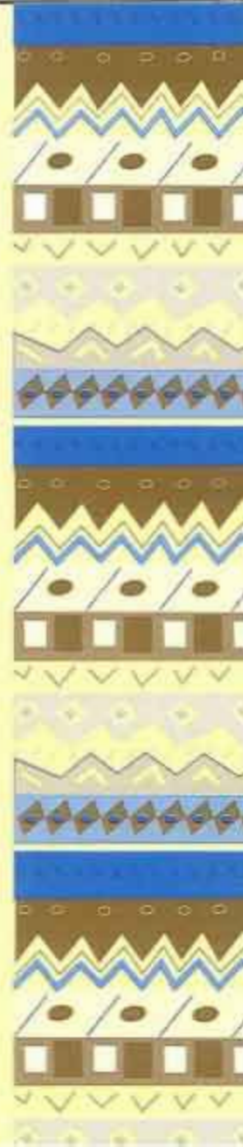


African American Infant  
Adoptions

THE **BARKER**  
*Foundation*



**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
INFANT ADOPTIONS**

We have shared with families  
the tremendous joy  
adoption brings. . .



# THE BARKER FOUNDATION

The African American community has a strong legacy of embracing adoption through kinship or informal family adoptions. Yet the number of African American and Biracial infants needing wonderful, permanent homes is growing. The Barker Foundation is committed to placing African American and Biracial infants with loving adoptive couples or individuals who want to start or expand their family. For almost 60 years, we have been active in the community in providing adoption information and education, and comprehensive adoption services to birth parents, adoptive parents and adopted persons.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### ***Who can adopt?***

Adoptive parents can be couples or singles who want to build their family through adoption. Good physical and emotional health is important, as is financial stability.

### ***Who are the children?***

The African American and Biracial children we place with adoptive families are usually from newborn age up to infants a few months old at time of placement, although some children are toddlers or older in age. Most of the children we place are healthy.

### ***How does the child become available for adoption?***

The Barker Foundation provides counseling and support to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Many of the teens and women we counsel are provided information on their options as they consider one of the most important decisions of their lives. The decision-making process takes time and information, and we believe that counseling is a critical component of helping birth parents as they consider making an adoption plan. Birth parents want to know that their child is placed in a loving and stable home.



*What other African American adoptive families found most helpful about the adoption process:*

**“The Pre-Adoption Groups allowed you to think about your decision and understand what brought you to the point of adoption.”**

An adoptive parent

## HOW DO WE START?

**“We found our relationship with the social worker most helpful. We appreciated the individual attention.”**  
Adoptive parents

We offer monthly information meeting where you will have the opportunity to hear a Barker family share their adoption experience, to meet agency staff, to learn about Barker's services and programs and to ask questions about any aspect of the adoption process. You can contact us by phone or email([info@barkerfoundation.org](mailto:info@barkerfoundation.org)) or check our website ([www.barkerfoundation.org](http://www.barkerfoundation.org)) to find out the date, time and location of the next meeting. If you are unable to attend one of our information meetings, please do not hesitate to call our office to schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Domestic Programs.

### *Preparation for Adoptive Parents*

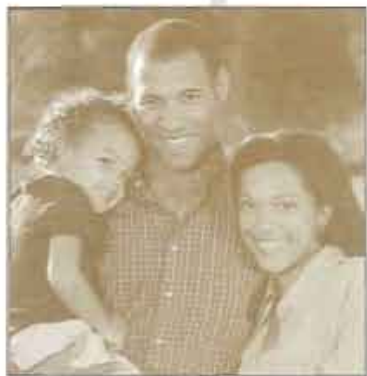
Barker offers a Pre-Adoption Discussion Group that consists of two meetings where adoption-related issues are explored. These small groups introduce prospective adoptive parents to both immediate questions and to

lifelong issues that are a part of adoption for children, adoptive parents and birth parents. The discussion group also provides the opportunity for you to decide if adoption is the right path for you.

### *Application and Homestudy*

You complete an application and submit it to Barker in order for the adoption process to begin. Once your application is received, you will meet with the Director of Domestic Programs to discuss issues pertaining to areas such as health, finances, or any specific family concerns. You will be given some paper work to complete prior to beginning your homestudy meetings. The homestudy is a series of meetings with a social worker so that she can get to know you better and assist in the preparation to become an adoptive parent. The homestudy generally takes 8 to 12 weeks. When the interviews and paperwork are completed, the social worker





A Dream Come True!

**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
INFANT ADOPTIONS**

“What a stupendous life it is being a parent. It is the glory of watching an infant grow and learn new skills... It is the surprising outpouring of love and acceptance from parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends as they ooh and ah over the newest addition to the family.”

*-Debbie and Eric  
Adoptive Parents*



## HOW DO WE START? - CONTINUED

financial needs of our families. Additionally, adoptive families will be able to utilize a federal adoption tax credit up to \$10,000 to help cover expenses related to the adoption process. Contact the IRS or a tax professional to learn more about the tax credit.

We hope you will contact The Barker Foundation if you have any questions or would like to receive an information packet regarding the Domestic Adoption Program

THE **BARKER**  
*Foundation*

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*What other African American adoptive families found most helpful about the adoption process.*

**The information meeting was where we discovered we were not alone. The family atmosphere and support is why we chose Barker.”**

An adoptive couple



[www.barkerfoundation.org](http://www.barkerfoundation.org)