

ADOPTION LIFELINE of ALTOONA

P.O. Box 1294

Altoona, Pa. 16603

Bert Bravin
(814) 942-2392

Carol Bravin
(814) 946-3235

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"THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"

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SEARCH ASSISTANCE

Because our group is rather small at present, we've been working on an individual basis from our homes. Mainly we have been helping adults go through public records and other public resources to find traces of their origins. Those adoptees who are younger than 18 are encouraged to wait until they reach adulthood. Most of our members are over 30 years old and in their 20's before they felt the need to search.

It is very rare for a birthparent to be able to find a surrendered child because they are not given the names of the adoptive parents or where they live. However, one of our members is a birthparent and is willing to share her feelings with other birthparents and discuss mutual problems.

In helping adoptees search for their origins, we show them what to do, how to go about it, give advice and do some of the work if necessary. It is up to the adoptee to do most of the work, spending whatever time or money he wants to. We charge no fees and at present no dues. We are always available for pep talks when you're feeling down or if you hit a snag in the search.

Since we are not holding regular meetings at the present time, you may contact us at the above address or call us. (Please send a self addressed stamped envelope, SASE, when writing.) As soon as we make arrangements, we will inform you of the time and place of regular meetings.

TELEVISION INTERVIEW

ACTION, a new "talk-show" on WTAJ channel 10 Altoona, will feature a program concerning adoption on Saturday, Sept. 29, 1979 at 6:00 P.M. Jan Von Uffel will interview representatives of each side of the adoption triangle--Dan Bravin, adoptee; Chris Frank, birthmother; Carol Gustavson, adoptive parent. Hopefully this program will promote in our area some understanding of the adoptee and others involved in adoption.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY ADOPTION?????

The average number of adoptions in the U.S. per year since 1898 is 6,000. With two adoptive parents, two birthparents and one adoptee this means that there are now 30,000 people per year directly involved in adoption. In a 20 year span of time there are 600,000 people directly involved. This number does not include birth-grandparents, adoptive grandparents, birth siblings and adoptive siblings.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY

"Soundex" is located in Carson City, Nevada and is maintained by its innovator, Emma May Vilardi. Its use is for adult persons seeking a reunion with next-of-kin by birth. There is no charge for this service. The registration by 2 persons in this registry resulting in a match is regarded as actual, legal consent for contact. Our group participates in the I.S.R.R. We have registration forms available for anybody who needs one.

INFORMING THE PUBLIC: THERE IS HELP!

Several weeks ago Lee Campbell, founder of Concerned United Birthparents, and Carol Gustavson appeared on "Pittsburgh Today", T.V. 2 Pgh. The address of our local C.U.B. group was given and there was a good response from both birthparents and adoptees. The letters which Chris received from adoptees were forwarded to us for search assistance. In answering all responses we hope that more and more people who want to know about their backgrounds will become aware that there is help and understanding for them.

LEGISLATION-----HELP!!!!!!

Representative Stephen Freind (R-Delaware County) has again introduced legislation that will BLOCK the current access that PA-born adoptees have to their original birth certificates. House Bill 1663 not only blocks your access to birth certificates, it goes on to suggest that the court act as intermediary and have the AUTHORITY to refuse access to information if "there would be a substantial risk that persons other than the natural parents would learn of the adopted person's existence and relationship to the natural parents." The bill is written under the implication that birthparents' anonymity is the major priority and must be protected. (We are asking you to write to members of the Health and Welfare Committee where the bill is presently awaiting hearings. These legislators MUST hear from us. Your letter is an important part in having our feelings expressed, and in the past it has been your letters and phone calls that have blocked similar legislation! Letters do not have to be long, just say something to the effect that you are against House Bill 1663 and would appreciate that they vote against it. Below you will find the names of some of the Comm. members and their addresses. (It doesn't matter whether you are a Pennsylvania resident or not.)

The Hon. Joseph V. Zord, Jr.
611 Glowwood Dr.
Whitehall, PA. 15277

The Hon. William Klingaman
31 Pine St.
Tamaqua, PA. 18252

NEWSLETTER

This is our first newsletter and we are planning to publish quarterly. If you would like to receive subsequent newsletters, it would be helpful in defraying the cost of printing and mailing to have each person send us a donation of \$2.00 per year.

OTHER PA. GROUPS

CONCERNED UNITED BIRTHPARENTS
P.O. Box 1005
Altoona, PA. 16603
(814) 942-1622

PGH. ADOPTION LIFELINE
P.O. Box 52
Gibsonia, PA. 15044
(412) 443-3370

ADOPTION FORUM of PHILA.
Box 7482
Phila., Pa. 19101
(251) EV6-4928 (11-1; 7-9)

"THE VOLUME OF MANY LENDS CREDENCE TO THE VOICE OF ONE ..."

Dear Friends,

As a newly started branch coordinator for C.U.B. I hope that I can establish with the adoptees who belong to Adoption Lifeline Altoona, a better understanding of birthparents. I hope the goal of both groups will be to educate the public to our feelings and needs. I hope everyone has an opportunity to read Sandy Musser's book, "I Would Have Searched Forever". Chris Frank, Co-ordinator C.U.B. Western Pennsylvania.

READING LIST

1. Lost and Found, Betty Jean Lifton, (Adoptee).
2. I Would Have Searched Forever, Sandy Musser, (Birthmother).
3. The Adoption Triangle, Sorosky, Pannor, Baran, (Adoption Research Project).
4. The Art of Adoption, Linda Cannon Burgess, (Social Worker). 463