

Family  
Is Our  
Mission





# Ethical. Respectful. Child-Centered. Needed.

The Barker Adoption Foundation has been building families and serving all members of the adoption circle – birth parents, adoptive parents, adopted persons, and anyone else whose life is touched by adoption – *since 1945.*

# Letter from the Leadership



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Dear Friends,

We are grateful for the privilege and opportunity to lead The Barker Adoption Foundation and to share with you the impact of our work in 2018.

This Annual Report includes stories and pictures of those who have been touched by our services and recognizes those who helped to make our life-changing work possible. We would not be able to do the work that we do without the significant support, dedication and talent of our Board, staff, donors, grantors, volunteers and the broader Barker community and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment to ensuring that Barker remains a source of hope for children and families and a strong pillar in the adoption community.

The 2018 Financial Statements indicate the agency's financial strength. Of particular note is the impact of the successful conclusion of the Legacy II endowment campaign that has significantly increased much needed revenue for Barker's operating budget. This endowment has helped ensure that Barker's robust and comprehensive programs and services can continue to grow and evolve with the ever-changing needs of the community.

Programmatically we have remained strong, with ethical adoption programs supporting children from infancy through late adolescence. In 2018 we celebrated the homecoming of 76 children from the United States and from our international programs in China, Colombia, India, and South Korea. We continued to increase focus on finding and supporting adoptive parents for children with significant special needs. Project Wait No Longer, Barker's older foster child adoption program, continued emphasis on seeking families who are open to embracing siblings, thus decreasing the number of siblings that are separated from one another. Barker's domestic infant program continued to serve vulnerable women who sought our adoption counseling services and our post-adoption and family services programs have continued to be available for all people in the community regardless of any previous affiliation with the agency. This included increasing the availability of adoption-competent mental health counseling services for which Barker accepts insurance.

The Barker Adoption Foundation has helped build and support thousands of families since 1945 and we are excited about the future and the critical role that we will continue to play in meeting the needs of children and families.

Susan Hollar  
Executive Director & CEO

Howard Menditch  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# The Needs We Fill

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## PREGNANCY SERVICES

We believe every woman deserves no-cost, compassionate care when experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Whether a woman chooses to make an adoption plan or not, Barker social workers provide free counseling, support and help obtaining essential services to safeguard the health of mother and baby.

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## ADOPTION PROGRAMS

We help find the safe, permanent, loving families children need to thrive. There are four paths to adoption at Barker:

**LOCAL.** Matches are made with Maryland, Virginia or District of Columbia birth parents.

**NATIONAL.** Families receive training, education and their home study through Barker, but match with birth parents elsewhere in the United States and complete the adoption through another agency or adoption attorney.

**INTERNATIONAL.** Barker's international program includes China, Colombia, India and South Korea.

**INDEPENDENT.** Families receive training, home study preparation and support through Barker, but match with individual birth parents through individual outreach.

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## POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

Barker's services do not end at placement. We offer lifelong support to all members of the adoption circle whenever it is needed. Our post-adoption services are available to any person touched by adoption, even if Barker is not the placing agency.

# 2018 Highlights

76

## PLACEMENTS

This year we placed 76 children in permanent, safe, and loving homes – 38 infant domestic placements, 23 international placements, and 15 older-child placements through the U.S. public foster system.

150

## POST-ADOPTION COUNSELING SESSIONS

The demand for post-adoption services continued to grow, especially as DNA registry services make it easier to discover biological connections. Barker's counseling program accepts insurance, making it more accessible to the community.

250+

## CONFERENCES ATTENDEES

Our 24th Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference brought together professionals and community members for training, education, and connection.

\$73,000

## RAISED IN SPONSORSHIPS

For the sixth year in a row, Barker Night at Nationals Park raised much-needed funds for our operating budget.

45

## POTENTIAL ADOPTIVE PARENTS

We seek to find permanent, adoptive families for older children in the public foster care system. In 2018, 45 prospective parents completed Barker's Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (PRIDE) training program, a nationally recognized training model used to ready foster and adoptive families for adoption through the public foster care system.

One

## NEW OFFICE

We opened a satellite office in Frederick, Maryland, to be able to serve more clients in their own communities.

# *This Is Us*



In the pages that follow, members of the Barker family share their stories about adoption and its impact on their lives.



# Kyle, Lamika, and Allison

*“She’s so perfect.”*

That’s how Lamika and Kyle describe their daughter Allison, a curious, independent, and beautiful baby girl who recently turned one.

“Nearly 100 people attended her first birthday party,” Lamika says. “She just brings joy to everyone.”

## **THE RIGHT ROAD**

To outsiders hearing their story, this family’s journey to each other might seem long and arduous, but Lamika says she wouldn’t change a thing. “The road may not have been perfect, but it brought us to the perfect place.”

Kyle and Lamika, both Baltimore natives, met after college and married 10 years ago. They knew they wanted to be parents but also wanted to take their time. “We wanted to get to know each other as married people first,” Kyle says.

When they decided they were ready, things didn’t go quite as planned. Fertility challenges meant biological children were unlikely. Undeterred, the couple absorbed that information and began talking about what to do next. Kyle recalls, “We knew we still wanted to be parents so we simply chose to look elsewhere to find the path to our family.”

## **FINDING BARKER**

The couple researched adoption agencies, but it wasn’t until they attended a Barker information session that they felt they had found their home. “We looked at four other agencies before going to Barker, and none felt right. Some co-workers of ours who had adopted through Barker then recommended them to us, and once we were at the information session, we knew ‘this is it,’” Kyle says. “It was the right feeling from the start.”

After completing the steps required for Barker’s domestic adoption program, the couple began what Lamika describes as one of the hardest parts of the process – waiting. “Once you’re approved, every day feels like an eternity while you’re waiting to be matched. It doesn’t help that people keep asking ‘did you hear anything?’” she says ruefully. “Attending the Waiting Parent meetings at Barker was a big help because we met people who were going through the same thing and understood what we were feeling.

We also learned a lot of practical information that was useful later on.”

### **MATCHED**

Lamika and Kyle were thrilled when they were selected by and matched with a birth mother in Maryland. Soon after they received the referral, the baby was born and the birth mother asked Lamika and Kyle to meet her and the baby at the hospital. Elated, the couple prepared for the visit.

Regrettably for them, the meeting never happened. Before they could arrive, the birth mother changed her mind and decided to parent.

“It was a setback, but we knew setbacks would come so we just kept moving,” Lamika says.

### **A SECOND CHANCE**

To increase their odds of quickly matching again, Barker suggested the couple speak with an adoption agency in Georgia that needed adoptive parents. “Barker knew the other agency was expecting more than 10 babies to be placed by the end of the year,” explains Lamika.

Within a month, Lamika and Kyle were matched for the second time. “When the agency called and said the baby was here and the birth mother wanted us to come down and care for him, we didn’t hesitate. We requested leave at work, left for Georgia, and immediately took the baby into our care. We celebrated Christmas together, took him to all of his early doctors’ appointments, and spent a lot of time bonding,” Kyle says.

### **HEARTBREAK**

The day they were scheduled to return to Maryland with the baby, the couple received heartbreaking news. As Lamika recalls, “On the last day of the revocation period, we were packing to fly home and we received a call – the birth mother had changed her mind and decided to parent.”

“Flying back home with an empty car seat was devastating,” Kyle says. “We got home

a day before my dad’s birthday and had been looking forward to giving him the gift of holding his new grandson. We also had to return to work instead of using the leave we had requested, which meant sharing what happened with coworkers at a time when we were hurting.”

Despite their heartbreak, the couple still pressed on. “Our attitude remained ‘Let’s keep going,’” Lamika says. Soon they were matched with two other babies in Georgia, but those matches also fell through after both birth mothers decided to parent.

### **ONE MORE TIME**

Given these experiences, it’s easy to see why Kyle and Lamika might greet further matches with some skepticism. “In February 2018, we received a call about another potential match in Georgia. We were a bit skittish because the baby wasn’t due until late May. On one hand, if the placement went through we would finally be parents; on the other, if the birth mother decided to parent it would be three more months lost with us no closer to our dream,” Lamika shares.

In the end, the couple decided to risk it, and they forged a friendly relationship with the birth mother in the following months. The birth mother knew about their adoption ups and downs and was empathetic. Still, as the due date grew near the birth mother went silent, which left both Lamika and Kyle feeling vulnerable. When they received the call that the baby was born, they were cautiously optimistic but chose to wait until after the revocation period had expired before traveling to Georgia to be with their new baby.

“As soon as the revocation period ended, we flew to Georgia and met our daughter, who we named Allison Faith. We spent two weeks in Georgia with her while we

waited for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) approval we needed to take her home to Maryland. Barker was wonderful in assisting us with this. As they did with everything throughout the whole adoption process, they stayed on top of it so we could bring Allison home as soon as possible,” Lamika says.

### **SURROUNDED BY LOVE**

When Kyle and Lamika finally returned home with Allison in late June, she had an eager family ready to greet her. The couple speaks movingly of Kyle’s parents and Lamika’s mother finally holding their new granddaughter for the first time.

**In 2018, Barker provided counseling to 30 pregnant women. Slightly less than half chose to place their children for adoption. Whether a woman chooses to make an adoption plan or not, Barker social workers provide free counseling, support, and help obtaining essential services to safeguard the health of mother and baby.**

Allison has now taken her first steps and continues to keep her large extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents enthralled.

### **MEANT TO BE**

Reflecting on their journey, Lamika says she would do it all again in a heartbeat. “People ask if we would do it again, and we always say, ‘Yes! Absolutely!’ As painful as our experience was at times, we understand it had to happen that way to have this perfect ending.”

“Barker was so supportive throughout the process,” Lamika says. “They always let us know that they understood just how hard it could be but helped us stay hopeful. Forming families is what they do, and we are forever grateful to them for it.”

# Elysia, Brian and Mateo

## *This is the story of two adoptions.*

Thirteen years ago, Elysia was a single woman with an interesting job and a busy life who wanted to become a mother. After considering all of her options, she entered Barker's international adoption program and adopted her son Mateo from Guatemala.

"I went through the process as a single woman. I was matched with Mateo just a few days before Mother's Day in 2007. He was such a cutie from the beginning. I traveled to visit him in July and then again in November because I just couldn't stay away. In February 2008, I brought him home."

Elysia's family and friends were as excited about Mateo as she was. "One of my best friends came with me on the first two

Intrigued but focused on the trip, Elysia said she would see him when she got back.

In Guatemala, Elysia and Mateo had a wonderful time exploring the country and reconnecting with the foster family Mateo lived with while his adoption was pending. "It was Mateo's first time back, and it was incredible. We had stayed in touch with his foster family in Guatemala City so we added a few days to the beginning and end of the tour so we could see them. They don't speak any English – and I speak only a bit of Spanish – but that didn't matter one bit. Luis, Mateo's foster father, just kept hugging him and wouldn't let him go. It was so moving," Elysia says.

### **BLENDING FAMILIES**

After touring the country and participating in service projects with six other adoptive families, Elysia and Mateo returned to the United States, where Elysia soon began spending time with Brian. Introductions

the present, Mateo feels he has gained an older brother.

As if starting a new relationship wasn't enough change, in November 2017, just a few months after the Homeland Tour, Elysia's parents moved in with Elysia and Mateo. Mateo loved having his grandparents so close – and continued to enjoy his camaraderie with Brian.

### **A PROPOSAL**

After dating for a time, Brian brought up the idea of marriage – and of adoption. "Brian said "I want to marry you AND I want to adopt Mateo,"" Elysia says.

Elysia loved Brian, but she didn't say yes right away. She needed a moment to consider the magnitude of the choice. "I had been a single parent for so long and I had to think, 'Do I want to share him?'"

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

At the same time, Brian acknowledged that he knew nothing about adoption and suggested that he learn more so any decisions he made or actions he took could come from an educated place. "The first thing I did was go to Barker's Annual Conference. I learned a lot from the speakers, and it gave me things to think about and talk through. I was an experienced parent, but adoptive parenting is different and I wanted to know as much as I could about it," he says.

Elysia and Brian also contacted Barker's Post-Adoption Services team for information and support. "Barker has been very helpful in educating Brian about adoption. It's things as simple as getting the terminology right, such as 'birth mother' vs. 'real mother.' It's very important to me that Brian understands language and other issues around adoption, especially as Mateo is now an adolescent exploring his identity," Elysia says.

"We have called Barker a number of times for help," she continues, "and it's reassuring to know there's a resource we can keep going back to whenever we need advice."

**A common theme throughout these stories is the appreciation each family has for Barker's Post-Adoption Services Program. Knowing someone is always there when you need them, whatever the reason, allows families to feel confident they can navigate the road ahead. The same is true for birth mothers and fathers and any others who have been affected by adoption – whether placement took place three weeks or three decades ago, Barker is a safe place with expert staff to seek information, guidance, and support.**

trips, and my mother came with me when I picked him up in February. I took parental leave for three months, and then Mateo went to my parents' in-home daycare along with two cousins and other children. He was surrounded by family and love."

### **HOMELAND TOUR**

Fast forward 9 years to July 2017, and Elysia and Mateo were about to return to Guatemala on a Homeland Tour. Two days before the trip, Elysia met Brian, a single man with an 18-year-old son of his own.

eventually were made, and Brian and Mateo hit it off right away. "So much so that Mateo was actively encouraging the relationship," Elysia remembers with a laugh.

The first time Mateo met Brian – and Brian's son, Jeff – was at an outing to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. Both Jeff and Mateo had some trepidation about the outing because Jeff thought he didn't like kids and Mateo said he wasn't all that fond of teenagers. Despite the hesitation, all four had a nice time together. Fast forwarding to



### **MARRIAGE AND ADOPTION**

Brian moved in with Elysia, Mateo, and Elysia's parents in the spring of 2018. By summer, Elysia's mother's health was failing, and the couple put their wedding on the fast track. They were married September 30, 2018, and her mother passed away one month later. Brian's adoption of Mateo is expected to be finalized this fall.

As for Mateo, he is heading into his second year of middle school, playing baseball, clarinet and Fortnite, and basking in his expanding family circle. When asked for his perspective on the changes of the past two years, he answers with a simple gesture: thumbs up!

## *Parent Workshops*

In 2018, we offered numerous parent workshops to help parents learn more about adoption and navigate common challenges. Participants do not have to be Barker parents to attend our parent workshops.

- Is It the "Adoption Thing?"
- Talking Racist and Not Knowing It
- Navigating Contact with Birth Families
- Parenting Adolescents
- Talking to Your Elementary School-Aged Children About Adoption
- Therapeutic Writing
- Tackling Technology
- Hair Care

# Jenifer and Eva

When you meet Eva, you have no doubt you're meeting a teenage girl. She arrives brushing her shoulder-length hair, talks excitedly about the accessories that decorate her room, and shares an adorable picture of herself sleeping with her beloved dog. Look up and you see a refrigerator covered in school awards and a kitchen where she loves to cook. Talk too long and she starts to fidget – it's a weekend and she has things to do!

It wasn't long ago that Eva's life was much different. After entering the foster care system at age 12, Eva spent the next 44 months in multiple foster homes in Ohio, separated from biological siblings after the first home and wondering what would come next.

## “I WASN'T DONE PARENTING”

What came next was Jenifer, an attorney in Washington, D.C., who had already raised two boys after they came to live with her when they were ages 9 and 15. “The boys had grown up, but I was still interested in parenting older children and started exploring my options. The foster care system felt like a good place to start. The boys had had siblings in foster care so I already had been exposed to the issues foster children face.”

“I heard about Barker's Project Wait No Longer program through a friend who had adopted through Barker. I started PRIDE adoption classes on the day after inauguration. It meant I had to miss the Women's March, but it was all worth it,” she says.

## A BIRTHDAY GIFT

After completing her classes and her home study, Jenifer was ready for a match. On her birthday in April 2018, after receiving information about Eva, Jenifer spoke by phone with Eva's social workers in Ohio to explore the idea of a match. Hopeful, the social workers then flew to D.C. to meet Jenifer in person and learn more about where Eva might live.



The social workers returned to Ohio with a book that gave Eva a glimpse of her potential life with Jenifer. Eva describes the book fondly. “I remember it had a picture of Mom and of Sharon, who is my godmother

Eva and Jenifer enjoyed trips to Bob Evans, Chipotle, and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. They painted pottery – making letters to spell out E-V-A for her room.

## BONDING THROUGH COOKING

The initial two-day visit was followed by visits of three, five, and seven days by Eva to Jenifer's home in DC, where she and Jenifer deepened their ties to each other. Eva's love for cooking proved to be a source of bonding. “We started doing Blue Apron to help Eva learn cooking skills, we watched cooking demos at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall, and during one visit, Eva attended a local cooking camp at Sur La Table,” Jenifer remembers.

Eva moved to D.C. permanently in August 2018, and her adoption was finalized in February. Her cooking continues – she brought her favorite fettuccine alfredo recipe with her from Ohio and often makes it to share. Not long ago, she perfected a lemon cupcake that has already been

**After age 10, a child's chances for adoption drop by 50%.**

and aunt. It had a picture of the school where I would go and a picture of the boys, Rico and Jimmy. It showed me two rooms that I would get to pick from to be my bedroom and decorate however I would like, and it had pictures of the basement that would be made into a hangout space for me.”

In May, just one day after Eva's 15th birthday, Jenifer flew to Ohio to meet her. Eva says they connected immediately. “She had been waiting, and I had been waiting and it just felt right.” During their time together,

entered into a cupcake competition. “I like them to be sweet but not too sweet. It’s important to me that you be able to taste the lemon, and I tried to stay true to what I wanted,” explains Eva.

#### SETTLING IN

Eva has also spent time making her bedroom the perfect teen abode. “We’ve painted the bedroom two shades of blue, and I have a lot of posters and canvases and added a lot of accessories. The theme is ‘mystical and creative.’ It’s everything I like in one place,” she says, including several memory boards filled with mementos of her life in Ohio and her new adventures in DC.

Eva’s room also incorporates reminders of her biological family. “I have sea turtles hanging on my wall, which remind me of my younger brother who was nicknamed

**“When you meet, you know they are your child whether they’re 15 days old or 15 years old. The connection is real and it’s there.”**

– JENIFER

#### THRIVING AT SCHOOL

While Eva has been diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome, she’s clearly not letting that get in her way.

Despite being new to her school, she has already received high honors awards and an award for assisting a peer. “I was just helping someone understand something they were struggling to learn,” she explains about the latter.

Eva sees school as a place to not only learn but to spread her wings socially. “I don’t want to miss out on important things in life

#### MORE FAMILIES NEEDED

Eva says she feels strongly that more teens should be adopted. “Until you are, you wonder if anyone loves you, and you can feel very hurt,” she says. She advises other children in foster care to stay open to the idea of becoming part of a loving and permanent new family but laments that “there aren’t a lot of opportunities for kids to have that choice.”

#### NAVIGATION HELP

As any parent of a teenager knows, it can be hard to be a teen no matter what your circumstances. Fortunately, Eva isn’t navigating adolescence on her own; Jenifer is right there by her side, and says she is grateful for Barker’s resources, including the Annual Conference, support groups, and individual outreach from social workers.

“While I’ve already parented two boys through their teens, it’s different with a girl and with a child with Eva’s history. Barker’s training was especially helpful for understanding what a child in foster care has gone through and what you need to figure out across all areas of their lives, including communication styles, how to deal with trauma, what to be concerned about, and what’s just normal teen behavior. Since I parented before, I thought it might not be as complicated, but that’s not the case.”

“As Eva gets older, there’s comfort in knowing that Barker will always be there for her and for me. Right now, it makes it easier and less daunting to have someone I can always call if I have a question or need some support. Having that for my daughter as she becomes a young adult separate from me is invaluable.”

**Permanency gives many things to children transitioning from foster care into an adoptive home. They receive – sometimes for the first time in their lives – a central source of love, protection, stability, and something we all need in our lives: a sense of belonging.**



‘Turtle’ by my biological aunt. My biological father was from Mexico so I also have Mexican ornaments to have a piece of Mexican culture in my room.”

Jenifer says she and Eva are figuring out the best way for her to stay in touch with her siblings and cousins in Ohio. In the meantime, she has been embraced by family and friends from all parts of Jenifer’s life. In just their first year alone, they traveled to Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Arizona to visit with new relatives.

like socializing and making friends.” She is part of the cooking club, participates in choir and dance, and last fall was elected to the homecoming court.

“To become a duchess on the court, I had to run an election campaign. I made fliers and campaigned, but I really didn’t think I would win. I was so happy when I did,” she recalls. After walking across the football field wearing her duchess sash, Eva’s new goal is to be a Queen on the court in two years when she becomes a high school senior.

# Vic, Janice and Lusi

To understand why Vic calls Lusi, his 10-year-old daughter, his “miracle girl,” you have to know a bit more about Vic, his wife Janice, and their family.

Vic and Janice have three biological sons, now in their 30's. Ten years ago, when their youngest son left home, Janice felt a bit lost. “I wasn't sure what I needed to do with the rest of my life.” In her early 50's at the time, Janice says adoption had not been on her radar, but after some reflection, “that's where God led my heart.”

## STARTING OVER

While Janice's heart may have been ready, it wasn't clear that Vic's was. “It took me a

through an agency with a program in Ethiopia. After they were in process, it was Vic's turn to launch a surprise. “He said, ‘If we're going to adopt one daughter, why not two? Why don't we adopt sisters?’” Janice recounts.

“Now it was my turn to say, ‘you're crazy,’” she says while laughing.

## SIBLINGS

After the initial shock wore off, the idea made sense to both of them. “Because our boys are grown, I realized that in some ways, we would be making a separate family and if we adopted siblings, they would have each other,” Vic says.

adopt again and asked if we were as well. We both looked at her like she was crazy,” Janice remembers. “I may have even asked her to leave,” Vic says with a grin.

Still, Janice recalls, “This got my wheels rolling and thinking, ‘Well, why not?’ Vic slowly came on board and we decided to adopt siblings again. It took about 15 months, and we went to Ethiopia in September 2013 to bring Kalkidan and Kidsist home.”

“We were really finished this time,” Vic says.

## A CHILD WAITS IN CHINA

Fast forward three years, and Janice received an email with links to waiting children in China. It wasn't the first one she had received – they are sent daily – but a young girl caught her eye. “I saw a picture of a little girl who had just turned eight and my heart just flooded when I saw her picture. She had a condition where her legs were affected physically, but a doctor in the United States had evaluated her and said that with surgery she should be able to learn how to walk.”

“I was watching TV while Janice was looking at the blog, and she showed me the photo and asked me, ‘What do you think?’ Usually, I would have said ‘I don't think,’ but instead I said, ‘I think she needs a home,’” Vic says.

He continues: “Nothing came of it then, but a few months later it was the same thing. Janice is reading the blog, and I'm watching TV and she says, ‘You know, a few months ago I sent you a photo and you said she needs a home. Did you mean our home?’ I said ‘yes.’ She said, ‘Why didn't you tell me?’ I teasingly said, ‘I did, you just didn't listen.’”

Nonplussed, Janice says moving forward “made no sense in the overall scheme of things. We already had four girls at home plus grandchildren.”



long time to say anything to him because it felt like it was late to start over,” says Janice. “When I finally said something, he thought it was crazy and assumed the whole idea would just go away.”

It didn't. After some time passed, Janice brought it up again. This time Vic came on board. “I tried to find all of the reasons to say no, but eventually I ran out of them,” Vic says with a chuckle.

The couple researched their options and began the process of adopting a daughter

Soon they were traveling to Ethiopia to meet their seven-year-old daughter Yordanos and three-year-old daughter Weynishey. “That was it,” Vic says. “We were happy, and we were calling it a day.”

## ADDING TWO MORE

That thought didn't last too long. In the summer of 2011, slightly more than a year after they had come home with the girls, the couple hosted a reunion with families they had met in Addis Ababa through their agency. “As we were talking, another couple reported they were returning to Ethiopia to

## CHINA-BOUND

Still, the couple decided to plunge ahead. “The placement was through Barker’s Waiting Children from China Program so we called Barker in March 2017 and began the adoption process one more time. They were wonderful at shepherding us through all of the paperwork and other steps and in May 2018, we flew with all of the girls to China to bring our new daughter Lusi home.

Lusi was instantly embraced by her new family as she settled in and began medical treatment to address the impact of cerebral palsy on her legs and ability to walk. “It was only during her last year in China that she had had any physical therapy, and she was still very limited to her wheelchair when we met her. After we got home, we put the wheelchair away and she began to use crutches. A pediatric surgeon performed surgery to release the tendons in her hamstrings and put Botox in her knees, which allowed her to begin putting her feet down,” Janice says.

## A MOMENTOUS STRETCH

Post-surgical physical therapy and stretching was critical to her recovery, and Vic liked to perform the exercises with her at home. It was one of their workout sessions that set what Vic calls Lusi’s miracle work in motion.

“We worked on her exercises one Sunday, and the next day I couldn’t get out of bed because I had hurt my back. I went to the

chiropractor who said he needed to take an x-ray; two days later he came back and said ‘The x-ray shows your aorta is ready to explode, go see a cardiologist ASAP.’ I took the CD to the cardiologist who said my aorta was fine, but he thinks I have a tumor in my lung and I need to see an oncologist ASAP. I see the oncologist who thinks the tumor is benign, but he calls me back and says he was wrong – it wasn’t benign, it was malignant. In October 2018, I had 40 percent of my right lung removed and now I have no evidence of disease.”

“I had no symptoms and would never have gone to the doctor if I had not injured my back. Lusi is my little miracle girl,” Vic says with emotion.

## COMPLETING THEIR FAMILY

Vic and Janice are grateful to have Lusi in their lives for more than just this miracle, however. They say she’s brought the family joy and connection. “The girls welcomed her with open arms, and everyone gets along very well. The three youngest are together most of the time. Usually three’s a crowd, but they just love to be together,” Janice says. “Her bonds with our older sons continue to grow; they have been very supportive and protective. Every single week in church class we hear her thank God for her family.”

“At home, she loves to spend time in the kitchen. She loves to cook, wash dishes, clear the table – she does not let her disability get in the way at all. She also loves playing with her nephews. At school, she completed second grade, and her ESL classes have helped her language skills quickly develop,” Janice adds.

**Many of the children in China who are waiting for forever families have needs ranging from correctable to lifelong, and we actively seek families who are willing to care for and love a child unconditionally. We are proud that we have placed hundreds of children in permanent, loving families through our Waiting Children from China Program.**

Vic says Lusi is headed for more surgery this fall, but they expect her to keep right on going. “They are going to rotate the bones in her legs and build an arch for her in her right foot. She will be in a double cast and off her feet for six weeks, but we are hopeful it will make her gait more normal.”

## LIFELONG SUPPORT

When asked about Barker, both Vic and Janice express thanks for Barker’s diligence throughout the process. “While we haven’t needed much assistance since Lusi arrived home, Barker has done an excellent job letting us know what is available to us. After doing this three times, we know what to expect and the challenges have been very minimal, but we are grateful they are there if we need something.”

So are they done? Vic laughs and says he thinks this time they really are through. “I think we’ve finally aged out of the program,” he says with some regret. “Along with raising our three sons, this is the greatest adventure I’ve ever been on.”

## International Partnerships

Barker places children from China, Colombia, South Korea and India.

Our commitment to families and finding homes for children is central to our mission, and as such, cultivating and maintaining positive relationships with network agencies remains pivotal to all that we do.

# The Newest Members of Our Community

## In 2018:

Abby and Heather welcomed Oliver  
 Alex and Megan welcomed Lilia  
 Alvin and Laryssa welcomed Laila  
 Andrew and Natalie welcomed William  
 Andrew and Norma welcomed Ava  
 Angela welcomed Alexa  
 Benjamin and Daniela welcomed Noa  
 Bernhard and Allison welcomed Zoey  
 Bibiana welcomed Felix  
 Brandon and Danelle welcomed Nolan  
 Bryndon and Megan welcomed Raymond  
 Casey and Amber welcomed Ariyanna, Alycia, and Joshua  
 Catherine welcomed James  
 Charles and Emily welcomed Oscar  
 Christian and Elizabeth welcomed Samuel  
 Christina welcomed Sierra  
 Christopher and Premal welcomed Rohan  
 Christopher and Sarah welcomed Andrew  
 Clint and Amanda welcomed Robert  
 Colin and Karin welcomed Linus  
 Daniel and McKenzie welcomed Easton  
 Daniel and Sara welcomed Paul  
 Daniel and Stephanie welcomed Zacharias  
 Darren and Ashley welcomed Jayda  
 David and Amanda welcomed Tobias  
 David and Miriam welcomed Carolyn  
 Drew and Allison welcomed Miriam  
 Drew and Luis welcomed Hudson  
 Edgar and Kim Kim welcomed Maggie  
 Evan and Megan welcomed Freya  
 Frank and Carrie welcomed Tatiana  
 Grant and Cassie welcomed Grayson  
 Gregory and Erin welcomed Nicholas  
 Gregory and Molly welcomed Margaret  
 Guillermo and Alicia welcomed Vani  
 Herman and Anne welcomed Ameerah  
 James and Cassandra welcomed Luke  
 James and Mary welcomed Kerry  
 Jeffrey and Amy welcomed Ramona  
 Jenifer welcomed Eva  
 Jeremy and Marissa welcomed Navona  
 Jo-Ann welcomed Spring  
 Joel and Heidi welcomed Thomas  
 John and Kelly welcomed Tishawn  
 Josh and Steve welcomed Jackalyn  
 Juan and Martha welcomed Marcelo  
 Kevin and Christine welcomed Aaron  
 Kyle and Jacqueline welcomed River  
 Kyle and Lamika welcomed Allison

Leslie welcomed Carson  
 Lisa and Alan welcomed Sebastian  
 Maria welcomed Juliana  
 Matthew and Corinne welcomed Andrew  
 Maurine welcomed Cora  
 Megan welcomed Wren  
 Michael and Tracy welcomed Olivia  
 Nate and Ariel welcomed Miles  
 Nicholas and Monica welcomed Samuel  
 Norman and Kara welcomed Luke  
 Peter and Parita welcomed Saraya  
 Robert and Laurie welcomed Aiden  
 Ryan and Emily welcomed Sarajoy  
 Ryan and Mary welcomed Hannah

Satchidanand and Amrata welcomed Krupa  
 Scott and Lora welcomed Jiyeon  
 Stanley and Holly welcomed Rue  
 Thom and Rachel welcomed Ira  
 Thomas and Ashley welcomed Cameron  
 Thomas and Brigitte welcomed Paul  
 Timothy and Elizabeth welcomed William  
 Timothy and Rachel welcomed Ryan, Kylie, Tessa, and Zachary  
 Timothy and Sushmita welcomed Diya  
 Travis and Lauren welcomed Henry  
 Tyler and Nicole welcomed Theodore  
 Victor and Janice welcomed Lusi  
 Willie and Jade welcomed Noah



# Gratitude

Creating a world where every child has a safe, permanent, and loving family doesn't happen in isolation. We could not do the work that we do without the financial support of so many in our community. It's through your generosity that we are able to provide no-cost pregnancy counseling, find permanent families for children of all ages, and provide critical post-adoption support to anyone who has been touched by adoption.

*From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.*

Anonymous	Bryan & Michele Beier	Karen & Kevin Brown
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# Martha and David Dantzig

*Martha and David Dantzig are Washington, D.C. residents who adopted their son Sammy at birth seven years ago through Barker. Below they share why they have chosen to support Barker in multiple ways.*

“From the outset, we have valued Barker’s openness and respected their empowerment of birth mothers. We also love Barker’s whole-life approach and how they meet the needs of birth parents and adoptive families far beyond placement,” David says.

Martha, a Barker trustee since 2018, says this was evident when Barker staff collaborated to develop new programming in response to a growing need. “We are white parents of a child of color who is adopted. The magic of a baby eventually wears off, and the realities of transracial adoption set in. When I had some frustrations and felt

like I needed more information and education to be sure I could properly support my son, I began talking to Barker about offering training and education for parents like us. They embraced the idea, and over the past 18 months they have been able to offer workshops on related topics. Between 20 and 40 people have attended each event. It’s clear this type of programming is desperately needed, and we’re grateful Barker has been so supportive.”

Thank you, Martha and David, for your commitment to Barker and to making more things possible for anyone touched by adoption.



## THE 2018 BARKER ADOPTION FOUNDATION STAFF

Susan Baker, CPA	Director of Finance and Administration
Anna Beers	Executive Assistant
Jenny Beers	Domestic Adoption Program Support Specialist
Anne Christman	Director of Development
Beverly Clarke, LICSW, LCSW-C	Senior Director of Clinical and Support Services
Virginia Downes	Domestic Adoption Program Support Specialist
Molly Dunlap	Community Outreach and Recruitment Specialist
Susan Hollar, LICSW, LCSW-C	Executive Director & CEO
Anna Horlbogen	Adoption Home Study and Family Support Specialist
Lisa Hughes, LICSW, LCSW-C	Clinical Specialist, International Programs
Tina Ji, LLM	Director of International Programs
Kathie Lehner	Senior Program Assistant, Domestic Program
Varda Makovsky, LICSW, LCSW-C	Director of Family & Post Adoption Services
Emily Marshall, LICSW, LCSW-C	Clinical Intake and Family Support Specialist
Saara McEachnie, LICSW, LCSW-C	Domestic Adoption Program Director
Charnita Mercer, LMSW	Pregnancy Counselor and Family Support Specialist
Zalika Pierce, LMSW	Pregnancy Counselor and Family Support Specialist
Kathleen Porter	Receptionist
Emily San Antonio	International Adoption Program Support Specialist
Patricia Sanyer, MPA, LMSW	Pregnancy Counselor and Family Support Specialist
Kate Simpson, LMSW	Clinical Intake and Family Support Specialist
Margeline Thomas	Digital Marketing and Outreach Manager
Stephany West	Program Assistant, Domestic Program
Eileen Wharton, LMSW	Older Child Matching and Family Support Specialist
Alexandra Williams, LMSW	Community Outreach and Recruitment Specialist
Rebecca York	International Programs Case Manager

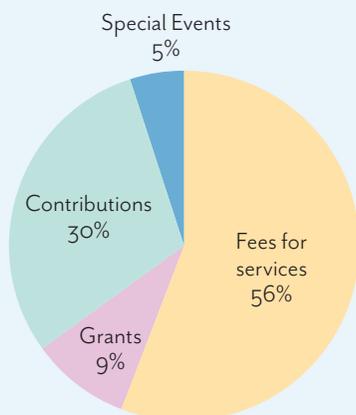
## CONSULTANTS

Sandy Batton, LICSW, LCSW-C
Lisa Bridges, LICSW, LCSW-C
Kelly Caraballo, LICSW, LCSW-C
Rosalie Daelemans
Barbara Donesky, LICSW, LCSW-C
Tempey Hamilton, LICSW
Keltie Hawkins, LMSW
Dionne Johnston, LICSW, LCSW-C
Nicole Knight, LICSW, LCSW-C
Carol Liu, LICSW, LCSW-C
Dewanna McDowell, LCSW-C
Jenifer McLuskie, MSW
Eliza Niemann, LICSW, LCSW-C
Lorice Parker, LMSW
Kathleen Prentice
Cecilia Racine, LICSW, LCSW-C
Marc Regier
Kristen Reighard, NCC
Eleanor Sanders, LICSW, LCSW-C
Seth Solondz, LMSW
Bianchi Suarez, LMSW
Monica Testa, LCSW-C, LICSW
Rebecca Watson, LMSW

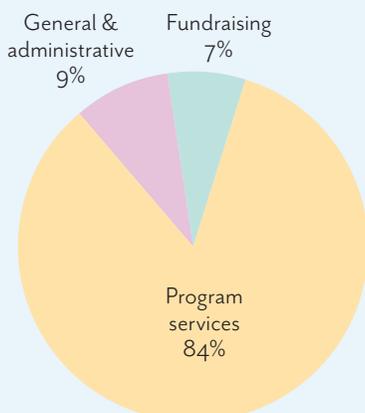
# 2018 Financial Overview

The Barker Adoption Foundation ended 2018 in a strong financial position, with revenues exceeding expenses by \$299,599. This increase in net assets exceeded the previous year's surplus by \$287,000. Total revenues surpassed 2017 by \$180,000 (7 percent), primarily because of an increase in program fees of \$98,000 and a \$100,000 increase in the annual contribution from Friends of Barker (FOB). The FOB contribution of \$494,501 made a significant impact on Barker's financial success in 2018 and its future stability for years to come. In addition, expenses decreased by \$107,000 (4 percent) from 2017. Spending continues to be mission driven, with 84 percent of total expenditures going directly to programs serving all in the adoption community.

## The Barker Adoption Foundation Revenue



## The Barker Adoption Foundation Expenses



## WHAT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FRIENDS OF BARKER LEGACY II CAMPAIGN HAVE DONE FOR BARKER

When the Friends of Barker's second endowment campaign began in 2012, the endowment balance was \$3 million. The goal of *Legacy II: The Next Generation* was to provide financial stability and create a sustainable income stream by increasing the endowment to the \$10 million level. Barker was greatly assisted in meeting this goal through a challenge gift of \$3.5 million offered by a very generous Barker family if the rest of the Barker community would

pledge funds totaling \$3.5 million. This goal has been achieved and, because of the dedicated support of many donors and strong financial leadership on the part of the FOB Board, the endowment has grown by \$8 million to a balance of \$11.6 million as of December 31, 2018. This success has resulted in Friends of Barker distributions of \$1,813,686 since 2012 in support of Barker's operations. The financial security that this endowment provides will allow Barker, in this ever-changing world of adoption, to be even stronger for the next generation.

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2018	The Barker Adoption Foundation	Friends of Barker	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Fees for services	\$ 1,317,230		\$ 1,317,230
Grants	201,000		201,000
Contributions	700,982	\$ 262,889	963,871
Special Events	121,525		121,525
Revenue	2,340,737	262,889	2,603,626
Investment income net of fees	6,140	(149,291)	(143,151)
Friends of Barker Contribution to Barker	494,501	(494,501)	-
Other	21,147	-	21,147
Total Revenue	2,862,525	(380,903)	2,481,622
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services	2,161,547	-	2,161,547
General & administrative	224,488	5,973	230,461
Fundraising	176,891	-	176,891
Total Expenses	2,562,926	5,973	2,568,899
Change in Net Assets	299,599	(386,876)	(87,277)
Net Assets – beginning of year	447,452	12,318,759	12,766,211
Net Assets – end of year	\$ 747,051	\$ 11,931,883	\$ 12,678,934

## Friends of Barker Distributions to The Barker Adoption Foundation

Year	FOB Investment Value at year end	Distributions to Barker
2012	\$ 3,280,798	\$ 122,449
2013	\$ 4,512,285	\$ 135,754
2014	\$ 5,647,936	\$ 160,785
2015	\$ 7,166,676	\$ 203,906
2016	\$ 10,024,943	\$ 301,959
2017	\$ 12,097,332	\$ 394,332
2018	\$ 11,616,250	\$ 494,501
	<b>Increase in investment value</b>	<b>Total Distributions to Barker</b>
	<b>\$ 8,335,452</b>	<b>\$ 1,813,686</b>

# Make a gift. Change a life.

As we prepare to turn 75 in the coming year, we are staying true to our roots while investing in programs and activities that meet the sometimes-changing needs of families today. Priorities for the coming year include:

- Expand our post-adoption services program
- Increase our capacity for counseling services
- Provide more opportunities for adoptee and birth parent involvement
- Advance our use of technology to better serve the community
- Extend our services into more communities in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia area
- Provide opportunities for grandparents and extended family
- Increase agency visibility and community engagement
- Ensure equity in the delivery of our services

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## How you can help.

Gifts to Barker can take many forms, including:

- Monthly Donations
- Annual one-time gifts
- Matching gifts
- Workplace giving
- Planned giving
- In-kind giving
- Volunteer service
- Friends of Barker's Endowment Fund

*Please visit our website at [www.bakeradoptionfoundation.org](http://www.bakeradoptionfoundation.org)*



7979 Old Georgetown Road  
First Floor  
Bethesda, MD 20814

[www.barkeradoptionfoundation.org](http://www.barkeradoptionfoundation.org)  
[info@barkerfoundation.org](mailto:info@barkerfoundation.org)

#### OFFICES

##### *Maryland*

7979 Old Georgetown Road  
First Floor  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-664-9664

5100 Buckeystown Pike  
Suite 250  
Frederick, MD 21704  
301-664-9664

##### *District of Columbia*

1066 30<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
301-664-9664

##### *Virginia*

2955 Monticello Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
301-664-9664

#### ACCREDITATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

The Barker Adoption Foundation is licensed in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. The agency is Hague-accredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA) and a member of the National Council for Adoption, Local Independent Charities, the Maryland Coalition for Adoption, the Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations, the North American Council on Adoptable Children, the Virginia Association of Licensed Child Placing Agencies, and featured in the 2018/2019 Catalogue for Philanthropy as "One of the best small charities in the Greater Washington Region."



Photographs courtesy of Barker families and Maureen Minehan. Annual Report written by Maureen Minehan. Design by Havit Advertising. Printing by HBP, Inc.

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