



SPRING 2019

Let's Talk About Adoption: Barker's 25th Adoption & Foster Care Conference Draws a Record Crowd



The Barker Adoption Foundation is known and respected for being an extraordinary leader in adoption education. That expertise was on full display on April 6 at Barker's 25th Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, Maryland.

The day kicked off in Hollywood style as **Sean Anders**, adoptive parent and writer and producer of the dramatic comedy *Instant Family*, delivered the keynote address. Sean's humor, coupled with his positive message about children and youth in foster care, set the tone for an inspirational, educational, and thought-provoking day. Sean shared that he set out to make *Instant Family*, a movie inspired by his own family's adoption journey, to tell a story in hopes of dispelling fears. While adoption-related dramas have their place, they are often filled with darkness and little room for hope. *Instant Family* accomplished something that no other adoption-related movie has done before: it magically captured what is difficult **and** beautiful about children and families touched by foster care and adoption.

In his keynote, Sean suggested that fear is the primary emotion that keeps us from moving forward and thinking and acting differently in all aspects of our lives. He believes it is through storytelling that we understand others' experiences and that through those interactions we



Members of Barker's Board of Trustees join Sue Hollar and Michele Mazzei at the conference.

become less fearful. He reminded us that children who have experienced trauma, have been abused and neglected, have lived in an orphanage, or have lived with multiple caregivers have a story, and that story should be told from a position of strength. There should be no sense of pity or shame associated with that story. Sean said that the achievements of these youth are monumental, similar to climbing Mount Everest. Sean challenged us to listen to their stories and to take responsibility to confront the stereotypes about children in foster care, birth/first parents, and foster/adoptive parents.

A special thank-you to **Allison Maxon**, who served as a child welfare expert consultant on the movie and joined us for this very special day. Barker is extremely grateful for her participation.

Thirteen workshops followed the keynote. They featured the voices, moving stories, and perspectives of adult adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents. **Chauncey Strong** returned to the Barker conference this year and led the session "Navigating the Complexity of Birth Family Relationships." The ever-popular speaker **Debbie Schugg** returned and offered the workshop "Pressing Beyond Your Breaking Point." Her well-received event offered guidance on how to effectively meet your child's needs, even on those days when you feel like giving up is the best option.

Dr. Nabina Liebow, adoptee and Director of the American University's College of Arts & Sciences' Leadership and Ethical Development Program, spoke poignantly about the special

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Domestic Director, Saara McEachnie with Barker Board Member, Martha Dantzie



FROM THE *Executive Director and CEO*

The Barker Adoption Foundation's services and events are available for a lifetime.

We say these words and put this commitment into practice every day.

Prospective adoptive parents frequently say that the lifetime availability of premier services and the connections to adoptive families are the primary reasons they choose to work with Barker. Birth parents tell us that they feel supported by their counselor and are comforted to know that Barker's individual support is always just a phone call or text away. Members of our

monthly discussion groups, particularly the adult adoptee group, tell us how vital it is to have a connection to one another and to the broader Barker community.

How involved are you with the Barker community? When I recently visited Barker's website calendar of events, I was reminded that there truly is something for everyone! We hope that you'll join us at an upcoming workshop or discussion group, a Sundays at Barker play group, the 2019 Nationals Park fundraiser in June, and the family picnic and phonathon in September. We love seeing each of you and hosting the Barker community. More important, we know

how much you enjoy seeing and learning from each other.

We all benefit from connections and support. We hope that you and your family fully engage with Barker this year.

Sue Hollan



@barkeradoptions



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obligations that parents who chose to adopt transracially have to their children. Other sessions, moderated by Barker staff, included panels of adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents speaking about their varied experiences. Topics included "Exploring Openness Through the Lens of the Birth Parent," "Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me About Transracial Parenting," "Talking with Children About Adoption," "Navigating the Complexity of Birth Family Relationships," "Genetic Testing and the Adoption Search," "Parenting Children with Unanticipated Special Needs," "Insights into Blended Families," and "Maintaining Cultural Connections."

For the second year, Barker's conference provided the

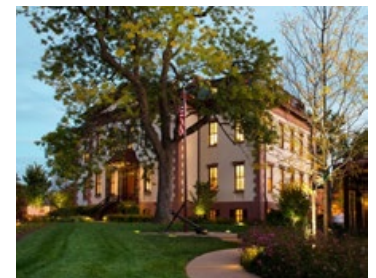
opportunity for participants to hear from local providers about the services they offer children, adults, and families. This year's providers included The Whittle School & Studio, Creative Counseling Connections, The Siena School, The Center for Adoption Support and Education, ASIA Families, Great and Small Therapeutic Riding, The GIL Institute for Trauma Recovery and Education, Potomac Pathways, Hope Chinese School, and TLC Treatment and Learning Centers.

The conference concluded with a fun and energizing drumming performance by Han Pan Korean Cultural Center.

We look forward to offering another great conference in 2020! ■

Barker's Workshops Expand to Capitol Hill

Rush-hour traffic in the metro area is some of the worst in the country. Getting to Bethesda on a weeknight to attend a training is not easy. To make our services more accessible to those who live and work in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., The Barker Adoption Foundation added a second location for some parent education sessions. In addition to Bethesda, these sessions will also be held at The Hill Center on Pennsylvania Avenue in southeast D.C. Recent topics include "Talking with your Children About Adoption" and "Talking Racist and Not Knowing It." We are grateful



The Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital

to Martha Dantzig, a member of Barker's Board of Trustees, who helped to make this possible. Visit Barker's event calendar on our website to learn about upcoming workshops in both locations. ■

Barker's Cradle Care Program Looks to Expand in Washington, D.C.

Are you looking for a special way to give back to the children and families in our community? The Barker Adoption Foundation is seeking a Washington, D.C., resident family to join our volunteer Cradle Care Program. Cradle Care families care for babies (0-3 years old) for 20-30 days during the period when a birth parent is

deciding whether to place their child for adoption. We require that one caregiver stay home with the baby while the placement process is underway and require completion of a no-cost home study with a licensed social worker. For additional questions or to apply, please email info@barkerfoundation.org. ■



Festive Korean Drumming closed out the 25th Annual Conference

Teen Connections: Fostering Bonds and Relationships

This year, for the first time, The Barker Adoption Foundation's annual Teen Connections program took place concurrently with the Barker annual conference. Teen participants had their own special program led by Kristen Reighard – a licensed counselor, guidance counselor, and adopted person – and Seth Solondz, licensed clinical social worker and guidance counselor. But teens also had the opportunity to attend several sessions of the general conference.

They spent the day getting to know other adopted youth, sharing their adoption stories, and participating in engaging and fun workshops exploring their thoughts on adoption. These included a “nature vs. nurture” art activity – they made posters representing who they are and where their unique

personalities, traits, and talents come from, explored feelings and questions they have about adoption and things they wished they knew, and discussed teen choices.

For the teens, a highlight of the day was keynote speaker Sean Anders. The movie *Instant Family*, which he wrote and produced, was inspired by his experience adopting three children from the California foster care system. Most of the teens had already seen it, so it was exciting for them to hear him speak and then to chat with him over lunch. Sean shared stories about the movie and his experiences and was very interested to hear their perspectives on adoption and foster care.

All in all, it was a great day, and Barker looks forward to next year's Teen Connections program!



Sean Anders joins Barker's Teen Connections' participants Sophia, AJ, Sean, Sydney, Daniel, Sam and Cristina.

Here is what teens said about the program:

“I loved getting to know the people...I would say that coming to Teen Connections was very helpful [in thinking about] adoption issues.”

“My favorite part of the day was making posters which represented

the “nature vs. nurture” parts of myself. After a little while, everyone got so comfortable with each other and it was a blast.”

“My favorite part of the day was meeting with the other teens and meeting Sean Anders.” ■

Family and Post-Adoption Services and Staff Expand!

The Barker Adoption Foundation is delighted to announce the expansion of our Family and Post – Adoption Services. After several months in search of the ideal candidate to lead this department, Barker welcomed Cynthia Cubbage. Cynthia has held

management positions associated with conducting child advocacy, analyzing local public policies, and developing innovative programming for youth. She spent the last 20 years dedicated to serving children and families in the private and public sectors who present with needs resulting from depression, attachment challenges, anxiety, self-injurious behavior, ADHD, sexual abuse, complex trauma, emotional dysregulation to adoption search and reunion, unresolved grief and loss, sensory integration challenges, and intergenerational/intercultural issues.

Cynthia is passionate about working with transracial/trans-cultural adoptive families, birth parents, children, teens, and older youth from the foster care system. She has delivered training nationally and internationally on adoption issues and worked on a team to develop adoption-competent publications and therapeutic materials.

Former and longtime program director Varda Makovsky recently

moved into a newly created clinical role in which she has expanded the therapeutic services that Barker offers to adults and children. We are grateful to Varda for her

determined work with the Barker leadership team to craft a strategy that meets the needs of our families and expands our post-adoption services. ■



Barker's Family and Post-Adoption Services Director Cynthia Cubbage (second from left) and her wife are parents by adoption of two beautiful children. We welcome her to our Barker community.

Barker Welcomes New Director of Development

Michele Mazzei joined the staff as the Director of Development in February and brings valuable development experience and a passion for The Barker Adoption Foundation's work in the community. Most recently she served as Vice President of Development, Youth Markets, at the American Heart Association where she was a key factor in ensuring that organization had a positive impact on the children, families, and volunteers it serves. On arriving at Barker, Michele began writing grant applications and meeting



with members of the Board of Trustees. She looks forward to meeting many of you at the Annual Meeting on May 22.

The Full-Time Work of Outreach and the Need for Barker Champions

Over the last 74 years, The Barker Adoption Foundation has served thousands of children and adults. In the days before cell phones and texting, the community learned about our services by word of mouth and through the now obsolete Yellow Pages. Communication and outreach have changed, and so has our approach to information-sharing and outreach. We do this through our redesigned website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Barker's other digital and print advertising tools include Google ads, highway billboards, bus shelter advertisements, and print materials distributed in the community. This multi-pronged approach is

crucial to ensuring that the community is aware of Barker's available, affordable, comprehensive, and ethical services.

Margeline Thomas, Barker's Digital Marketing and Outreach Manager, spends her days ensuring that Barker's website, social media platforms, digital newsletters, and print materials are current and relevant to the needs of the community. This includes checking that website optimization makes maximize use of Google's algorithms and that posted materials are relevant and interesting to the community. While this more modern form of outreach is crucial, so are many of the traditional ways of communicating and reaching out. Every week Barker staff are in the community: at hospitals, churches and synagogues, community events, information fairs, and workplace educational sessions.

Still, we need your help. Here are key messages about Barker programming that you can share to assist us in reaching those who could benefit:

No-cost services: Tell people about the availability of Barker's no-cost discussion and support groups for adult adoptees, adoptive parents, and birth parents.

Saara McEachnie, Barker's Domestic Adoption Director, provides information about adoption and Barker's services for volunteers at the Columbia Pregnancy Center.



Molly Dunlap provides information about older-child adoption to shoppers at a Virginia farmers market.



The Drew family volunteered their time to educate the community about PWNL at the Catalogue for Philanthropy's Inspiration to Action 2018 event. Barker was one of 30 nonprofit organizations featured and recognized as a leader of change in the community.



Counseling: Share information about Barker's counseling services for children, youth, and adults. Barker accepts many insurance plans, which help to offset the costs of the counseling.

Pregnancy counseling: Share information about Barker's pregnancy counseling services with your medical and mental health service providers.



Barker staff Virginia Downs and Molly Dunlap provide information about PWNL at a local movie theater showing of the dramatic comedy *Instant Family*.

And here are several ways that you can quickly and easily expand our reach:

Community: Share information with your local house of worship and support groups, such as Rotary Clubs, fraternities, book clubs, and PTA groups. We can then share information about older-child adoption, the profiles of children in foster care who are awaiting a domestic adoptive family, and information about children awaiting a family through intercountry adoption.

Print materials: Post flyers, posters, and brochures at schools, libraries, doctors' offices, and nail shops to help communicate information about pregnancy counseling services and older-child adoption.

Social media: Like and share information from Barker's social media pages, including Facebook and the Barker Blog.

Host an information session: Host a Barker representative at your workplace to share information about our services.

Donate: The cost of running our pregnancy counseling and Project



Drivers in Richmond, Virginia, see information about Barker on their drive through the region.

Wait No Longer (PWNL) programs is largely subsidized by donations and grants. Your financial support helps a waiting child experience a permanent and loving family.

If you are interested in becoming a Barker Champion, contact Molly Dunlap at (301) 664-9664 or mdunlap@barkerfoundation.org ■

— With Sympathy —

We express our heartfelt sympathy to families who mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Liza K. von Claparede, formerly of Washington, D.C., passed away on October 12, 2018. Liza is remembered fondly by her husband, son, and sister and their families. Lisa was well known in the community for her love of travel and dedication to volunteering her time and talents. The family designated Barker as a recipient of memorial donations.

Yvonne White of Rockville, Maryland, passed away on January 28, 2019, at age 47. Yvonne is lovingly missed by her husband, son, and sister. Yvonne and her husband Chris adopted through Barker's Korea program. Our deepest sympathies to the family.

Adopting a Child with Special Needs: A Couple's Journey to Openness

Written by a Barker Adoptive Parent and Reprinted from the Barker Blog

The process of adoption presents all families with an intensely reflective process of choosing to pursue an adoption of a child in a special needs program. When preparing for both of our adoptions, completing the “checklist of special needs” was reliably one of the most difficult decision-making processes. Googling your way to being a specialist in just about every special need imaginable and leveraging every known contact, no matter how remote, with any medical knowledge is an exhausting start.

We quickly found ourselves well in over our heads and evening conversations often felt like preparations for medical school. “Did you google Neurofibromatosis?” “How about Patent ductus arteriosus, is that one correctable?”... all portions of conversations not part of the normal birth processes. As intimidating as understanding the list was, the true challenge we found ourselves facing in each check on the checklist was how to say “no”. How do we feel comfortable with ourselves saying no to a child, far away, struggling with a special need and an uncertain medical future? The answer to this is a deeply personal approach that understandably varies greatly from family to family. Without diving into too many tangential conversations about privilege, finances, medical care, distance from specialists, etc, we tried to simplify our approach to the decision with an initial straight forward assessment. Is the condition correctable? This was our initial threshold to considering a special needs child. We wanted to do more, and ultimately would, but just taking this initial step provided a surprising amount of flexibility in the children who we would be eligible to be matched with. Immediately cleft lip and clubbed foot came into play, and the adoption pool grew. Heart murmurs,

deformed ears, extra digits...and the adoption pool grew. We felt fortunate to be able to offer solutions to these conditions and knew there would be additional doctors' appointments and possibly even several surgeries, but these were all conditions we could address and offer our child a “normal” life.

We were somewhat surprised to learn that this relatively shallow wade into the special needs list positioned us as being more open than most for a special needs child. In our first international adoption process we were quickly matched with an 11-month-old boy who was diagnosed with a soft palate. He was slated for a corrective surgery at 1 year old, but it could be deferred until after the adoption. After some initial research which summarized to, “This likely won't be any worse than a mild cleft palate”, we quickly worked to finalize the adoption and bring home our little boy. We fully embraced his needs and quickly put our plan to remedy his condition into place. After several specialist visits to determine just what was going on we received completely unexpected feedback from the doctor. “In the US we don't even tell parents about this at birth.” WHAT?!?! “Yeah, we just wait to see if it impacts speech when the child gets older and tell people then. Typically, there's no impact at all.”

Did we dodge a bullet, build good karma, or just have our child checked out and receive good news? Our perspective probably changed multiple times, but it certainly took the edge off the special needs process and helped break down the uncertainty we had in our approach. Here we were, parenting, making decisions for our new family, and things were just fine. We could deal with problems that arose and be grateful for the ones that passed us by.



Seth, Katie, and their children

Fast forward two years and we found ourselves again staring at the Checklist of Special Needs and debating just how much we could do. We were now proven parents comfortable in our ability to raise a child, but accommodations for a special need would now also impact siblings in addition to parents. We also found ourselves back to the birth parent comparison conundrum.

During the adoption process, it is easy to try and hold yourself to a birth child standard, “If we had a birth child with a severe birth defect, what would we do?” Reasonably every parent would do whatever they could to support their child and provide the best medical care possible. But adoption is different in that you are actively making a decision in the process, and by willingly accepting a special needs child, you are greatly increasing your chances of receiving one. For myself, I had to grant myself permission to recognize the difference and say no to conditions we felt outside our ability to handle or that would be too disruptive to our existing family. But with our new proven parenting super powers, we also felt better prepared to perhaps handle a condition considered requiring slightly more effort than our son.

In May of 2014 our agency sent around to all families who were awaiting home study approval the pictures and stories of several children with severe medical needs. These were considered

very difficult children to place. We opened the email just to look, knowing we would not be able to care adequately for any of these children. We instantly fell in love with a little girl who had been born with severe medical issues and had required surgery within the first days of life. We quickly talked in the middle of our workday and determined it couldn't hurt to ask for her file and just review it to better understand the medical history.

We emailed our agency and got a reply back saying another family was reviewing her file. If it was determined they would not pursue the baby, then our agency would let us know. We assumed we would not hear anything more about her. About a week later we were sent the little girl's file. The little girl had a heart condition, kidney disease, issues with her urinary tract and some extra fingers and toes. She had surgeries for all of these things, but otherwise was a happy, healthy 18-month-old. We quickly put our medical review plan into place and sent her file to Johns Hopkins to be reviewed by their international adoption pediatrician clinic. The pediatrician came back to us and told us this little girl had one of two syndromes that were very rare. All of her medical issues were part of the syndrome, which is how Johns Hopkins determined what it was. Without genetic testing though we wouldn't know which one of two possible syndromes it was. One of these syndromes would mean that

she has been through the worst and would be medically fine, for the most part, as she grows. The other syndrome would mean a lifetime of medical issues that included, severe kidney disease, blindness and obesity. The geneticist at Johns Hopkins was fairly confident this was the lesser of the two syndromes, but she couldn't tell for sure without the testing.

That was a lot to take in. This was going to be a leap of faith if we determined to move forward. If we decided to adopt this baby, we would not know for sure which syndrome she had until we got her home and tested...we would have to be prepared and ready for the worst. We immediately did some research on the two syndromes and found the two doctors in the world who run clinics for all of these patients. One is in Wisconsin and one is in England. We sent an email at midnight to the doctor in Wisconsin and sent him the medical files we had from China and told him what Johns Hopkins had said. He replied back within 45 minutes and said he wanted to talk to us the next day, but that he was fairly confident it was the lesser of the two syndromes.

We spoke to the doctor the next day and that night had a long conversation about what we would do. Neither of us could believe we were actually considering moving

forward with a child who could potentially have so many medical needs. This was a huge decision... but we leapt. We decided to move forward, hoping the doctors were right that this would be the lesser of the two syndromes, but knowing that we have to be okay if it is not.

We traveled to China in December of 2014 and brought home our now 6-year-old, Cecily. Cecily is strong, confident, intelligent and very independent. Cecily also has the worse of the two syndromes. She is followed yearly by nine different specialists. She is losing her sight. While she genetically has the syndrome with the long-term medical needs, she does not actually present medically as a typical patient with her syndrome. She is actually much healthier than most. She seems to be an anomaly and since her syndrome is so rare, she is being followed by several doctors who are hoping she will be a link medically in further understanding the syndrome. By all accounts Cecily is a normal 6-year-old, but as she grows we know the loss of her sight will be difficult to grapple with. Probably for us all. We though, cannot imagine life without her. What made us take the leap? What would life be like if we hadn't? We leapt not truly knowing what the outcome would be, but we had faith it would land us where we should be.

We believe Cecily was always supposed to be our child. Cecily was a name Katie had picked out for her future daughter when she was just a little girl. The name was from a lesser known character in a book by Lucy Maud Montgomery called "Anne of Avonlea". We had never looked up the meaning of the name, but we loved the name. We both knew very early on in our relationship that Cecily was the first name for any daughter we might have. We decided to adopt Cecily and announced to our family and friends we would be travelling to China to pick her up and let everyone know her name. Then for some reason one night we got curious and looked up what the name Cecily meant...it was crazy to think we'd never done that before. The name Cecily is an English name, the feminine form of Cecil, derived from the Roman clan name Caecilius, which is based on the Latin "caecus" meaning 'blind'. That night when we read the meaning, before any of the genetic testing was done, we had a hunch where our family was headed.

Seven years into our family adventure we now have three kids and having a special needs child is just part of who we are. We have learned about individualized education plans (IEPs) in the school system, traveled to Wisconsin to see the best doctors for Cecily's

syndrome, and made some minor changes to our home to accommodate low vision. Throughout our time however, there hasn't been a single minute we've ever rethought our decision. We push all our children to challenge their limits and encourage them to pursue the life they want to lead, not one society deems is appropriate for them. Despite her syndrome, Cecily enjoys skiing, parkour, kung fu, swimming, playing piano and many other activities. As with parenting any child, we constantly learn new things about ourselves and our family and having a special need in the family simply broadens our perspective and understanding of others.

We hope that others considering adoption, when faced with the checklist of special needs, will understand the decisions they make can indeed influence the outcome of their process. But life in general, and especially a life with children will undoubtedly be full of surprises. Healthy kids can get sick, sick kids can get healthy. As we stated earlier, the decisions of each family are deeply personal, but remember that your family will continue to change and grow no matter what boxes you do or don't check. If you are ready for adoption, then you are ready to embrace whatever the future has in store. ■

Congratulations to Our New Adoptive Families

Abhishek and Roochita welcomed Sanaya

Alex and Megan welcomed Lily

Ashley and Lisa welcomed Desmond

Brendan and Anne welcomed Francis

Charles and Meredith welcomed Elizabeth

Charlie and Emily welcomed Oscar

Christoph and Maria welcomed Alexandra

Clint and Amanda welcomed Robert

Daniel and Amy welcomed Mira

Daniel and McKenzie welcomed Easton

Daniel and Stephanie welcomed Zacharias

Dennis and Tyler welcomed Lincoln

Drew and Luis welcomed Hudson

Frederic and Cathy welcomed Kareem

Grant and Cassie welcomed Grayson

Greg and Molly welcomed Margaret

Guillermo and Alicia welcomed Vani

James and Mary welcomed Kerry

Jesse and Katie welcomed Nathan

Jim and Cassandra welcomed Luke

Jim and Jenni welcomed Esme

Jo-Ann welcomed Spring

John and Amy welcomed Grace

Jonathan and Tracey welcomed Paxton

Maria welcomed Juliana

Maurine welcomed Cora

Michael and Tracy welcomed Olivia

Peter and Parita welcomed Sarayu

Robert and Laurie welcomed Aiden

Ryan and Emily welcomed Sarajoy

Ryan and Mary welcomed Hannah

Seth and Anne welcomed Leo

Thom and Rachel welcomed Ira

Tim and Asha welcomed Mira

Tim and Rachel welcomed Ryan,

Kylie, Tessa, and Zachary
Timothy and Shushmita welcomed Diya

Join Us for an Adoption-Focused Digital Storytelling Workshop

The Barker Adoption Foundation is pleased to partner with the Berkeley, California-based StoryCenter to offer a very special 2-day workshop for the adoption community. Facilitators of the June 21–23 workshop include StoryCenter’s Founder and Director Joe Lambert and filmmaker and media educator Tatiana Beller. Additional support will be provided by educator and Barker parent

Connie Gelb. Special thanks to Connie for bringing this program to the Barker community!

The workshop is open to anyone who has been touched by adoption, including birth parents, adult adoptees, and adoptive parents. Participants will be guided through a complete media production process, from conceptualizing a story to gathering images to finishing a short digital story. The facilitators

will assist each participant with scripting, design, and editing, and participants will work at their own pace to create a 2- to 3-minute piece. You can view many examples of StoryCenter’s style of storytelling at storycenter.org/stories.

About Joe Lambert and Tatiana Beller: Joe has been active in the U.S. and international arts and media world for more than 35 years as a theater producer, director, and

writer. Tatiana is a media artist, filmmaker, and media educator based in Asheville, North Carolina. In January 2014, Joe made his first contact with Tatiana, who is his birth daughter. Since then Lambert and Beller have collaborated on several projects, including an adoption-related program called “The Real Family Project” and a statewide public library-based project called “California Listens.”

Registration is limited to 12 attendees, and information about the event is available on Barker’s website at www.barkeradoptionfoundation.org and about StoryCenter at www.storycenter.org. ■

Volunteers Needed for Annual Phonathon

The Barker Adoption Foundation’s 2019 Annual Fund will kick off on Tuesday, September 24 with our ever-popular phona-thon. This fun night of community engagement offers members of

the Barker community a chance to give back to the agency and to connect with generous contributors to our Annual Fund. We are seeking volunteers to give a few hours of their time during the

evening of September 24. Please contact Michele Mazzei if you can volunteer, at mmazzei@barkerfoundation.org. ■

Save the Date

Parent Workshop: “Advocating for Your Child’s Special Needs” – May 15, 7 PM, Maryland office

Parent Workshop: “Reflections by an Adult Adoptee on Being Raised by a Same-Sex Couple” – May 21, 7 PM, Maryland office

International Potluck Heritage Celebration – May 19, 12 PM, Maryland office

Annual Meeting – May 22, 6:30 PM, Maryland office

Sunday Playtime at Barker – June 2, 9:30 AM, Maryland office

Parent Workshop: “Exploring Transracial Adoption: A Candid Discussion About Race” – June 8, 10 AM, Maryland office

Digital Storytelling Workshop with StoryCenter – June 21–22, Maryland office

7th Annual Barker Goes Nats – June 23, 1:35 PM, Washington Nationals vs. Atlanta Braves

PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education) Training – Saturdays, June 29, July 13, and August 3 and 17, 10 AM, Maryland office

Ongoing Events

Parents of Adopted Teens – 1st Tuesday of month, 7 PM, Maryland office

Parents of Adopted Young Adults Support Group – 2nd Tuesday of month, 7 PM, Maryland office

Birth Parent Discussion Group – 2nd Thursday of month, 7 PM, Maryland office

Adult Adoptee Discussion Group – 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM, Maryland office

PWNL Waiting Parent Group – 4th Thursday of every other month (May, July, September, November), 6:30 PM, Maryland office (contact Eileen Wharton at ewharton@barkerfoundation.org to register)

In addition to accepting donations through our website, Barker accepts donations made through CFC (38208), Donor Advised Funds, gifts of stock, and additional giving coalitions. If you have questions or need assistance making a gift, please contact us at 301.664.9664. Thank you for your generous support of Barker!



7th Annual
**BARKER
GOES
NATS**

Sunday, June 23rd
at 1:35PM

Washington Nationals vs. Atlanta Braves

Learn More: barkeradoptionfoundation.org/special-events

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22 SEPTEMBER 2019

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