When most people hear of Adoption Rhode Island they think of the work we do to find permanent adoptive families for children in the state’s foster care system. They would be right to think that we are committed to facilitating and promoting adoption as a positive way to create a family and that there is a family for every child.

What many people are surprised to learn, however, is the tremendous amount of work we do day after day to ensure that children and families have the support they need throughout the adoption process and beyond; that children have the safe, nurturing childhoods they need and deserve; and that a community is built around the needs of children and families touched by foster care and adoption. “You do that, too?” I often hear. Yes. And so much more.

I hope that this report gives you a glimpse and an understanding of all we do at Adoption Rhode Island for children, families, professionals, and the Rhode Island community. You might be surprised to learn that we do much more before and after adoption to positively impact children in care and we are excited to do even more to create a greater impact in FY 2016!

It is an honor and inspiration to serve, initially as Board Treasurer and more recently, Board President at Adoption Rhode Island. My belief in the mission and desire to help the agency continue to raise awareness of the needs of children in our state who simply want what every child deserves, were among my initial attractions to the agency. The dedication, never tiring commitment and genuine compassion of the staff are among the factors that further cemented my commitment to the agency.

The work of Adoption RI is important life changing work for both the children and families impacted by adoption and foster care in our state. We are proud to have made some significant increases in the services provided, the population we have reached and the lives we have touched in FY 2015. We are grateful for the support of the community and partnerships within the child welfare system which have been instrumental in our success. As we celebrate each adoption we know that finding a home for every child is an ongoing endeavor that we take on with passion and determination.

Looking at the year ahead, we hope to build on our existing achievements and continue to stress the reality that every child deserves a childhood and that childhood starts with a loving and nurturing family. We are looking forward to a year that will stand out as one in which we will make an even greater impact on the lives of children in foster care, and we look for continued support of the community to join us in that effort.
At Adoption Rhode Island, our vision is clear and our mission strong. Our dedication to finding permanent families for children in state foster care and supporting those children and families both pre and post adoption is unwavering, as is our belief in providing opportunities for success for all children and families touched by foster care and adoption. Still, we measure our accomplishments based on the impact we have made among children, families and the community.

Fiscal Year 2015 Highlighted Statistics:

- ARI has provided direct service to over 1,500 children and families.
- Our Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Program tripled due to the success of ARI’s effort, in particular with youth most likely to age out, which the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption estimates has saved the state of Rhode Island more than $1.4 million since the program’s inception in 2006.
- Through support, recruitment, education, advocacy, permanency, community events, outreach and more, ARI touched the lives of over 10,000 individuals.
- FY 2015 celebrated 10 years of the Rhode Island Heart Gallery; Throughout those ten years a total of 200 children were featured with over 50% matched with a mentor or forever family.
- Collaborative efforts among the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and other providers increased registrations for recruitment, matching and placement support by 90% with 600 potential matches reviewed.
- Our website received over 150,000 worldwide hits...averaging 12,500 each month (adoptionri.org).
- Over 1,000,000 social media impressions helped us spread updates about the agency, adoption related news, educational and support opportunities and more.
- ARI Adoption events throughout FY 2015 resulted in the engagement of over 10,000 individuals and families.
- We expanded evidenced-based, child-focused recruitment services due to support from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, the Office of the Administration for Children and Families, and the Department of Children, Youth and Families.
- FY 2015 saw over 1,000 individuals and families impacted by foster care or adoption invited to more than 75 ARI events, each offering support, education and a sense of community and connectedness.
Adoption & Permanency Specialists work closely with each youth’s team, including community providers and pre-adoptive families, to ensure matches are most suitable for both the child and family. We use a variety of recruitment strategies to recruit potential adoptive parents and to match waiting children with permanent family connections, including:

- Tuesday’s Child
- AdoptUSKids
- The Heart Gallery
- Wendy’s Wonderful Kids
- Together Forever Project
- Child Focused Recruitment
- Intensive Family Finding/Kinship
- General & Targeted Recruitment
- In-State and Inter-State Recruitment
- Foster to Adopt

In the Eyes of a Child...

What does Adoption RI mean to you?

Giving children a second chance

Acceptance, friends, family, fun, support...

Someone actually cares for me and wants to find me a home

Adoption RI means EVERYTHING to me!
Adoption Rhode Island provided family recruitment, placement support and outreach for over 200 children and families in FY 2015, and expanded innovative and evidence-based best practice, including family search and engagement and child-focused recruitment. Our multi-disciplinary case planning, advocacy with the courts and assistance to the Department of Children and Families have yielded many positive results, including:

- ARI staff held nearly 500 face-to-face matching consultations with DCYF.
- 160 new families were recruited to adopt a child.
- 113 children moved toward permanent connections through legalization, pre-adoptive placement or mentorship.
- ARI saw a 60% increase in the number of children served, both by getting involved with cases earlier in the process to ensure timeliness to permanency and working with youth whose goal is Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA) other than adoption who had not traditionally received support and recruitment services.
- As a result of increased family search, ARI located many extended family members of children in care and promoted and supported both in-state and interstate sibling relationships, visits and placements.

- The addition of a staff Court Liaison helped coordinate communication among Family Court, DCYF and Adoption RI to effectively decrease the amount of time children remain in care.
A

dopted children who have experienced trauma are 2-5 times more likely to require psychological treatment. Providing individual supportive counseling and crisis intervention helps address problems early and effectively so that children can move beyond their traumas and experience the joy of childhood again. Every child deserves a family and there is a family for everyone . . . a constant presence in one’s life to nurture, provide, guide, share, laugh, cry - LOVE.

In FY 2015, Adoption RI’s Child and Family Support Programs helped more than 200 children, youth, adults and families who participated in supportive counseling and specialized services to assist them with some of the unique challenges that foster care and adoption may present. These services, funded through DCYF, private insurance and support from community donors, and administered by our adoption-competent trauma-informed team of clinicians, helped to prepare children and families for adoption as well as keep struggling families together through some difficult challenges. Support programs include:

- Individual, group and family counseling
- Preserving Families Post Adoption
- Psycho-educational and support groups
- Youth and Family Enrichment Programs
- Healing Arts

Though 100% of the families in our Preserving Families Program were at risk for adoption disruption in FY 2015, 90% regained stability through the program’s clinical support services, minimizing the need for adopted children to be returned to state care.

“Thank you for walking alongside us as issues come in surprising waves. I cannot tell you what that means to us!”

Adoptive family
we believe in community

A strong presence in the community and support from those therein are key to the success of Adoption RI and the impact we have on so many young lives. All children deserve a childhood - the gift of everyday life experiences, opportunities grow, to heal and be hopeful. We are grateful to the community for helping us provide some of childhood’s special moments to children in care. Among just a few highlights . . .

- Our partnership with University of RI, DCYF, Hasbro, Inc., Identity Theft 911, and many others helped 26 youth in foster care attend First Star URI Academy to work towards their college goals and feel empowered to believe that they can succeed in post-high school educational programs.

- Our Summer Camp Program helped create childhood memories and new friendships for 60 youth who attended camp, fully equipped for fun!

- ARI teamed up with One Simple Wish, a national non profit agency, to make wishes came true for 17 youth in foster care. Each were presented with gifts of their choosing valued up to $500.

- Adoption RI collected $26,886 in holiday donations, meaning nearly 300 children and families in need had gifts to open for the holiday season.

- WJAR NBC10 brought waiting children and adoptive families into the homes and hearts of viewers with 50 segments of Tuesday’s Child.

- Over 300 children and families played games, hung out with super heroes, reconnected with friends and siblings, and more, courtesy of the Hasbro, Inc. Holiday Party.

- Over 50 kids have new bikes to ride thanks to several community donations.

- ARI’s message was delivered to thousands throughout the state thanks to billboards and print, radio and TV advertising provided by Cardi’s Furniture.

- Over 100 children & families enjoyed America’s favorite pastime, many for the first time, as they sat in the stands to take in a Pawtucket Red Sox game.

- Over 60 children were pampered & prepped for a professional photo shoot.

- Groovy Girls, an enrichment and empowerment program for girls in foster care, collected and distributed 190 prom dresses.

- Loyal Wendy’s customers helped raise $90,000 through the Wendy’s Coupon Book Fundraiser for Adoption RI.
Adoption RI strives to educate, advocate and innovate in order to improve outcomes for children and families impacted by foster care and adoption. We promote best practice, bring together communities to address the needs of kids and families, and are at the forefront of child welfare reform in our state and throughout the United States.

- **Adopt Well-Being RI** - Funded by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families’ Children’s Bureau, Adopt Well-Being RI is an innovative partnership between Adoption RI, Family Service of RI and DCYF to increase adoption competency and trauma-informed practice across child welfare.

- **Together Forever Project** - Funded by the U.S. Administration for Children & Families, Adoption RI partnered with Family Service of RI and DCYF to bring together child-focused recruitment, trauma systems therapy, and a Court Liaison.

- **Bridges to Hope** - Adoption RI partnered with Family Service of RI, Lucy’s Hearth, House of Hope CDC and other researchers and stakeholders to explore collaborative best practice and systems reform to better meet the needs of disconnected youth in RI who have exited the foster care system and are experiencing or are at risk for homelessness and other barriers to success.

- **National Webinar** - Adoption RI’s Executive Director partnered with staff from Family Service of RI to present on the Child Welfare League and National Child Traumatic Stress Network’s national webinar on integrating adoption competency and trauma-informed practice.

- **Adoption Exchange Association Member Forum Localization** - Adoption RI entered a third year of an AdoptUSKids localization grant, initially awarded to only four adoption exchanges nationwide. ARI’s grant supervisor and consultant were featured in a national webinar to discuss best practices with regard to raising awareness and community involvement.
Adoption RI welcomed national and local experts and child welfare providers to join in a number of workshops/discussions to help address outstanding issues around adoption and permanency.

- With the support of the Together Forever Project, Adoption RI hosted a 7-day “boot camp” on Family Search and Engagement with national expert, Kevin Campbell. This workshop that was attended by over 50 providers from all over Rhode Island. ARI continues to support monthly meetings with service providers interested in this permanency tool.

- The Together Forever Project also helped us welcome Darla Henry, creator of the evidence-informed 3-5-7 Model of permanency preparation and support for a provider workshop offering extensive education and support to improve permanency practices throughout the child welfare system.

- Adoption RI hosted the National Family Builders Association Annual Think Tank for two days, bringing together experts in permanency from across the country.

- Adoption RI initiated efforts to address the growing problem of disconnected youth who have aged out of the foster care system and lack the educational, financial and employment resources they need to be self-sufficient adults. We continue to build upon our strong partnerships in the community in order to bridge gaps between the child welfare system and systems that serve disenfranchised adults.

- ARI facilitated monthly Collaborative Practice Peer Consultation groups, inviting clinicians throughout the child welfare system to come together to share competency around complex adoption/foster care issues.

- Our own Judith McSoley was awarded a Congressional Angel in Adoption Award by Congressman Jim Langevin for her advocacy for permanency for children in foster care.
we believe in results

Focusing on our mission, the children and families we serve and our dedication to do as much as possible to ensure that every child has the childhood they deserve, Adoption Rhode Island is committed to growing our services based on a strong foundation of integrity and fiscal responsibility. We are proud to report that in FY 2015, 88% of funds were reinvested back into our program, a number significantly higher than the national average of 75% for non-profits. More importantly, we are proud of the accomplishments we had, the work we continue to do and the thousands of lives we touch.

Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2015 Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government:</td>
<td>Program: 88%</td>
<td>Total Revenue: $1,558,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation,</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Total Expenses: $1,694,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>&amp; Fundraising: 12%</td>
<td>Total Assets: $583,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; Individual:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unaudited
Adoption Rhode Island is fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors committed to our mission and helping to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.

**Officers**

**Steven Parente** - Board President  
Sr. Vice President and Director of Retail Banking, BankRI

**Linda Lynch** - Board Vice President  
Executive Director, Rhode Island Family Court

**Donna Caldwell** - Board Secretary  
Psychologist and Sr. Research Associate, National Perinatal Institute

**Howard Dulude** - Board Treasurer  
Vice President of Human Resources Operations and Lifespan Health, Lifespan Corp

**Board Members**

- **Ray Arruda**  
Northeast Division Marketing Manager, Wendy’s International

- **Daniel R. Barry**  
Fundraising Consultant President, DRB & Associates

- **Mark Bevington**  
President and Executive Creative Director, Ninedot, a design agency

- **Honorable Judge Frank Caprio**  
Chief Judge, Providence Municipal Court

- **Frank Carpano**  
Sports Director, WJAR NBC 10

- **Wayne Charness**  
Retired Sr. Vice President, Hasbro, Inc.

- **Frances DiFiore**  
Vice President of Marketing, Pawtucket Credit Union

- **Betty Jo Greene**  
Marketing/Communications, University of RI

- **Congressman Jim Langevin**  
U.S. Representative, RI’s 2nd Congressional District

- **Charrel Maxwell**  
Owner, Antiques Business

- **John Ottaviani**  
Partner Attorney, Partridge Snow & Hahn, LLP

- **Paul A. Suttell**  
Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court

- **Bret Williams**  
Entrepreneur

* Advisory Member

---

**Our Mission**

Adoption Rhode Island’s mission is to facilitate, promote and support the permanent placement of children waiting in state care for adoption, and to improve the well-being of foster and adopted children and their families. We provide pre and post services to children and families, educate and advocate for a child’s right to a safe environment and increase public awareness of the unmet needs of children and families impacted by foster care and adoption.

We are an organization that believes that every child deserves a permanent home. We are proactive, flexible and responsive; collaborating with other private and public agencies to deliver quality services while avoiding duplication. We are committed to the highest ethical standards in practice and approach to our work. We are committed to respecting diversity. We are an agency that promotes adoption as a lifelong process that:

- is a positive way to create a family
- recognizes the need for adoption support
- is rewarding
- and is forever
On behalf of all of the children, families and individuals Adoption Rhode Island serves . . .

Thank you to all of our contributors for your continued support!