Every family has a story to tell. Welcome to ours.

#AdoptionChangesEverything

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cradle Friends,

What a wonderful summer we had this year, full of engaging Cradle events. In case you missed some of them, in this issue we thought we would like to take the opportunity to share with you photos of the good times shared by Cradle families and friends. Please enjoy these photos from popular fundraising events including the 19th annual Cradle Classic Golf Outing, the 2nd annual Night for the Nursery at Lagunitas Taproom sponsored by The Cradle Associates Board, and the 7th annual Sayers Soiree at Galleria Marchetti, as well as family fun at this year’s Cradle Open House and Cradle Family Picnic.

The excitement isn’t over yet—I hope you’ll be able to join us at the Cradle’s 25th annual Rock the Cradle Gala at Wintrust’s Grand Banking Hall on November 2. Each year, this signature fundraising event brings together The Cradle’s philanthropic partners for an elegant evening to celebrate strengthening families through adoption and raise funds that make real change possible in the lives of those we serve.

As we plan for a successful 2020, in the months that follow you will see The Cradle’s new marketing plan putting the stories of birthmoms front and center debut online, while behind the scenes our strategic alignment efforts that kicked off in 2016 continue to roll out, including newly re-focused development efforts and an emphasis on dramatically reducing the Nursery budget gap. I know it’s going to be an impactful year.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. My virtual door is always open. On behalf of all those we serve, thank you for your friendship and support in the important work to build and strengthen families.

Warm Regards,

Kim Perez, MSW, President & CEO
The Cradle

IT’S TIME AGAIN TO ROCK THE CRADLE

The annual Rock The Cradle Gala is The Cradle’s premier fundraising event. Since 1995, our esteemed philanthropic partners attending the Gala have provided generous support for The Cradle’s programs and services that make real change possible in the lives of families touched by adoption.

This year, Gala guests will enjoy a cocktail reception, dining, and dancing in Wintrust’s spectacular Grand Banking Hall. The evening will include a live auction, a raffle, and other giving opportunities, as well as the opportunity to witness the powerful stories of several Cradle birthparents.

Come celebrate with us on Saturday, November 2nd, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Wintrust’s Grand Banking Hall 231 South LaSalle Street, in Chicago.
Formal attire—black-tie optional.

Individual tickets: $400
Table Host (Full table for ten): $4,000

To purchase tickets, please visit cradle.org/gala.
For more information, kindly contact The Cradle’s Vice President of Development Simone Wheeler at 847-733-3204 or swheeler@cradle.org.

11.2.2019 @ 6PM
cradle.org/gala
SEVENTH ANNUAL SAYERS SOIREE SHINED ON SEPTEMBER 12

The Cradle’s awesome 2019 event season was in full swing at the Seventh Annual Sayers Soiree, which rocked the house at Galleria Marchetti in Chicago on September 12. Hundreds of Cradle family members and friends of adoption enjoyed an evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, mingling, music, and dancing to generate awareness and support for the Ardythe and Gale Sayers Center for African American Adoption at The Cradle. As one of the only programs in the country that promotes adoption awareness specifically in the African American community, the Sayers Center’s goal is to find permanent, loving homes for Black and multiracial babies, and recruit more African American adoptive parents.

To learn more, please contact The Cradle’s Vice President of Community Outreach and Education Nijole Yutkowitz at 847-733-2298 or nyutkowitz@cradle.org.

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CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT THE CRADLE FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Enjoy holiday crafting, play a game, visit with Santa, and more at the 2019 Cradle Holiday Party. A donation of $10 per family is suggested for this highly popular event. Limited street and lot parking will be available, or take advantage of paid lots at the nearby Foster and Noyes CTA Purple Line stations. Complimentary stroller parking will also be available near the entrance.

To RSVP, please visit cradle.org/holidayparty.

Volunteers are also needed to help make the day magical for our Cradle Families. You can assist with a variety of tasks, including check-in, running activities, preparing refreshments, taking photos with Santa, and more.

To volunteer for the Cradle Holiday Party, please contact The Cradle’s Donor Relations Manager Michael Doyle at 847-733-3209 or mdoyle@cradle.org.
LIFT A GLASS TO THE CRADLE ASSOCIATES FOR THE 2019 NIGHT FOR THE NURSERY FUNDRAISER

A big thank-you goes out to the members of The Cradle Associates for organizing the second annual Night for the Nursery fundraiser on August 13 at Lagunitas Taproom in Chicago. Families, friends, and staff enjoyed an evening of music, games, and six-dollar beers—with all proceeds benefitting The Cradle Nursery—the only 24/7, on-site nursery at any adoption organization in the nation. The Cradle Associates Board was formed in 2001 as a means of drawing on the energy and enthusiasm of young professionals who are affiliated with The Cradle and/or who have been touched by adoption.

The Associates Board supports The Cradle’s mission by promoting adoption outreach, awareness and education, and through fundraising efforts. To learn more, please visit cradle.org/associates.

WHAT A SUCCESS!
THE 19TH ANNUAL CRADLE GOLF CLASSIC

On Monday, June 10, the 19th Annual Cradle Classic Golf Tournament raised more than $184,000 at the Lake Shore Country Club in Glencoe, Illinois.

Players enjoyed an unforgettable round of golf on a course noted for its difficult and lengthy par 4s, a buffet lunch, a cocktail reception on the outdoor terrace with a beautiful view of Lake Michigan, and a gourmet dinner.

The Cradle would like to thank our 2019 Cradle Classic sponsors:
Presenting Sponsor The Northridge Group; Phyllis Thomas and Alan Curtis; Garrett Capital Advisors; Water Street Healthcare Partners; Margarita Kellen; Larry Macy of M&M Group; Bob and Betty Parkinson; and Kathy and Jerry Biederman.

Thank you as well to all of our participants for very generous philanthropic support, which directly impacts the lives of hundreds of families touched by adoption who turn to The Cradle’s programs and services each year.

We are very grateful!
Cradle Gala Fundraising Co-Chairs
Penelope Savalas Boardman and Jane Cummins

The phenomenal Rock The Cradle Gala returns to Wintrust’s Grand Banking Hall on November 2. The Cradle’s signature annual fundraiser wouldn’t be possible without the commitment of the event’s hardworking co-chairs of the past four years, Jane Cummins and Penelope Savalas Boardman. Their enduring friendship is based upon building families through adoption.

Jane and husband Neil are adoptive parents to two boys: Jack, 22; and Alexander, 20. The couple met while both were working in finance in London. “I always say I’m in a hybrid marriage,” she shares. “Neil is American while I was born in England.” They chose to adopt through an agency in Texas to take advantage of the wider opportunities that American adoption agencies provided for waiting parents. The family eventually moved to the United States to be close to family.

Jane was playfully warned when she moved to Chicago that many people would ask her to join boards and fundraising committees. She says there’s a reason she agreed to join The Cradle Board in 2013 after Penelope introduced her to former Cradle CEO Julie Tye. “The adoption agency in Texas that we used later went bankrupt,” she says, causing a nightmare for waiting parents who ended up in limbo. “The Cradle’s 96 years of lifelong support, its continuity of always being there 24/7 for everyone touched by adoption, are very important things.”

Penelope agrees. “The Cradle helped us get the greatest gift in our lives almost 20 years ago,” she says, “our son, Dmitry.” By coincidence, she and husband Christopher attended their informational meeting about adoption at The Cradle the same day Dmitry was born in Russia. The couple did their homestudy with The Cradle, with placement via a third-party agency in Maine. Penelope originally began fundraising for The Cradle’s former Russia program as a way to give back. She notes the compassionate care that birthmothers receive, The Cradle’s ethical standards, and the preparedness of adoptive parents as reasons why The Cradle is such a worthy cause.

A member of The Cradle Board since 2012, Penelope’s board service is a natural outgrowth of her role as President of the Aristotle Foundation—a family foundation she founded to honor and continue the lifelong philanthropic work of her late father, famed actor Telly Savalas, in children’s health, education, and performing and fine arts. Penelope is also a certified therapy dog handler, who visited hospitals and nursing homes with her former Tibetan Spaniel, Ursili, for many years.

The work was a comfort after husband Christopher’s untimely passing in 2014. “When I did dog therapy, people would light up,” says Penelope. “I like to help people not feel alone. I don’t like negativity. I like to spread positivity and surround myself with it.” Jane is the same way. “I’m a people person,” she says. “I’m very fortunate and privileged in the life that I have, and I just want to bring a bit of sunshine into other people’s lives. I just want to make other people feel better.”

To purchase tickets or learn more about the 2019 Rock The Cradle Gala, please visit www.cradle.org/gala.
CRADLE CONNECTIONS
A Summer of Fun-Filled Family Events!

This summer, Cradle families had the opportunity to get together and enjoy warm weather and wonderful company at two annual events. On June 1, more than 250 friends of The Cradle—including some from as far away as Ohio, Connecticut, Colorado, and Arizona—came together at the 42nd Annual Cradle Open House, sponsored by The Cradle Associates Board. A fun time was had by all at this year’s superhero-themed event, and the petting zoo was amazingly popular as always.

On July 27, Cradle families celebrated summer at the 2019 Cradle Family Picnic at The Hub at Berens Park in Elmhurst. Everyone enjoyed the great weather, the splash pad, sports activities, and games, as well as complimentary snacks and ice cold lemonade!
DONATE TODAY  Easy Ways to Support The Cradle

TO OUR DONORS...Thank You for Your Continuing Support! This is a pivotal time for The Cradle. As we prepare for our Centennial celebration, we’re continuing to focus efforts on ensuring sustainability for many years to come.

Did you know that, according to the annual Giving USA report, last year Americans gave $427.71 billion to charity? Individual donors gave more than 68% of that total—mostly in end-of-year giving. With this in mind, we ask that you consider The Cradle among your top-three charities for holiday giving this year.

It costs more than $700,000 a year to operate The Cradle’s one-of-a-kind, 24/7 on-site Nursery. Your gift makes a real difference in the lives of babies, birthmothers, and families who benefit from The Cradle’s programs and services each and every day:

- $100 can purchase therapy supplies such as books, games, and arts & crafts items.
- $500 can defray the costs of medical evaluations, doctor appointments, and vaccinations for an infant in the care of The Cradle Nursery.
- $2,000 can fund an entire day of Nursery operations!

Be on the lookout for The Cradle’s Holiday Appeal letter, arriving in your mailbox in early November, and thank you in advance for your continued and very much appreciated generosity. You can always view a variety of donation options—including online and DAF giving—anytime on our website at cradle.org/donate.

For inquiries regarding gifts of stock or charitable bequests, kindly contact The Cradle’s Vice President of Development Simone Wheeler at 847-733-3204 or swheeler@cradle.org.

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US!

The Cradle has been building families through adoption for nearly a century—and we love to hear from our alumni. If you’re a Cradle alum, family member, or birthparent, you’re an important part of Cradle history. Won’t you consider sharing your story with us? Your story could be featured in The Cradle’s monthly eNews, printed newsletter, social media, or website, and would help us continue to get the word out that #AdoptionChangesEverything.

If you’re interested in sharing your story, please contact The Cradle’s Donor Relations Manager Michael Doyle at 847-733-3209 or mdoyle@cradle.org.

GET CONNECTED

Cradle families and friends connect on-line. These are people whose lives have been touched by adoption, sharing adoptive family news and information, parenting support and lots and lots of love. Facebook Groups Include:

- Cradle Facebook Page
  All friends, families and fans of The Cradle
- Waiting Parents
  Private group for Cradle Domestic Adoption
- Sayers Center for African American Adoption
  Sayers & Our Children families, friends and fans
- Cradle Adoptees
  Private group for Cradle Alumni 18 years and older
- Cradle Adoptive Parents (CAPS)
  Private group for adoptive parents
- Just Between Us
  Birth Parents and families
Building families through adoption. Supporting families through life’s challenges. Strengthening communities through education.

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