Did you know? As a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of children, ARI partners with RI DCYF to be the adoption and permanency resource for children in foster care.

Through tears and smiles, heartache and love, the word adoption defines us as much as the word family does. And you know, adoption is not a bad word. It is not a dirty little secret. Adoption is something to shout from the rooftops and be proud of! Our family is adoption. We would not exist without it. And we definitely would not exist without Adoption Rhode Island.

But you know what? Our family is not all that special. Adoption Rhode Island helps to create families like ours every day. They are the heroes of my family, and the heroes of hundreds of other families like mine all over this state.”

-Lisa Rabideau, Adoptive Mom

“...All of you at Adoption Rhode Island made me a home that I love and will not leave. And people I trust who give me lots of love...”

- Jasmine, age 10
Did you know?
ARI’s Adoption & Permanency team served 186 youth in fiscal year 2018.

The reasons why families this year took the first step on their adoption journey are as varied as the families themselves—and the path they took to open their hearts.

What is it that moved families to learn more about adopting—recognizing the room in their heart, and home, to grow as a family?

It may have been Patrice Wood’s compassionate introduction to a teen on Tuesday’s Child. Perhaps it was seeing the beautiful portraits of children in ARI’s Heart Gallery, or a friend sharing their own experience. It might have been hearing of a child or teen already in their lives in need of a permanent, loving connection, or attending an event supporting ARI’s mission.

Whatever the reason, finding families and changing the life of a child would not be possible without the help of so many friends like you.

Thank you to the caring community that came together in the past year to help families find their way to ARI and the child—or children—to become a part of their lives.

A community that included our partners at NBC10, Cardi’s Furniture and Mattresses, and Wendy’s. Every business that hosted ARI’s Heart Gallery—and the photographers who lovingly donated their talents to create the portraits. Each of the businesses, individuals and groups, and provider partners who hosted and supported events and helped us to raise awareness. And, you.

“ARI truly is a beacon of hope for all who enter through the agency’s doors. If it were not for them providing our family with the support we so needed throughout our adoption journey and beyond, who knows where we would be today. This agency is truly a blessing in all of our lives and they are a part of our family!” -An adoptive Mom
Did you know? On June 30, 2018 we were working with 151 children and teens to bring them together with a family, each supported by our ARI team. At the end of June, close to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the children (75) were matched with a family and on the path to permanency.

The stories of your impact are real. Photos have been substituted to protect privacy.

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Kids come into foster care because bad things have happened to them. **Not because they are bad kids.**

Using evidence based practices and the best tools available, ARI’s clinicians and support team focus on the unique needs of each individual child or teen who comes to us. Ensuring that their future will be very different from their past.

**When a child wonders, “will I ever be safe?” you are the source of their hope.**

“We need to focus more on relationships, healing and connectedness than beds, slots, and behaviors. The system set up to help abused, abandoned and traumatized children should not be putting them on a path to homelessness.

Let’s work together to be sure every child is headed on the path to their best possible future.” - Darlene Allen, ARI CEO and Executive Director

---

Thank you for making possible... A circle of love and support wrapped around every child, teen and family.
The most vulnerable children receive what they need, when they need it, where they need it, and for as long as they need it because you make ARI’s Child and Family Support programs possible.

When a family in crisis recognizes that help is needed, it is the most critical time. We have to be there to answer the call—before the unthinkable happens.

When a grandmother caring for her grandchildren while her daughter struggled to overcome opioid addiction realized it was going to be permanent, she needed help. She knew that parenting this time around would be different because of what the children had experienced. And, how would they navigate the new relationship with her daughter after the adoption?

**You were the reason that ARI was there to help when she could easily have given up.**

When a mental health crisis led to a teen’s hospitalization just before his adoption was finalized, his family needed help to navigate what would come next. Could their family give him what he needed to heal? How would they best come together as a family and keep him from going back into care?

**You were the reason ARI could help move his adoption forward with a family prepared to love and support him—no matter what.**

A family considering the adoption of three siblings who had spent most of their childhood apart worried about what to expect. Could they manage the challenges to come? Without having both ARI’s Support Team and Permanency Team wrapping services—and understanding—around them, they would not have made the loving decision to keep the three children together.

**You were the reason that these children are no longer living apart.**

Funding for ARI’s Child and Family Support Services:
ARI’s VOCA Program in our Child and Family Support Services is funded with Federal Funds through the Victims of Crime Act.

Preserving Families is a program funded through a contract with the RI Department of Children and Families.

Hasbro Children’s Fund is a major funding partner for ARI’s Child and Family Support Services.

And, a number of foundation and corporate grant funders, and generous individual donors provide critical funding to meet the needs of all children and families who need support on their adoption journey—for as long as they need us.

200 Did you know? In the past year you helped close to 200 children to receive specialized therapy and support from ARI’s highly qualified clinical team so that they could heal from trauma, find hope, build resilience and thrive.
Did you know? The Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Model, a national program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, is one way ARI uses proven pro-active, child-focused strategies to help children with the most significant barriers to permanency—children who are older, are part of a sibling group or have special needs—to find their forever families.

You were there as we found ways to bring—and keep—separated siblings together for new beginnings and hopeful futures.

Is there someone out there that looks like me?
Too many children who come into foster care have asked that question.

Among the most heartbreaking of the unimaginable losses that are a part of a child’s life in foster care is being separated from siblings.

You were there as we found ways to bring—and keep—separated siblings together for new beginnings and hopeful futures.

We helped all of the caregivers in the lives of children or teens living separately to find ways to continue to stay connected.

We helped to uncover connections between siblings that had been lost, hosted reunions to bring them together, and created ways they could stay connected.

We advocated for siblings to be adopted together and provided specialized support to make it happen.

We hosted special events and a unique Forever Siblings Camp to bring separated siblings together for unforgettable experiences that should be part of every childhood.

I wanted you to know that we exchanged phone numbers at the event last night with ’J’ and ’J’ so we can be sure to keep the kids together!”
- An adoptive Mom after her children attended a sibling game night.

Thank you for making possible... life changing re-connections and the repair of broken bonds.
For most of the eight sets of siblings at ARI’s second Forever Siblings Summer Camp it was the only time last year they slept under the same roof.

Dozens of volunteers—including child welfare and medical professionals from partner providers—staffed the overnight camp along with Camp Aldersgate counselors and a number of ARI’s permanency and support staff. It was only through donations from individuals and corporate friends, volunteer support, and the generosity of Camp Aldersgate that the campers were able to attend and have such an unforgettable experience that created treasured memories.

This unique camp touched the hearts of everyone involved. It was intense, exhausting, heartbreaking—and for all involved—a life-changing experience.

Not only is everyone ready to jump in again next summer—a committee has formed to plan for special activities throughout the year to bring the siblings together with each other, and the volunteers whose hearts they so deeply touched.

“Thank you so much for giving my little girl a place to go and spend time with her bio brother. This camp let them spend time together and just be kids. All in a safe and loving environment with people that they know and trust. Peanut went from elbows at check-in to giving hugs good-bye. I can’t thank you enough for who you are and what you do. With love and gratitude.” – From an adoptive parent

Did you know? Camp Sponsorship donations sent 22 children to Forever Siblings Camp and gave 50 more children and teens in foster care an unforgettable summer at Camp Aldersgate, ECC Camp or Camp Canonicus—or granted wishes to attend specialty camps where they found a place they could be themselves.
Thank you for...

Countless acts of kindness giving children hope and the chance to just be a kid.

A child learns that someone does care whenever we deliver a birthday cake, help a teen to select a prom dress, bring a group to meet their sports heroes, grant a wish, bring siblings together, send a child to camp or deliver holiday gifts.

We could not do these things without you and the countless partners in our community – our heroes – who make the most memorable childhood experiences a reality.

700 SUITCASES – ‘THE PRICE OF ADMISSION’ TO THE DUFFLE BAG BASH...

...made their way to children and teens in foster care after a fun-filled, family event hosted by the Office of the Child Advocate, Lise Iwon and ARI. Dozens of volunteers helped to bring the community together to make a difference for kids. A special thanks to our friends NI-RO-PE who made sure all of the bags were delivered to RI DCYF offices.

Lauren Dyer, RI DCYF Probation and Parole Officer sees the impact of the day first-hand, “I have placed more children and teens in alternative care than I dare to count. I’ve seen so many carry their possessions in black garbage bags.

When I’ve given a teen a duffle bag I see their eyes light up and it moves me every time. They are very grateful—sometimes telling me they can’t believe someone cares. Some bags have been used to move from one placement to another, some from home to placement, and some for athletic equipment for youth on a school sports team.”

Lauren’s husband Jim has volunteered at the Duffle Bag Bash since the beginning and notes, “It is such a fantastic event to be a part of, and an outstanding group of volunteers and organizers. It’s great to be able to contribute to such a wonderful cause – providing dignity to the children that have to relocate once or numerous times. For them to have a way to carry their belongings is such a blessing.”
In the past year, children and teens too often defined by what it means to be in foster care, or adopted, found hope in experiences where they could leave labels behind and create life-long memories.

**Did you know?** More than 80 children and their foster or adoptive families found hope and healing in monthly Express Yourself Workshops throughout the year. 20 more teens from residential group homes participated in new Creative Arts programming.
Thank you for changing the answer to ‘what comes next?’ for teens in Rhode Island leaving foster care.

Nine young people stood proudly to enthusiastic applause from the group gathered on a June night last spring to honor what the teens had achieved—graduation from high school. In just the first year of a new partnership with RI DCYF, every teen in ARI’s Teen Focus program who should have graduated last spring achieved this milestone.

Most overcame significant barriers to get there—too many schools, too many moves—some had given up. Beating the odds that only 50% of youth in foster care reach this critical milestone even though for several of the teens, the possibility of graduating was not something they considered to be a possibility.

BECAUSE YOU CARE, THE MILESTONE NIGHT DID NOT MARK THE END OF ARI’S COMMITMENT TO THEIR FUTURE SUCCESS.

When he ended his first day of classes at CCRI earlier this fall, his ARI team was there to meet him and check in, ensuring that someone asked the question, “how did it go?” They listened as he expressed doubts that he could make it. He wondered if he should take a break, maybe starting classes was too much too soon.

Just as you might reassure your own teen, they helped him know that it was OK and to be expected that he would be overwhelmed on his first day. Taking a look at his schedule they helped him to adjust it to balance his work commitments. Because an early morning class was going to be a challenge, he made a simple change rather than quit.

Did you know? Close to 60 adults—foster and adoptive parents and other caregivers—had a place to come together to learn, to support each other, and to know they were not alone in support groups led by ARI’s Child and Family Support Team and by our Adoption and Permanency Coordinators.
Did you know? Made possible by funding from RI DCYF, Teen Focus is a program of ARI’s Youth Transitions Services and serves youth aging out of foster care. 70% of these youth that we served in the first 2 years of the program were engaged in some type of education including high school or GED preparation, college or college exploration. 62% who had earned a high school diploma or GED had some involvement in higher education—a rate far exceeding the national average.

The path to college and independence disrupted—but not derailed.

The need for treatment for a mental health issue could have derailed her dreams. But, this 18-year-old young woman who had spent years in care now had people in her life to help.

Her ARI team made sure she had a voice in planning for what would come next. A first step—finding a stable living situation and helping her to find and set up her first apartment. And at the same time, supporting her and her former foster family in continuing an important relationship in her life. For this determined and hard working young woman, working was a priority and she secured a full-time job.

While college was something she knew she wanted—it seemed impossible to be able to manage.

Encouraging her not to give up on this dream, her ARI Permanency Specialist arranged for a visit to CCRI’s campus where they explored together how to move towards her educational goals. He helped her to create make a schedule to accommodate her job and assured her we would be there to help navigate her future.

Teens in foster care preparing for what comes next participated in workshops, groups and events supported by partners in the community. They connected with each other and with adults who care about them. While at the same time discovering their strengths and talents, learning to overcome the barriers to the future they deserve, finding support in building healthy life-long relationships, and building their readiness to live independently—with a network of peers and adults to be a positive part of their lives.
We gratefully recognize the following individuals, organizations, businesses, and foundations for gifts or pledges received between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

The following cumulative giving levels may include corporate, foundation, or matching gifts, gifts made in support of ARI’s Golf Tournament, Gala or other fundraising events, and United Way, SECA, CFC or other pledged gifts.

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Please contact Jennifer Foster, (401) 865-6000, jfoster@adoptionri.org to let us know of any errors or if you wish to be removed from public listings.
WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

49% of ARI’s revenue comes from contracts with RI DCYF as our partner in bringing permanency to children and teens who are in foster care and waiting to be adopted.

90% of the funds that come to ARI are used directly to help children and families.

We rely on private support from our community and friends like you to meet more than 1/3 of our budgeted expenses.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government Funding</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RI DCYF Contracts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VOCA (Victim of Crime Acts) Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private Support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual, Foundation and Corporate Donations and Grants, and proceeds from fundraising from our supporters to benefit ARI’s children and families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARI Special Events (Net)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Programs and Services</strong></th>
<th>$ 1,909,202</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment, Adoption and Permanency; Counseling, Support and Well-Being; Youth Transition Services; Education and Advocacy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration</strong></td>
<td>$ 47,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising</strong></td>
<td>$ 161,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal Year 2018 Totals:**

| **Total Revenue:**       | $2,099,262 |
| **Total Expenses:**       | $ 2,118,679 |
| **Net Assets, End of Year:** | $ 430,040 |
| **Change in Assets:**     | ($ 19,417) |

**Did you know?**

With a legacy gift you can ensure that children and families find the love and hope to make lives better for generations to come. It’s as simple as remembering Adoption Rhode Island with a bequest in your will.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018*

Steven Parente, President
Linda Lynch, Vice President
Donna Caldwell, Secretary
Howard Dulude, Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Daniel R. Barry
- Patricia Bennett
- Mark Bevington
- The Honorable Frank Caprio
- Frank Carpano
- Wayne Charness
- Todd Costa
- Frances DiFiore
- Dolph Johnson
- Charrel Maxwell
- Julie Navarro
- John Ottaviani
- Bret Williams

Adoption Rhode Island
CEO & Executive Director
Darlene Allen, MS
MISSION
Adoption Rhode Island’s Mission is to facilitate, promote, and support the permanent placement of children waiting for adoption and to improve the well-being of foster and adopted children and their families.

We provide pre and post adopt 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.

TO LEARN MORE about Adoption Rhode Island:
Darlene Allen, CEO & Executive Director
dallen@adoptionri.org

Emily Lyon, Assistant Director
elyon@adoptionri.org

To learn more about making a gift or helping to share our story:
Jennifer Foster, Director of Development and Community Relations
jfoster@adoptionri.org

Donna Rivera, Director of Marketing and Communications
drivera@adoptionri.org

www.adoptionri.org

290 West Exchange Street, Suite 100
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401.865.6000
Email: adoptionri@adoptionri.org

Children First. and Always

Proud to Earn Your Trust & Confidence.
Providence Business News 2018 Business Excellence Award Winner for Overall Excellence at a Social Service Agency.