



REACHING OUT to the Community

Visitors to The Cradle Nursery often ask, "Where do the babies come from?" "How do they get to The Cradle?"

The simple answer is that once a baby is born and is ready to be released, the hospital calls The Cradle to schedule a pick-up. Our driver and an infant aide head out in The Cradle van to pick up the baby and bring him or her to the Nursery. But how did that particular hospital come to call The Cradle?

Many of our birthparent calls are triggered by an Internet search, a television ad or the recommendation of a friend or family member. Others come to us based on a specific referral from a social worker or healthcare provider.

Referrals from area professionals are the result of The Cradle's strong reputation in the field as well as the work of our Outreach team. The goal of Outreach is to connect with healthcare and social service organizations, educating them about adoption and the services The Cradle offers for pregnant women and infants.

The Outreach team covers a broad geographic area. Gayle McGowean works with hospitals throughout the city of Chicago and northern Illinois. Felicia McBride provides training at south side Chicago hospitals and community organizations, while Kaci Sales, who is based in downstate Springfield, meets with healthcare providers across central Illinois.



The Cradle's driver, George Mitchell, picks up babies at hospitals throughout the greater Chicago metropolitan area and northern and central Illinois.

An Outreach day may involve a drop in visit to a county health department to check in with the director of case management and ensure that their brochure racks have Cradle materials and that the staff understand how to make a referral. Another typical task may be to visit a community clinic or hospital to lead an in-service on adoption law. The size of the group varies, from as few as 3-4 to as many as 30-40. A common thread runs through these sessions, however, which is the curiosity most have for the topic and a desire to learn more about who chooses adoption and why. There are usually plenty of questions, ranging from how open adoption works to how long a new mom has to decide about adoption for her baby. The Outreach team takes the time

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CRADLE Events

THE CRADLE BALL
Saturday, September 26, 2009
The Fairmont Chicago

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for The Cradle's 15th annual gala, "Placing Children First." The evening will feature gourmet dining, live entertainment, exciting auctions and more.

AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 17, 2009
Furama Restaurant, Chicago

Families with children from Asia will enjoy an afternoon of cultural entertainment, crafts, a tasty Asian buffet and traditional lantern parade.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Bruce and Jamilla Hines were thrilled to take baby Ciara home on July 17.

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to make sure the professional staff fully understand the realities of adoption today as well as the very important role they can play in supporting their clients during what can be an emotionally challenging time.

Outreach workers rely on the expertise of Cradle social service staff to keep them well versed in all aspects of best practices in adoption, including complex issues such as the expressions of grief and loss. During visits to healthcare providers, Gayle, Kaci and Felicia use case studies to engage and challenge participants.

The team is also able to work with hospital education departments to issue participants Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending Cradle in-services. This spring, Gayle worked closely with Pat Trudeau, Director of The Cradle's Birthparent Services, to put together a presentation on the topic of ethics in adoption. This presentation was designed to meet a new social work licensing requirement for specific CEU's in ethics. The team has given the presentation to several groups of hospital social workers already, and have many more sessions scheduled through the fall, as hospital social work staff work towards meeting this license recertification requirement this November.

Laura (not her real name) is one birthmother who learned about The Cradle as a result of our Outreach efforts. Confronting an unexpected pregnancy while working and going to school, Laura turned to her boss for advice. Her boss knew of a social worker at Northwestern Memorial's Prentice Women's Hospital and gave Laura the woman's contact information. Laura scheduled a meeting with the social worker, who talked to her about the option of adoption. She had quite a bit of literature in her office, including Cradle brochures that she had received during an Outreach visit. The social worker told Laura that The Cradle was a well-established organization with an excellent reputation. Although she reviewed information from various agencies, "The Cradle is the only place I contacted," Laura said. "I liked their discussion of interracial adoption."

Laura met with a Cradle birthparent counselor and expressed her desire for a biracial or African American family to adopt her baby, who would be biracial. After reviewing several profiles, she selected a couple comprised of an African American mom and Caucasian dad. When Laura's baby boy was born, Nursery staff picked him up at Prentice and brought him to The Cradle, where he stayed for just one night before going home with his new family.

Today, Laura enjoys a wonderful open relationship with her son and his adoptive parents. She earned a nursing degree and works in the pediatrics department of a family health clinic, whose patients include two children adopted through The Cradle. Gayle McGowean has come to speak to clinic workers and Laura has evaluated her presentations!

According to Gayle, a highlight of her job is being able to offer resources and support to the professional community, such as the clinic where Laura works. It's important to healthcare and social work professionals to know their clients and patients will be in good hands when referred to The Cradle. They will be "fully advised of their rights and the permanency of an adoption plan, and professionally counseled by The Cradle to help them to make the best decision for them," Gayle said. "And, always at the center of our efforts is the welfare of the baby."

ACCURATE ADOPTION LANGUAGE as discussed in Outreach presentations

Instead of:

*Give up baby or
Give baby away*

Keep baby

Real mother or natural mother

Unwanted pregnancy

Try:

*Place child for adoption or
Make an adoption plan for child*

Choose to parent

Birthmother

Unplanned pregnancy

IN MEMORIAM

Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that I announce the recent passing of two beloved members of our Cradle family, Suzie Meyer and Ginger Fisch. Both were devoted volunteers, passionate advocates and generous supporters of The Cradle and adoption.



Ginger Fisch at The Cradle on Bridget Feichter's placement day, May 25, 2007.

Suzanne and Charles Meyer adopted their daughter, Nancy, through The Cradle in 1949. The couple joined The Cradle Board in 1976, and in 1981 Charlie was elected chairman, a post he held for a decade. After his death in 1996, Suzie continued to serve on the Board, offering wise counsel and comfort during challenging periods. Five years ago she moved to the Honorary Board, and continued to support The Cradle through her friendship and financial contributions. Suzie died on July 18 at age 89. Her family remains closely connected to The Cradle. Nancy's husband, Charles Hovey, is also a Cradle baby! Nancy and Charlie, who live in Massachusetts, are valued contributors and members of our Honorary Board. We extend our deepest sympathy to them, and to Nancy's sister Brooke, during this difficult time.

The Cradle was a relatively young organization when Alice and Stacey Nelson came here in 1936 to adopt a baby. They named their new daughter Mary; however, the nickname she was given by Cradle nurses – "Ginger," because of her fiery red hair – stuck with her throughout her life. Ginger was working at the University of Chicago when she met a graduate student named Gerald Fisch. The two wed in 1964 and enjoyed a 42-year marriage until Jerry's death in 2006. He was a real estate developer while she ran a travel business that took her to far-flung corners of the world. Back at The Cradle, a place Ginger considered home, she and Jerry were instrumental in developing our Charitable Gift Annuity Program and were its inaugural participants. Ginger joined the Board of Directors in 2005, serving on the Advancement and Adoption Learning Partners Committees. She was also known as an ace Thank-a-Thon volunteer, engaging in long conversations with the people she called to thank, and always ending up with a new friend by the time she hung up! Ginger battled a grave illness that took her life on July 19. She was 73.

We mourn the loss of these two remarkable women and celebrate what we have gained from knowing them.

Sincerely,

Julie S. Tye, President

POST ADOPTION WORKSHOPS Open to the Community

CROSS CULTURAL ADOPTION EXPERIENCE

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
The Cradle, Evanston

Come hear from and share with other families who have adopted transracially. Learn how to help your child respond to insensitive comments and questions (and how to respond to such questions yourself), identify with his or her race and culture, and prepare him or her for the racism they may experience in the world.

Moderated panel of adoptive parents

LEGAL ISSUES IN SAME GENDER ADOPTION

Saturday, November 7, 2009, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
The Cradle, Evanston

Same gender adoptive families face unique challenges that other families don't. It is important to be aware of what some of the legal issues are. Participants will discuss topics such as the legal adoption process, legal implications of last names, health insurance, travel, guardianship and estate planning. Adoptive families will also share their practical experience.

Guest speaker Rosemary Mulryan is a Chicago attorney specializing in adoption.

Fees: \$20 per person per workshop, \$10 for second family member; non-refundable. Pre-registration is requested. Register online at www.cradle.org/post_workshops.html or by calling 847.733.3233.



THE 2009 CRADLE CLASSIC

Beautiful Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest was the setting of the ninth annual *Cradle Classic* on Monday, June 1. One of The Cradle Foundation's major annual fundraising events, this year's tournament was generously sponsored by The Northridge Group, Inc.

Sixty-two golfers turned out for a splendid day filled with challenging contests, superb food and drink and 18 holes of golf on a course ranked among the top 100 modern courses in the U.S. by Golfweek Magazine. Although it was a stormy morning in Chicagoland, the sun came out for our noon shotgun start and stayed out until late afternoon.

Following their round of golf, players returned to the clubhouse to enjoy an elegant cocktail reception and dinner, receive their awards and place bids on an array of silent auction items.

Event chair Greg Kaczmarek and Cradle President Julie Tye welcomed the group and thanked them for their participation, which helped to generate \$44,000 for Cradle programs and services. In addition to the golfers, The Cradle Foundation extends its sincere thanks to The Cradle Classic Committee for organizing the outing, to Platinum Level sponsor The Northridge Group, and to all of our other generous sponsors and auction donors.

A cadre of volunteers also helped ensure the day's success, including Linda Bassler of the Fort Dearborn Highlanders, who led the group in a bagpipe procession to the start, and Deb Reed of Health Matters Therapeutic Massage, who provided chair massages throughout the day.



The winning foursome of Steve Niewiadomski, Jerry Bear, Ken Norman and Dick Nopar enjoy the post tournament reception. Congratulations!

"The Cradle Classic is a great way to support The Cradle and the children and families The Cradle works so hard to bring together," said Kaczmarek, who is Dad to three Cradle children. "Conway Farms is a real treat to play and we look forward to returning in 2010 for the tenth annual Cradle Classic." We hope to see you on the links next summer!

PLANNED GIVING

You can now make a special gift to The Cradle, keep all of your assets, and defer paying for the gift until a later date! A bequest to The Cradle Foundation in your will or trust offers you many benefits, including:

- **Ease and affordability:** A bequest can be arranged with a simple addition to your will for a gift from your estate. Bequests can yield gifts of all sizes.
- **Control of your assets:** A bequest made through your estate is cost-free during your lifetime. Your assets are available to you if unexpected expenses arise.

- **An important legacy:** A bequest helps build a legacy of hope for future Cradle families.
- **The gift of a lifetime:** A bequest may allow you to make a more substantial gift than you ever considered possible.

Call Jenny Merdinger at **847.733.2272** for more information about making a bequest or other planned gift to The Cradle Foundation. Thank you for considering a legacy that benefits Cradle babies and children.

AND THEY'RE OFF!

The sun shone brilliantly on Arlington Park for The Cradle Associates' 9th annual *A Day at the Races* fundraiser on Sunday, June 28. More than 270 guests of all ages enjoyed an afternoon of exciting horse racing, great food and fun activities while helping to generate over \$36,000 for The Cradle.

The International Room at the Park offered a splendid view of the track, and a comfortable space for talking over lunch, browsing the silent auction, or doing crafts in the Kids' Corner area. A new – and popular – activity was the Quick Pick Game, sponsored by Mary and Jim Connelly. A \$10 contribution for children and \$20 for adults allowed participants to select a beautifully wrapped, age-appropriate gift.

This year's raffle was also a big draw, with fabulous prizes including a 42" Sharp Aquos LCD HDTV, Nintendo Wii package, Dell Inspiron mini laptop computer and Apple iPod Touch.



Cradle mom Madeline Peters with daughter Elizabeth in the International Room.

The Associates, a professional board of The Cradle comprised of adult adoptees, adoptive parents and champions of adoption, sponsors a number of outreach and fundraising activities each year, including the Arlington event. Our 2009 event chair, Corry Connelly, led a dedicated committee of volunteers in planning and executing *A Day at the Races*.

Several committee members also set up "Day at the Races" personal fundraising pages on The Cradle Foundation website, where they invited friends and family to make contributions. All gifts in support of Cradle events benefit our programs and services for children, pregnant women and families.

"I am grateful for the continued support of all those who helped make this event a success," said Corry, "and for our many generous donors. *A Day at the Races 2009* was a lovely day celebrating families and The Cradle!"

To learn more about Cradle events, The Cradle Associates or how to set up a personal fundraising page, visit us online at www.cradlefoundation.org.

2009 SILVER CRADLE AWARDS

At The Cradle Ball on September 26, The Cradle Foundation will honor 23 companies that offer adoption-related benefits and assistance programs. This is the seventh year that The Silver Cradle Awards have been issued.



Cradle Ball co-chairs and Cradle Board members Gris Ware and Erin Dickes with Tiffany & Co. Director Amy Geer at the July 30 reception.

Tiffany & Co., a supporter of our 2008 Ball, has graciously donated this year's award, which was previewed at a cocktail reception on July 30 at Tiffany's Old Orchard Center store. "Tiffany has a proud heritage of community

involvement," said store Director Amy Geer. "We are pleased to once again be partnering with The Cradle to honor their Silver Cradle Award recipients."

Companies receiving the 2009 Silver Cradle Award include:

Accenture	Credit Suisse
Archer Daniels Midland Company	Fellowes, Inc.
Advocate Health Care	W.W. Grainger, Inc.
Allstate Insurance Company	Hewitt Associates, LLC
AMCORE Bank	JPMorgan Chase*
Argonne National Laboratory	McDonald's Corporation
Barilla America*	Northern Trust
Baxter International, Inc.	Nuveen Investments
CB Richard Ellis	Sidley Austin LLC
CME Group	State Farm Insurance®
Crate & Barrel	Tiffany & Co.
	USG Corporation

*Recipients of "The Sterling Example" in recognition of exemplary adoption-related employee benefits

For more information about The Silver Cradle Awards, please contact Stefanie Dziedzic at 847.733.3232 or sdziedzic@cradle.org.





FOUNDATION BRIEFS



Sayers Center parents Kevin and Hilary Lacey

JACK & JILL TEAMS UP WITH THE SAYERS CENTER

On Saturday, May 2, the Western Cook County Chapter of Jack and Jill of America hosted its First Annual White Party Fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting The Cradle's Ardythe and Gale Sayers Center for African American Adoption and the Jack and Jill of America Foundation. More than 225 guests, dressed in white, came to the Oak Park Country Club to eat, drink, dance and support these two organizations committed to the welfare of African American children. Gale Sayers donated great items including an autographed football and jersey to the live auction. Sayers Center adoptive parents Hilary and Kevin Lacey, and Cradle baby and Adoption Learning Partners staff member Tasha Pierce, shared their stories with the crowd. We are truly grateful to the Western Cook County Chapter for organizing this wonderful event, which raised \$10,000 for the Sayers Center.



Benjamin B. Green-Field

THANK YOU TO THE GREEN-FIELD FOUNDATION

The Cradle Foundation was honored to receive a \$10,000 grant in June from the Benjamin B. Green-Field Foundation in support of The Cradle's Birthparent Services Program. The late milliner and philanthropist Benjamin B. Green-Field established a grantmaking foundation in 1987 with a mission "to foster improved human services and community support that effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable young and elderly." The grant funds will be used toward services for Cradle birthparent clients, including counseling, medical care and assistance with basic needs. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.greenfieldfoundation.org.



Garrett with his big brother Joshua on the new wheelchair ramp

HELPING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Siragusa Scholarship Fund for Special Needs Adoptive Families awarded 52 grants this year totaling \$39,100, for requests ranging from specialized equipment such as hearing aids and ankle braces, to different types of therapy, educational aids and respite care. Garrett's family received a scholarship to help them build a wheelchair ramp. He is 2 ½ and unable to walk. Garrett suffered a prenatal stroke that caused his brain to develop abnormally. While his prognosis is uncertain, his parents are doing everything they can to help him reach his full potential. "We believe Garrett needs to be involved in his community and in the world," they wrote. "He will go to developmental preschool in September, and the wheelchair ramp will make catching the bus so much easier." 2010 Siragusa Scholarship applications will be mailed in October. For more information, contact Heidi Bloom at 847.733.3240 or hbloom@cradle.org.

NOTEWORTHY

ADOPTIVE FAMILY SUPPORT

on www.AdoptionLearningPartners.org



You may have used Adoption Learning Partners' online courses to help prepare you to adopt. But did you know our courses can provide support on parenting as well? For example,

going back to school can be an exciting time, but also may present some unique challenges for adopted children. **Let's Talk Adoption: A Lifetime of Parent-Child Conversations** can prepare you to help your child handle intrusive questions from their peers. The course offers practical, age-appropriate strategies for discussions.

And stay tuned for a new course this fall – ***Ain't Misbehavin': Discipline and the Adopted Child.***

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

As we announced in the Spring newsletter, The Cradle has a Facebook page where you can become a Fan, find information about The Cradle and post messages on our wall. Following are a few recent postings:

From an adopted person: *My birthmother's decision to share me up for adoption through The Cradle has got to be one of the greatest blessings anyone can bestow. I will forever be profoundly grateful.*

From a birthmother: *The Cradle has helped me through this tough time. I am forever grateful to know that my son has such amazing parents. It is a truly bitter-sweet experience, but never a goodbye. He is always in my heart, and thanks to open adoption he will always know where he came from and that he is deeply loved.*

From a friend: *My best friend came thru the cradle 51+ years ago, and I absolutely cannot imagine my life without him. He is the kindest, most loving person I know, and I must say a HUGE thanks to the Cradle for caring for him until his parents could welcome him home.*



Our page is located at www.facebook.com/TheCradleAdoptionServices
751 Fans and growing!

STAFF MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following staff members who recently celebrated anniversaries of a decade or more of service to The Cradle:

Jane Page, Clinical Director of Adoption Services – 30 years!

Kathy Perysian, Certified Infant Nurse – 26 years

Pam Summers, Case Aide, Adoption Services – 18 years

Sue Wilkin, Adoption Counselor – 11 years

Victoria Brooks, Director of Nursing – 10 years

THE STATE of The Cradle

Cradle President Julie Tye recently sent a letter to stakeholders detailing how the organization is weathering the economic storm. Following is a synopsis of that letter:

The Cradle has had many challenges and some blessings during the last year. The Board of Directors and management of The Cradle are responding to the economic environment with a proactive approach, by tracking a number of key indicators for our financial and programmatic health.

We are pleased to report that The Cradle's operating expenses, the performance of our Investment Portfolio, and revenues from Adoption Learning Partners are all within the safety margins established by the Board. Two areas, however, are of some concern: a decline in adoptive placements compared to last year and a slight decrease in public support.

To mitigate the decline in revenue, The Cradle has taken tough but necessary steps including pay reductions, leaving vacant positions unfilled, and eliminating or deferring nonessential expenses from program budgets. One sacrifice we will not make, however, is The Cradle's quality of service.

We are being realistic in setting our revenue goals for fiscal 2010, and very prudent in our expense budgeting. We are extremely grateful for the friendship and support of our Cradle family and will do everything in our power to keep The Cradle on solid ground.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Julianne S. Tye, President/CEO

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CRADLE | Calendar

FALL 2009

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| <p>09/26 THE CRADLE BALL
The Fairmont Chicago
200 N. Columbus Drive
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.</p> | <p>10/17 AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL
Furama Restaurant
4936 N. Broadway, Chicago
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.</p> |
| <p>10/17 CROSS CULTURAL ADOPTION EXPERIENCE
Post Adoption Workshop*
The Cradle, Evanston
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.</p> | <p>11/07 LEGAL ISSUES IN SAME GENDER ADOPTION
Post Adoption Workshop*
The Cradle, Evanston
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p> |

**Open to the community. Fee: \$20 per person per workshop, \$10 for second family member; non-refundable. Register online at www.cradle.org/post_workshops.html or by calling 847-733-3233.*



Dan Lange with daughter Harper Rice Lange at The Cradle Family Picnic on August 8 in Oak Park.