Changing the world... one child, one family at a time.

Family Connections

On the Move >>>

**Down Syndrome Awareness Month**
October 2017

**Natty Greene’s Day**
October 18, Greensboro, NC

**Blue Jeans and Pearls Gala**
October 28, Greensboro, NC

**Giving Tuesday**
November 28, 2017

**Share Your Love**
February 14, 2018, Greensboro, NC

Our CAS ABC family is excited about the Blue Jeans and Pearls Gala on October 28, 2017. We are so honored to have amazing sponsors, donors and auction items. We have been amazed by the generosity of our community, family, friends and businesses. They have provided numerous donations including: a week at a home in Tuscany, lovely pearl ear rings and financial sponsorships. Our website highlights a vast array of generous gifts. This has been a truly amazing and wonderful experience because every donor has been touched by the heart of the Blue Jean and Pearls Gala.

The heart of this gala, and the driver for our work, is the reality that there are children living each day, without a forever family. Dedication to the mission of our agency unites us as staff, families and community in our work and opens our hearts to such amazing generosity. As long as there is a child needing a family, it is our mission to find the family who is incomplete without that child. Our work to connect children and families includes all ages, races, diagnoses and special needs. Each of us, in our uniqueness, have a commonality; we were born to belong and be part of a family and a caring community. Our work to provide this for children has resonated throughout our community and provided generous support for this gala. The gala without this message, this mission, would be a nice evening, but the gala with this message and mission is life changing action. This event is the opportunity for each individual to contribute to connecting a child to a forever family.

Please accept this as my personal invitation for you to join us at our Blue Jeans and Pearls Gala. Without you something will be missing as we celebrate the road we have travelled and prepare to “change the world one, child, and one family at a time.” I hope to have the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for your support at the gala. Together we are changing the world through the beauty of adoption. Thank you for joining us in our work as a collaborator, adopting family, volunteer, donor or sponsor. You are making a difference in the life of a child and supporting the heart of the gala. We are honored and privileged to connect with each of you – thank you for adding JOY to our JOURney!

Phyllis Kay Stephenson, Executive Director

**October 18**

**Good Works Wednesday**

Eat at Natty Greene’s to Support CAS and ABC!
Halloween is the holiday of costumes, candy, and carving pumpkins. However, for many adopted children it’s more than a little overwhelming, especially when they thrive on structure. Dressing in costumes for the school day, staying up late trick-or-treating, and having so much extra candy around can all wreak havoc on daily routines. This year, you can help your children prepare for the holiday and also provide treats for other children who need accommodations for Halloween.

Many adopted children, both those with special needs and neurotypical, struggle with the change in daily routines that holidays bring. Discussing and allowing our children to help us plan for Halloween can greatly relieve some of that stress. Some children need to go over the routine for several days ahead of time, need visuals for the schedule, or need to practice what they’ll be doing on Halloween.

Late night events are difficult for many children, including our adopted ones. Finding a local daytime trunk-or-treat may be less overwhelming than nighttime neighborhood trick-or-treating. An advantage of trunk-or-treats is seeing familiar faces from school, church, or local playgrounds. Limiting trick-or-treating to fewer homes, rather than the entire neighborhood, can also keep Halloween from being as overwhelming. Playing up the idea of staying home to pass out candy to trick-or-treaters is an alternative that allows parents to maintain some sense of normalcy for the evening.

For other children, the struggle with food is an ever-present one. Whether giving treats away or hiding the treats they’ve received is the challenge, our adopted children may need extra reassurance that their needs will be met every day of the year. One option to consider is passing out non-food treats, which benefits our children, as well as other children with allergies or food sensitivities. The website www.foodallergy.org/education-awareness/teal-pumpkin-project is a fantastic resource for non-food treat ideas, identifying your home as a Teal Pumpkin Project home, and finding other homes in your area that are also participating.

Having children who are overwhelmed by holidays requires some advanced planning and creativity, but there are many ways to still make them enjoyable. Working with them to figure out how best to navigate the excitement and changes is sure to make this Halloween memorable for only the best reasons!

Welcome Home!

Congratulations to our children who are now in their forever homes!

Sam
Vivian
Frank
Alexis
Apollos
Christopher

Gage

Levi
DedeRuth
Abigail
Josephine
Michael
Matthew
Nicholas

WE’RE GROWING!

CAS is excited to announce new adoption programs coming soon! Be on the lookout as we expand across the globe with the goal of ensuring that no child grows up without a forever family!

5 Steps to Researching Special Needs

1. Complete thorough research on the need, its implications on day-to-day life, and long-term impact that it may have on your family.
2. Reach out to others in similar situations to learn about their experiences.
3. Identify and connect with an International Adoption Clinic in your area or state.
4. Identify medical or psychological experts and groups that can support you when you return home.
5. Prepare for the fact that children often come home with more significant needs than first indicated in their file.

Down Syndrome Resources

In honor of Down Syndrome Awareness Month, we want to provide you with ways to learn more and make a difference in the life of a child. Whether you are considering adopting a child with Down syndrome or are just interested in supporting and advocating for the hundreds of DS children around the world waiting for their forever families, these websites are an excellent way to get started!

Resources: