



## **ADOPTIVE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY**

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**November 5, 2000**

### **BACKGROUNDER**

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The **Adoptive Parents' Association of Central NJ's** (APO) mission is to inform, discuss, and learn about all aspects of adoption. It achieves this mission through education, advocacy, discussion groups, learning, and community service.

APO encourages and supports adoptive families through information sharing, speaker presentations, social events, a New Parents Network, and a Children's Workshop. Through the New Parents Network, waiting or newly formed families can get advice from someone who's had a similar experience, e.g., an international or open adoption.

Members have built their families through all types of adoption -- traditional, domestic, international, and open. Members' children represent all parts of the United States, and all parts of the world. They reflect the work of many different adoption agencies in the Central Jersey area.

In January 2000, the National Adoption Center's Beyond Adoption Program funded **APO's Children's Workshop** initiative, which promotes adopted children's personal growth and development. Sessions are held three times a year with a child development/adoption specialist facilitator overseeing various age groups. The workshops focus on self-esteem, self-awareness and family. **These workshops are open to all adoptive families; you do not have to be an APO member to participate. There is no fee.**

In celebration of National Adoption Month 2000, APO purchased and donated 6 books to the Hamilton Township Library's Adoption Collection. The titles include: "I Love You Like Crazy Cakes," by Rose Lewis; "Secret Thoughts of an Adoptive Mother" by Jana Wolff; "Adoption Journeys: Parents Tell Their Stories," by Carole S. Turner; "Passages From the Heart: Writings From Families With Children from China," by Amy Klatzkin, "Perspectives From a Grafted Tree," by Patricia Irwin Johnston, and "Cooking With Friends", a cookbook recently published by APO as a fund-raising effort.

"Cooking with Friends" contains nearly 175 recipe contributions from APO members, and features a special section with children's versions of favorite family recipes. A portion of the proceeds from "Cooking with Friends " will be used to fund community service projects.

All area adoptive families, waiting families, and persons considering adoption are invited to join us at our meetings and special events. Monthly meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the St. Gregory the Great Parish Center in Hamilton Square.

Finds us on the web at <http://community.nj.com/cc/apo> and link to our main site.

November is National Adoption Month. President Gerald Ford (an adoptee) issued the 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Proclamation regarding adoption awareness. The year 2000 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Adoption Month and the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first formal recognition of National Adoption Week, which was held in Massachusetts in 1976.

About our logo: The triangle/heart represents the birth family, the child, and the adoptive family, joined together by love, equal partners in the adoptive experience.

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