Your impact.

You are breaking the cycle and changing lives for generations.

“I’m going to love them big-time.”

A six-year old jumped for joy after learning of the family waiting to meet him.

Because of you...

Lives are changed forever when you bring a family together with a child to welcome into their hearts and home.

Lives are saved when you support programs that keep an adoptive family together, and when you stand with us to defend the rights of the most vulnerable children and teens.

Hope grows every time you help a child or teen in foster care find a place to belong; when you give a teen a view towards a better future; and when you ensure that children reach the milestones of childhood and adulthood with caring adults to love, support and protect them—and celebrate right beside them.

When you make life better for the most vulnerable children, the future is brighter for all of us.

With you by our side, children will always come first. Last year ARI...

Provided direct services to 1,900 individuals.

Connected with 275 children and teens for recruitment, permanency or outreach.

Found permanency for 58 children and teens. Dozens more were matched or living in pre-adoptive homes at year end.
Jen’s recovery from a stroke, at age 31, came with medical complications to consider as she and her husband Steve began planning for a family. Upon reflection they realized, for them, a family meant bringing children into their life—not how they would make that happen.

With so many waiting children in the care of Rhode Island DCYF, the couple decided to explore adopting a child from foster care. Through Adoption RI, Jen and Steve met sisters Alex, Jessica and Lily.

When Steve saw the photo of the three girls, ages 7, 8 and 9, he simply declared, ‘Those are my girls.”

Jen and Steve never imagined that their family would grow to five almost overnight, but there was no doubt in their minds, they would not let these sisters grow up separated from each other.

Almost daily phone calls with the team at ARI helped to navigate a complicated and intense process to bring the family together. The girls had been through so much. There would be lifelong impacts of the trauma they had experienced. It was important to be prepared, and for the family to have the supports in place, so that for the girls—forever really meant never moving again.

“The process of transitioning the girls from a life of uncertainty and consequences into a safe and loving home was more challenging than we ever thought it would be, but so much more rewarding than we could ever have imagined.”

This match was equally rewarding to the girls. Before meeting Jen and Steve, seven-year-old Lily was living apart from her eight and nine-year-old sisters, Alex and Jessica. Alex had already moved twenty-two times before she was nine-years-old. Not surprisingly and through no fault of their own, all three girls had difficulty in social situations and were significantly behind academically.

You give our families a priceless gift. Without you, we could not help families heal the damage done when a child has lived with abuse and neglect.
Jen and Steve fought to keep the girls together, despite an outside suggestion that Jessica may do better separated from her sisters. Jen acknowledges the importance of the backing they had from Adoption RI and DCYF. Especially after a specialist confirmed what Jen knew in her heart about the strength of the attachment that bound the girls together.

In July that year, the girls moved into the family home (with their belongings arriving 3 weeks later in trash bags). That first summer was spent learning what it means to be a family — that they were safe even when a family has disagreements or accidents happen. Trusting that they would be loved — unconditionally.

Jen speaks candidly of looking to Adoption RI and other key providers to help the girls overcome the grief and loss that they had experienced in early life, and to support them as they came together as a family.

then, along came Mia

A few years later at Adoption Rhode Island’s November Statehouse Heart Gallery unveiling, this amazing family’s life changed once again — as did that of another young girl in care.

“This is me!”, Mia exclaimed as she marched up to the family, introduced herself and proudly pointed out her Heart Gallery photo. By the time the family reached the elevator at the end of the night, the girls were asking, “when is she going to move in?”

and a new journey began

Once again, Jen sought out ARI staff to learn more about the little girl who had already found her way into their hearts, and a new journey began. The following National Adoption Day, this family became six.

Mia has a long path to healing from her past, but all are committed, as a family, to showing her that she is safely home now in her new forever family, and that she is not going to push them away. She can trust them, and know she will never lose them — no matter what.

The four girls now have the chance to blossom after coming into Jen and Steve’s hearts and into their home. Today the three older girls are all doing well in high school. Alex, a high-school junior, who learned to read at age 9, is taking college credit courses at an area university. Jessica, now in 10th grade, is focused on music, reflecting her love of performing. Ninth-grader, Lily, is learning Robotics and Programming and earning college credits for her future, and Mia is progressing nicely in middle school.

All are on the path to what Jen and Steve want most for them; to be happy, to be able to take care of themselves, and to have good, positive relationships in their lives.
Going the distance, thanks to you, to fulfill a little girl’s wish for a family.

“My hopes and dreams for Iliana are what we all want for our children—to be successful in life and in all that she wants. She will know without any fear that at the end of the day she has a family that loves her and will always be there.”

Christina and her son Jermaine first met ten-year-old Iliana over a telephone screen. At that moment, they knew there would be no turning back. The little girl in foster care in Rhode Island was going to change their lives, and she had found her forever family.

Less than a year later, another meeting over a screen—filled with even more joy and many happy tears. This time connecting the Judges Chambers of RI Family Court with a California courtroom to finalize Alisia’s adoption.

As a former social worker, Christina understood the heartbreak children experience in foster care and she vowed to, someday, provide a loving forever home for a child.

“when I can, I will adopt.”

“when I make that decision...there will be no turning back”

“There was something about looking into that little girl’s eyes and reading about of her wish for a ‘lovable, friendly family to call her own,’ that touched me,” explained Christina.

In considering an out-of-state match, everyone knew that more than anything, Iliana needed to know; “You will never have to worry about going anywhere ever again. This is your family.”

Christina and Jermaine sent a welcome book filled with photos of the large extended family waiting for her in California, and messages of love. There were blank pages marked to show Iliana the place where her photos would someday be. More phone calls and video ‘meetings’ led to Christina’s trip to RI to meet Iliana and prepare for their trip to California.

Checking in six months after the adoption was finalized — and a little more than a year after they left RI for California—we heard about Iliana’s big dreams. Beginning to catch up in school, she wants to be on the honor roll just like her big brother. She would like to get her doctorate, just like her Mom. Perhaps she thinks, in gymnastics, her new passion.

While flattered, Christina will encourage Iliana to follow her own path, to know she can be loved for being her own self.

ARI professionals traveled **38,450** miles to bring life changing services to youth & families who needed us most -- where they needed us.

Prepared **54** teens for their transition out of foster care into independent living.

Kept **30** families in crisis together after adoption. Preserving **99%** of all families who turned to ARI for help.
thank you.

Thank you for sending an annual gift, making a donation in honor of a loved one, hosting a fundraiser or coming to our Gala, Golf Tournament or other fundraiser. Thank you for partnering with us to provide services, funding a grant request, or joining us to advocate for the rights of children and teens to be safe and have the future they deserve. We could not do it without you.

Private support closes the 44% gap between government funding (contracts) and our operating budget to serve our children and families.

Financials

Revenue and Support -

Government: 56%
- RI DCYF
- VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)

Private Support: 44%
- Foundation, Corporate & Individual Contributions,
  Special Events & Fundraisers

Expenses -

Program: 90%
- Recruitment, Matching & Permanency Counseling, Support & Enrichment, Youth Transition Services, Education & Advocacy

Administration & Fundraising: 10%

Fiscal Year 2017 Totals -

Total Revenue: $1,912,527
Total Expenses: $1,901,179
Net Assets, End of Year: $449,457
Change in Assets: $11,348

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