



# Community Champions Network

A Project of the North American Council on Adoptable Children

Funded by Jockey Being Family®



*Are you the leader of an organization or group that supports adoptive families or adopted or waiting youth? Would you like assistance to develop new programs or expand your efforts to advocate for post-adoption services?*



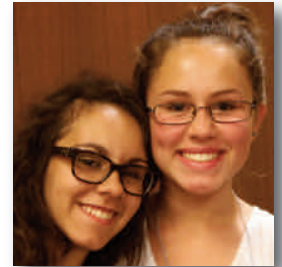
NACAC's **Community Champions Network (CCN)** offers an array of services to help leaders of adoption support organizations expand their support for adoptive families and their advocacy efforts led by young people who were adopted or in foster care. CCN services range from helping a team of parents start a support group in their local area, to assisting advocacy groups to create and support a network of youth advocates, to working with larger organizations or coalitions to implement a new state- or province-wide post-adoption service model.

Our staff and consultants can offer free technical assistance to help your organization expand and thrive in the following areas:

- **Youth Development** — Over the last decade, some of the most powerful advocates for child welfare reform are the youth who have been in foster care. We can help your group develop youth speak out advocacy teams, as well as other support programs and resources for youth who were in care or adopted. Support programs might include child and youth support groups or mentoring programs for adopted youth. We can help you plan new programs, train the youth and other leaders involved, and provide assistance during implementation.

- **Parent Group Development** — Community Champions Network can help you start, rejuvenate, or enhance an adoptive parent support group. Our services include providing information on group development and offering technical assistance on leadership development, program planning, and member support.

- **Coalition Building** — For the past seven years, CCN has helped create advocacy teams of parents, professionals, youth, and other advocates in states, provinces, and local communities across the U.S. and Canada. These coalitions advocate for improved or expanded post-adoption services in their area. Our team is available to help you build such a coalition, including initial planning, outreach to community members, support with action plan development, and ongoing assistance.



- **Implementation of Peer-to-Peer Support for Adoptive Parents** — Since 1999, NACAC has been operating a peer-to-peer support network for adoptive parents across Minnesota. We can bring our lessons learned to you and your community. We can help you design a program, identify and train peer leaders, explore funding streams, and help get your support network off the ground.

- **Creating Online Support Groups** — In these busy times, many adoptive parents need support but can't make it to an in-person support group. We can help you implement a private Facebook support group, including helping you think through issues and concerns, address confidentiality, plan for monitoring posts, and find ways to keep the conversation positive and empowering.

## About Us

NACAC has been developing and enhancing adoptive parent support groups and helping implement post-adoption services in the U.S. and Canada for more than 40 years. For many years, our staff have worked on building the leadership capacity of adoptive parents, adoption professionals, and youth who were adopted or have been in foster care.

NACAC's Community Champions Network, funded by Jockey Being Family®, enables us to share this expertise with you so we can improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

- **Develop a Website of Local Resources** — CCN can help you plan and implement a resource-rich website for adoptive families. Using the Taplink model ([www.taplink.org](http://www.taplink.org)), we can help you develop a plan to identify and catalog key resources for families that can be hosted on the [taplink.org](http://taplink.org) site. (Taplink charges \$100 per month to host your resources.)

*Please note that NACAC does not have funding to support program implementation. We have staff time and lots of expertise to share (and can share what we know about how others have funded similar programs), but your organization must have or find the resources to operate any new program.*

In addition to the technical assistance described above, NACAC's Community Champions Network can connect you with useful resources and experts in a variety of areas related to post-adoption support. For example, if you want to create a new respite program, we can likely put you in touch with someone who has implemented a similar model.



- **Ginny Blade** — Ginny has been with NACAC for 17 years, managing our Minnesota parent-to-parent support work. As an adoptive parent of children who have been in foster care, she brings a wealth of personal and professional experience to this work. Through CCN, Ginny is available to help develop peer-to-peer support networks and Facebook support groups.

- **Trudie Poole** — Trudie has been a part of NACAC for 13 years, previously as a board member and currently as a parent support consultant. She is the founder and leader of the Heritage Family Preservation Center in Florida. The group focuses on family advocacy, support, and legal research. She and her husband have adopted five children and served as kinship caregivers for two of their grandchildren.

- **Kim Stevens** — Kim has been with NACAC for 18 years, first as a board member and board president, and on staff since 2006. Through her work with CCN, she provides support to parent and youth networks in Canada, trains on a variety of topics, and assists with the youth development work. Kim and her husband are the parents of six children, four of whom were adopted from the public child welfare system.



## Meet Our Team

- **Christina Romo** — Christina has been with NACAC for nine years. In her role as CCN's program coordinator, she oversees the work of the CCN team and provides support to the parent and youth technical assistance work. Christina is an adoptee and offers resources and training on key issues in adoption and youth development.
- **Barb Clark** — Barb, CCN's parent support coordinator, is new to the NACAC team. She has years of experience providing advocacy and support to adoptive families and working with parents, schools, counties, clinicians, and agencies to promote better understanding of issues in adoption and inspiring change. Barb and her husband have four children who were adopted.
- **Kayla VanDyke** — Kayla is CCN's youth engagement coordinator. In addition to her personal experience in foster care, Kayla has a wealth of knowledge and experience in youth engagement, advocacy, support, and education through Foster-Club and the National Resource Center for Youth Development.
- **Phyllis Stevens** — Phyllis has been involved with NACAC for 14 years—first as a board member and now as a CCN parent support consultant. She is the founder and executive director of Together as Adoptive Parents, Inc. (TAP), a non-profit, multi-racial adoptive, foster, and kinship parent group in Pennsylvania. She is a published author and trainer, and she and her husband have six children—one through birth and five through adoption.

For more information or to request assistance, contact Community Champions Network program coordinator Christina Romo at [christinaromo@nacac.org](mailto:christinaromo@nacac.org) or 651-644-3036, x17.