proud Florida native, and she is honored to be working as the Adoption Supervisor in the Florida office of LDS Family Services. She earned her MSW from BYU and her LCSW in the state of Florida. Before working with LDSFS, Michelle worked with youth in foster care, and later with youth in residential treatment. She interned with LDSFS in Sandy before moving home to Florida, where she has continued to work with expectant parents and adoptive couples as they seek to provide loving, stable homes for children. Working with adoptions has felt like a natural fit to Michelle. She also enjoys her family, music, and anything outdoors including biking, running, diving, and of course the beach!

In 1999, **Joseph Kingsley Eshun** and his wife Gloria, helped with the adoption process of his niece, Lillian. (See Lois Martino). They realized the need to educate, guide, and protect the forgotten children of Ghana. To this end, Lucky Hill Children's Home Foundation was established as a non-government organization (NGO) in 2001. They now care for 80 plus orphans and provide an education for an additional 170 children in a rural area of Ghana.

**Kim Freeman** has been married to her wonderful husband, Justin, for fifteen years. They have four adorable children all through the blessing of adoption. Kim is a strong proponent of adoption education and encourages all those involved to gain as much adoption knowledge and training as possible. She has served as the education chair for the Logan Utah FSA Chapter and is currently serving as the co-chair in Logan.

**Myra Gilmore** is many things--a sister, a student, a daughter. She is also a birth mother. Myra placed a beautiful little boy 3 years ago in an open adoption and has been an active member of the adoption community and FSA ever since. She has served on the Salt Lake FSA board and the Utah Adoption Council. You may have seen her interview as a birth mother on Good Things Utah during last November's Adoption Awareness Month. She has worked with National FSA, done community outreach presentations all over the Salt Lake valley and was even invited to cut the ribbon at the first Annual Adoption Walk in Salt Lake in 2006. Myra feels passionately about open adoption and works to dispel the myths about adoption and birth mothers.

**Kent and Charity Goodrich** have been married for nine years and reside in Farr West, Utah. They have two daughters, ages three and nine months, whom they have adopted through LDS Family Services. Before adopting, Kent and Charity provided foster care for a teenager with developmental and mental health disabilities. Kent works as a trooper for the Utah Highway Patrol and Charity has a master's degree in counseling and works as a birth parent/adoption caseworker for LDS Family Services. Through their adoptions, Kent and Charity have gained many insights into open adoptions and what makes them work.

**Kelly Grove** is an adoptive mother to seven wonderful children. She has been greatly blessed by the miracle of adoption. Her heart reaches out to the many precious children who still wait for their families. She often has people come up to her when they see her beautiful family, wanting to know more about adoption. With so much confusion on the internet and inaccurate myths that circulate about adoption, couples are often discouraged and confused. As an obsessive researcher and a very experienced adopter, she has been able to learn many adoption secrets that help families have success in adoption. Through her classes, she hopes to show that just about ANYONE can adopt. It does NOT have to be expensive. And, that having a diverse family is special. Most importantly, she hopes to teach how precious these sweet children are in the sight of the Lord.

**Susan Hawkins** is a mother of four and grandmother of five from Davis, California. She graduated from Brigham Young University in nursing, and worked in labor & delivery and post-partum units in both Utah and California. She later enjoyed working with teens as a school nurse and health teacher. About eight years ago, one of her daughters placed a baby through LDS Family Services. After experiencing the care and professionalism there, Susan stayed on as a volunteer support group facilitator for birth parents and birth grandparents. In her free time Susan enjoys teaching Jazzercise classes, riding horses, playing the piano and visiting her children and grandchildren. She also makes sincere, though feeble, attempts at fly fishing when accompanying her husband of 36 years on trips to Montana, Wyoming, Utah and other mountain states.

**Mitch Hirano** is currently the adoption supervisor with LDS Family Services Ogden Agency. He completed his undergraduate studies in psychology at Brigham Young University and his graduate studies in Marriage and Family Therapy at Loma Linda University. He joined LDS Family Services in 1992 and has been providing birthparent/adoption services for the past fifteen years. He has been married for twenty years to his wife Stacy. They have four daughters.

**Deann Hirschi** is from Brigham City, Utah. She is the mother of 6 children, and the grandmother of 17. Her youngest daughter placed her baby for adoption a year ago. Deann loves to write, listen to good music, read, and learn new things. She enjoys camping, nature and the outdoors. She is grateful for calculators, computers, modern appliances and her cell phone. But most of all she loves her family and believes in the worth of every soul. She is grateful for adoption and the wonderful family plan it provides. Deann has much respect and high regard for the courageous young birthmothers who place the future safety and stability of their precious babies in the arms of wanting and deserving parents through the inspired program of adoption.

**Taneil Hirschi** was born and raised in Brigham City, UT. She placed her precious baby boy for adoption 14 months ago and has since found great joy in offering support, help and encouragement to birthmothers and their families in their quest to find hope and peace. She is currently attending Utah State University and is planning to earn a Masters degree in Social Work with an emphasis in psychology. She enjoys singing and is looking forward to being a member of the LDS institute choir this fall. Taneil also enjoys; camping, spending time with family and friends, scrapbooking, reading, making jewelry and watching movies.

**Philip and Valerie Hochheiser** have been married for 17 years and have two beautiful daughters, Jordyn and Sydney (ages 10 and 5), both adopted through LDS Family Services. They became involved with FSA when they began the adoption process ten years ago and have enjoyed helping create parade floats, organizing and attending activities, teaching adoption prep classes, and serving on the FSA National Board. Phil loves his work as an engineer and Val loves staying home as a full-time mom. They have found much joy in their involvement with adoption and LDS Family Services.

**Angi Holden** has been married to Kyle for eighteen years. They are the parents of two beautiful children (Hannah age 10, Burke age 5). She received a bachelor's degree in Special Education from Utah State University. She taught Jr. High and High School for thirteen years and served as the district coordinator. She is currently a District Teacher Specialist for Canyons School District. She serves as the FSA Education Chair for West Valley FSA. She loves shopping, teaching and spending time with family.

**Brad & Brenda Horrocks** have a great love for adoption and have been involved in adoption for eleven years. They have three beautiful children thanks to the miracle of designated adoption. Through their adoptions, they have become advocates of “finding.” They are also part of a birth family and have great respect for the sacrifice birth families make when placing a child for adoption. The Horrocks family has complete openness with all of their children’s birth mothers and one of their birth fathers. Brad and Brenda are licensed foster parents and have had the opportunity to care for newborns. They also advocate adoption of waiting children by highlighting Waiting Children each Monday on their blog (<http://anothersmalladventure.blogspot.com>). Brad and Brenda have served on the FSA National Board for five years and currently serve as Co-Vice Chairs.

**Tamra Hyde** is a proud birth mama! She placed a precious boy for adoption in Georgia at the age of 18. She grew up in Memphis, Tennessee as the second of seven children. She has been working with LDS Family Services as a secretary in Mesa, Arizona, but will soon be transferring to St. George. Tamra aspires to write a book, teach a BYU education week class on adoption, and be a birthparent case worker. In her spare time, Tamra enjoys dancing, shopping, long boarding, travel, hiking, and advocating adoption everywhere she goes!

**Patricia Jensen** has worked for almost twenty-two years in the Child Welfare field. She is married and has three sons: 19, 16 and 13. Her oldest son is on a mission in Tallahassee, Florida. Her youngest son was adopted through LDS Family Services, but they didn’t receive him until he was five years old. She was also adopted at birth. Trish graduated from Utah State University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She likes to travel, go on road trips, go walking, and just be with her family.

**Tony and Crystal Jewkes** have been blessed with three beautiful children, Elle (7), McKay (5) and Kesley (nearly 3). They have been married eleven years and reside in Spanish Fork, Utah. They are past members of the FSA national board, but now serve as FSA Executive Chairs in the Provo Chapter. Both served LDS missions, Crystal in Dallas, Texas and Tony in the Dakotas. Crystal is an adjunct faculty member at BYU teaching secondary education classes. Tony has spent his career in college athletics administration at Utah State University, Southern Utah University and BYU.

**Michele Johnson** is in her 13th year as an Associate Director and Biosafety Specialist in the University of Utah Department of Environmental Health and Safety, and is an adjunct faculty member of the University’s Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational & Environmental Health. She is the 2008 YWCA Outstanding Achievement Award recipient in Science & Technology. Previously, she served as an Occupational Health & Safety Specialist at the University of Hawaii. She

is very active in volunteer community and professional activities. Her greatest joy comes from spending time with her sons Myke and Nick.

**Teresa Kendrick** grew up in Cache Valley, Utah. She and her husband Chad live in Millville. Chad and Teresa met in high school. She wrote to him during his mission and then roped him into marrying her shortly after he came home. Teresa spent lots of fun years teaching first grade and loving kids. Three years ago their beautiful daughter, Aly, was placed with them. She is happy to be an “over-zealous” mom. She and Chad “love, love, love” being parents and are hoping for another miracle.

**Curtis and Melody Linton** are co-chairs of the Domino Foundation, which provides support and education for transracial adoption families. They are passionate about adoption and FSA. Curtis is a nationally renowned educational consultant who specializes in closing racial achievement gaps in schools, and he is co-author of the best-selling book *Courageous Conversation about Race*. Melody has been a schoolteacher certified in urban education and has extensive experience in teaching diverse children. Four years ago Curtis and Melody adopted their son, Dominic, from Louisiana. The Lintons love sharing this diverse world with their son!

**Alison Lowe** and her husband, Daniel, are keen members of the national board for Families Supporting Adoption. Rather than becoming frustrated with the challenges associated with building a family, the two have turned their enthusiasm and fun side into an “adoption promotion machine!” Cause hey, “Without promotion something terrible happens... Nothing!” (P.T. Barnum) Married for eight years, Dan and Alison are the proud parents of Elliott, who was adopted 2 ½ years ago. Alison hails from the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Canada, and she is proud of her Canadian roots. Alison has learned to emphasize unique characteristics to present a ‘real’ family looking to grow. When she is not spending time with family she strives to spread her infectious zest for life in home remodeling projects, traveling, facebooking, singing ABBA at the top of her lungs, planning a party or just having fun in the park. You can often hear her say “Orange, you glad for adoption?”

**Virginia St.Clair Lybbert** grew up in Utah County. She placed her little girl for adoption three and a half years ago. She loves working with birth moms and helping them to see the value of adoption. She loves to cook up new creations in the kitchen or listen to new books on her iPod. She loves to exercise and spend time outdoors. She recently married the greatest man ever, Andrew Lybbert. She is so thankful to Heavenly Father for the many blessings that he has given her throughout her life.

**Lois Martino**, with her husband, Tracy, are the parents of four children. They adopted their youngest, Lillian, from Ghana, Africa in 1999. They saw a great need to help educate and provide a home for the destitute

and orphaned children in Ghana and came up with a solution. Lucky Hill Children's Home Foundation was established in 2001 and is run by Kingsley Eshun, Lillian's Uncle. Lois helps facilitate independent adoptions and is always thrilled to see her Lucky Hill children find their families.

**Jennifer Mayer-Glenn** is a local public education teacher who is passionate about educational justice for all students. She graduated from the University of Utah with a B.A. in Spanish in 1996 and completed a Master of Education at Westminster College in 2006 with a focus on the problem of the overrepresentation of minorities in special education. Jennifer serves on the Board of the Utah Coalition of La Raza, the Salt Lake City School District Equity Leadership Team and is the chair of the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission.

**Valerie Mechling** graduated from Southern Utah University in 2007 with a Bachelor's degree in theatre management, and she still likes to have her fingers in everything. She enjoys listening to the singing talents of a three-year-old boy genius who calls her 'Birthmom!' Valerie keeps busy as a birth parent volunteer; she enjoys working with expectant parents through the itsaboutlove website, planning the national conference, and serving as a member of the FSA National Board. In her spare time, she and her son's adoptive mother are co-writing an adoption memoir full of good-natured humor and a generous amount of snark.

**Tera Miller** has lived in San Diego California her whole life, and was lucky enough to find an amazing family in Utah to place her perfect little baby boy with. James is now two years old, as of today, (Happy Birthday!) and has an open adoption and has built such a strong relationship. She is currently going to graduate school to complete her Masters in Social Work to one day become an adoption worker. She is currently the Relief Society President, and loves coaching field hockey, being outdoors, and being involved in the adoption world.

In 2006, **Kristi Monks** placed her child for adoption through LDS Family Services and the process has changed her life completely! Since then she has loved reaching out to others going through the adoption process; she knows what a blessing it is. She keeps in contact and visits on a regular basis with her daughter, Kesley, and her family. She is so grateful for Tony and Crystal, for the parents they are, and for letting her be a part of their lives. Kristi grew up in Provo Utah, has her real estate license, and is a manager at The Pizza Factory in Provo. Kristi enjoys dance, anything outdoors, exercising, being with her family and friends, and laughing!

**Steven Moon** was born and raised in Texas. He and wife Jessica have been married for 9 years. They are the proud parents to Kylie (3) and James (2) who were both adopted through LDS Family Services. For Steven, adoption has always been a part of his life. Steve's father,

James, was adopted by his step father as a young child. Steve never thought his ties to adoption would run even deeper as an adult. After five years of being unable to have children Steven and Jessica decided to adopt. One of the first things they did after starting the adoption process with LDS Family Services was set up their profile on [www.itsaboutlove.org](http://www.itsaboutlove.org). They also designed a personal family website before websites and blogs were common-place for adoptive couples. They have used the internet and computers in many aspects of their adoptions before placement and after. Both Kylie and James' birthparents found Steven and Jessica on [itsaboutlove.org](http://itsaboutlove.org). Steve is the Founder of Clever Coding which specializes in created cutting-edge iPhone apps. He studied computer science at Brigham Young University and has over 10 years of programming experience.

**Summer Morris, M.Ed, LPC** received her two Bachelor's degrees in the majors of Family and Human Development and Psychology at the University of Utah in 1999. She went on to obtain her Masters of Education, also from the University of Utah in Educational Psychology and she is currently licensed as a Professional Counselor. Summer has been working at the Preferred Family Clinic, located in Provo, Utah for the last six years. She counsels individuals, couples, and families in helping them establish consistency and unity in the home. One of Summer's specialties is working with those who are experiencing infertility. Specifically, she addresses the impact of infertility on marriage and how to "live with purpose" while living with infertility. Summer lives in Draper with her husband, Spencer where they enjoy spending time with each other, their puppy, family and friends. She loves to travel and experience the world, observing many different people and cultures. She is energized by others' lives and their abilities to endure and succeed.

**Martina Muir** placed a baby boy 14 years ago into the arms of a loving couple. Since that time, she has become a strong advocate for adoption. She enjoys serving on the FSA planning committee, and works with the Centerville office of LDS Family Services as the Post-Placement Coordinator, giving support to birthmothers after they have placed a child for adoption. Martina is married to her best friend and has 4 beautiful children (2 boys and 2 girls). She enjoys reading, writing, computers, singing, dancing, traveling, playing games, and homeschooling her children. She loves life and strives to help others love it, too.

**Heidi Naylor** is married to her high school sweetheart, Tim. Early on, they knew that they would most likely pursue adoption. Heidi is the proud mom to four amazing kids: Taylor was adopted at birth through LDS Family Services; Brayden was adopted at the age of three through foster care; Annabella was adopted at ten months through foster care; and Matt, adopted at age eleven through Utah State's Heart Gallery (foster care). They have been foster parents since 2007. They have fostered seven children in total and have adopted three

of them. They are active with FSA and recently joined the National Board. Heidi is also an ambassador for the Foster Care Foundation.

**Lauren Nelson** placed her beautiful daughter in 2005 with a wonderful family. She is currently married to an amazing man whom she describes as her rock! She is a stay at home mommy. She now has a little girl herself who is 2 1/2. Lauren says that she now realizes the importance of motherhood and will never take it for granted. She currently lives in Cedar City and is enjoying being a part of a wonderful family!

**Amanda Phipps** is the birth mother of a 4 ½ year old boy. They have a very open adoption, and he knows her as his 2<sup>nd</sup> mommy or Birth Mom Amanda. Amanda has volunteered for FSA in Fountain Valley, CA, American Fork, UT, as well as the birth parent planning committee in SLC. She has her own adoption website, [www.adoptiontheoption.com](http://www.adoptiontheoption.com) that allows expectant parents, birth parents and others associated with adoption to submit their questions and stories. Amanda is currently attending Utah College of Massage Therapy School.

**David Pitcher** and his wife Jennifer are the parents of four children with a fifth on the way. David has a Bachelor's degree in social work from Utah State University and a Masters of social work from Brigham Young University. David has worked with LDS Family Services in Indianapolis, Indiana for 8 years and is currently assigned as the adoption supervisor. David has an LCSW and has completed advanced training in Emotionally Focused Therapy and uses an attachment based approach. Whether in adoption or counseling work David is passionate about strengthening family relationships and helping children have the support they need to succeed.

**Candace Poll** began singing when she was very young and started voice lessons at ten years old. She began singing with Jenny Phillips in November, 2007. She has been married for almost two years and lives in South Ogden, Utah. She currently provides music therapy for the elderly through a company called Music Outreach and works at a bank part-time. Candace is continuing her Bachelor's degree in Family Studies with a minor in voice. In her spare time, Candace likes to read, be outdoors, and spend time with her husband and their dog. What she likes most about singing with Jenny is the experiences they have and seeing the way music touches people's lives.

**Lindsey Redfern** is first and foremost a wife and a mother. She has two handsome little boys brought into her life through the miracle of adoption. Tyson is 2 and Gavin is almost 1. They enjoy an open relationship with both of their boys' birth mothers and love having them in their home. Before her children arrived, Lindsey taught third grade where her interests were focused on creative writing and children's literature. Now a stay-at-home mom, she loves being an adoption advocate with several

adoption blogs including [www.therhouse.blogspot.com](http://www.therhouse.blogspot.com) where she writes as "mrs. r." She has also recently joined the AdoptionVoices.com team as an administrator and has served in her local FSA chapter as the Community Outreach chair where she did adoption presentations with her birth mother friends in junior high schools and high schools in her area. She currently runs the national FSA blog and appeared on Good Things Utah to discuss adoption during last year's Adoption Awareness month. Her passion is to help others understand the hope that adoption provides to all members of the adoption triad and to educate others on the benefits of promoting their own adoption as well as the blessings of open adoption.

**Jared Rees** enjoys working with LDS Family Services and Valley View Medical Center in Cedar City, Utah. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Southern Utah University, and commuted to Las Vegas to earn his Masters of Social Work from UNLV. Before coming to LDS Family Services, he worked for the State of Utah Foster Care and Adoption program. He was introduced to adoption at the early age of 4, when his family welcomed foster children into their home. He enjoys spending time with his wife (who has a lovely Irish accent), and their four children, including two adopted daughters. In the little spare time he has, he enjoys mountain biking, paintballing, camping, hiking, and finally finishing his basement.

**Angie Rhodes** has her dream job as a mommy to three fabulous children, ages 8, 6, and 3, adopted through LDS Family Services. She and Jon, her husband of nearly fifteen years, hope their family continues to grow. She has been volunteering in the adoption community since 2000 in a variety of capacities, including providing birth parent housing, doing school presentations for the Utah Adoption Council, writing adoption book reviews for chapter and national newsletters, and as a birth parent support group volunteer. She is currently serving on the FSA National Board.

**Kathy Searle** has been involved in adoption for the past 20 years, with experience in international, private and special needs adoption. She is currently the Director of Programs for the Utah office of The Adoption Exchange where she has worked in collaboration with Utah's Division of Child and Family Services to find adoptive homes for children in foster care and also to support families after placement. Kathy serves on the Valley Mental Health Children's Advisory Board, is past president of the Utah Adoption Council, and currently chairs the Education committee which coordinates the annual adoption celebration and spring conference. Kathy Searle and her husband Ned are the parents of eleven children. Eight of their children joined their family through transracial adoption.

**Marty Shannon**, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, works for Utah's Division of Child and Family Services as the Adoption Program

Administrator. She has been working actively in the arena of child welfare since 1983. Prior to working for state government, she worked in two private non-profit child welfare agencies, first as a therapist with birth families, foster families, and adoptive families and then as an agency director of an adoption agency from 1991 to 2001. She has been involved with many boards and advisory boards, and presented at many conferences over the years. The adoption of children with special needs is a personal passion of Ms. Shannon, as she is herself an adoptive parent of a child who lived in foster care.

**Amy Briggs Smith** placed a son 20 years ago with complete faith to a loving couple who deeply wanted a family of their own. After her placement, she completed her cosmetology degree and worked 15 years in a high-end salon. She started her own free lance business doing hair and makeup for fashion, bridal and wedding occasions. Amy is now married and does fashion consulting for her husband, who desperately needs it, and four wonderful children in addition to her full time job as a stay at home mother.

**Darron T. Smith** is an African American convert to the LDS Church, who served a Mormon mission in Michigan. He is author of *What Matters Most: A Story of Human Struggle and Potential*, and co-author of the book *Black and Mormon*. He is currently a lecturer at Utah Valley State College, and is working on his PhD in Education at the University of Utah.

**Sandy Smith**, LCSW, acquired her bachelor's degree from the University of Saskatchewan and MSW from BYU. She is the proud mother of three and grandmother of 2 ½, Sandy has been with LDS Family Services since 1996. She is the Adoption Supervisor in the Provo, Utah agency and loves it!

**Tammy Squires**, LCSW, is the Adoption and Birth Parent Supervisor at the LDS Family Services Salt Lake City, Utah Agency. Prior to being in Salt Lake, Tammy was the Adoption Supervisor in the Ogden, Utah Agency. Tammy also worked at LDS Family Services' headquarters office where she oversaw the Adoption Records Center. She has been full-time with the system for twelve years. Tammy received a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Utah in 2001. While receiving her degree, Tammy worked at Wasatch Youth Center and the YWCA in Salt Lake.

**Joshua Steimle** is the CEO of MWI (mwi.com), an online marketing firm. He has consulted with companies such as Brighton Ski Resort, California Pools, LG, Sony, and Utah's Hogle Zoo regarding their branding and marketing efforts. Joshua and his wife adopted their first child, a daughter, in February of 2008. Other than family and business, Joshua enjoys reading, writing, skateboarding, and is training to complete an Ironman race. He holds a Masters of Information Systems Management from BYU.

**Nancy Sutton** has been at Bonneville Communications for fifteen years, focusing on strategic communications and broadcaster relations for nonprofit organizations including the LDS Church, Toy Industry Foundation and The Foundation for a Better Life. She has a Bachelors degree from Cal State Hayward, and an MBA from Westminster College. She is in her eighth year of working with LDS Family Services in the strategic development and placement of advertising and public service messages supporting birth parent counseling and adoption advocacy.

**Rebecca Whale** is from North Carolina and placed her daughter 20 months ago. She has been blessed immensely for making that decision. She is graduating from BYU in Vocal Performance in August. She is thinking of getting her masters in Social Work so that she can work with adoptions. Becca enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also loves to sing, travel and kayak. Since her placement, she has served in a Relief Society Presidency and as a Gospel Doctrine teacher.

**Tyler Whitaker** lives in Cedar Hills, Utah with his wife Mandy and their five year old son Jordan. The last several years, he has enjoyed working in the executive management of several local technology companies and is now working on his own technology projects. Tyler has been involved with FSA for the last 7 years through the American Fork Utah FSA Chapter and is currently serving as co-secretary, with Mandy, on the National FSA Board. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Brigham Young University.

**Kiersten Zundel** was placed for adoption through LDS Family Services on December 5th 1997. She will be 12 years old next week. She enjoys singing and playing the piano, and is currently taking modeling classes. She belongs to a large family with 1 brother and 5 sisters. She loves spending time reading and listening to music. She is excited and looking forward to being in the young women's program with her older sisters.